

Live Music

KEYPORT

LIQUOR BEER & WINE

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Friday, May 20
MACKIE BROTHERS
5-8 p.m.

Friday, May 27
LIONESS
5-8 p.m.

Friday, June 3
JANE GANG
5-8 p.m.

FRIDAY SPECIALS:
HOUSE WINE - \$4
FISH FRY - \$9.95,
ALL-U-CAN EAT - \$12.99
SHRIMP BASKET - \$8.95

PREP SOFTBALL

PREP GOLF

Northwestern's Meyer forges path

Senior aims for return to state golf tournament

By Pat Garry
For the Superior Telegram

MAPLE — No one in Trent Meyer's family was a golfer.

The Northwestern High School senior started playing the sport in fourth grade and attended a weekly golf camp at Norwood Golf Course, about three minutes from his house. "After a couple years of playing once or twice a week in the summers, I fell in love with the game and started playing and practicing almost every day," Meyer said.

Now, he's in the last season on the Northwestern golf team and earned a full scholarship to play at Division II Wisconsin-Green Bay next year.

Meyer orally committed to UWGB in September, and he signed his National Letter of Intent in November. Starting the recruiting process late, Meyer contacted no coaches until last summer.

"I had a great junior season, especially in the playoffs, where I won both my regional and sectional finals, before placing second in the state championship. That really helped kickstart my recruiting process, since I had those achievements on my resume," Meyer said.

Fortunately for Meyer, a college coach who was

impressed by his play in a tournament put him in contact with Lee Reinke, the UWGB golf coach. After that, UWGB offered Meyer a full tuition scholarship for a spot on the team.

"Sure, folks helped him along the way, but it was his determination and hard work that got him to where he is today, which is the best high school golfer in the state," said Nick Olson, Northwestern's head boys golf coach.

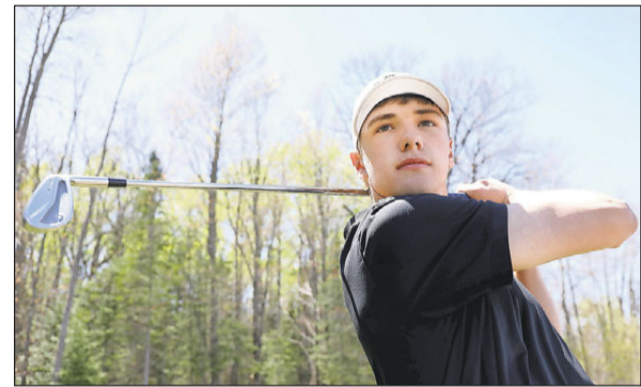
But before college begins, Meyer is focused on finishing the season strong. One of his goals is for the Tigers make it to the state tournament as a team. However, his biggest goal is to win the WIAA Division II state championship individually.

"My second place finish at last year's state tournament definitely stung a little, but that was a great learning experience, and it motivated me to get it done this year," he said.

Olson said he's confident Meyer will accomplish all of his goals.

"Trent is the greatest golfer I have ever had the pleasure to coach. He can crush it off the tee and place his approach shots within 5 feet. He's a joy to be around and fun to watch."

MEYER: Page B4



Jed Carlson / Superior Telegram
Northwestern's Trent Meyer swings a club outside of Northwestern High School on Tuesday.

PREP SOFTBALL

Spartans blank Rails for LSC title

By Jamey Malcomb
Duluth News Tribune

PROCTOR — When Superior's Emma Raye stepped to the plate to face Proctor's Maddy Walsh Wednesday at Egerdahl Field, she knew this game was a little different.

The game was essentially the Lake Superior Conference championship game — a game Proctor, currently the seventh-ranked team in Class AA in Minnesota, won in 2021 when the teams faced off.

Raye, a Wisconsin recruit, watched one pitch go by for a ball, but when she swung on the second pitch the ball ended up near the home sideline on the far side of the Proctor football field.

"It was kind of a redemption type of feel," Raye said. "I was looking for that pitch and I got it and exactly where to put it. I just really wanted to come in and win this game."

The home run off Walsh — the 2021 News Tribune All-Area Player of the Year — set the tone for a game Superior had circled on its calendar before the season began.

"How can you not feel good starting a big game like that?" Superior coach Mike Sather said. "When your first batter hits a home run, right away the momentum is on our side."



Jed Carlson / Superior Telegram
Superior's Emma Raye (27) celebrates her solo home run in the top of the first inning during the Spartans' 5-0 win in Proctor over the Rails for the Lake Superior Conference title Wednesday.

After Indigo Fish drove in Melania Luostari with an RBI single, pitcher Haley Zembo had all the cushion she would need.

SOFTBALL: Page B2



Jed Carlson / Superior Telegram

With a patch honoring her late father on her left shoulder, Northwood/Solon Springs' Zoey Vaara (4) fires a pitch during the game with Clear Lake in Minong on May 10.

DIALED IN

Vaara's grit, mental toughness shine on the field

By Jen Zettel-Vandenhouten
Superior Telegram

Minong

When Northwood/Solon Springs senior pitcher Zoey Vaara steps onto the softball diamond, she's 100% focused.

Whether in the pitcher's circle or in the batter's box, Vaara blocks out the crowd and negative thoughts, putting her mental energy on the task at hand.

"It's a switch I can flip on in my head — I don't even know how I do it," Vaara said. "The only other time I notice it happening is when I'm taking tests in school; it's the same kind of focus."

Being able to flip that switch and sharpen her focus is a skill Vaara has cultivated, something her late father and longtime coach, Paul Vaara, pushed her to improve.

That, and her batting. "That was one big thing I wish he could be here to experience, because I was never really a good hitter and we would always work on it," Zoey said.

Northwood/Solon Springs is 13-1-1 going into the WIAA Division 4 softball tournament against Shell Lake on Tuesday, May 24. Zoey's record is 13-0, with a 1.12 earned-run average, 78 strikeouts and 13 walks.

VAARA: Page B4



Jed Carlson / Superior Telegram
Northwood/Solon Springs' Zoey Vaara (4) watches her ball fly into the outfield during the game with Clear Lake in Minong on May 10.

COLLEGE TRACK & FIELD



University of Wisconsin-Superior thrower Gage Stankiewicz prepares to throw the shot put during the UMAC Indoor Track and Field Championships held Feb. 25 at the University of Wisconsin-Superior.

Holden Law / University of Wisconsin-Superior

'A technician to begin with'

Esko's Stankiewicz builds memorable first season at UWS

By Jake Przytarski
Cloquet Pine Journal

SUPERIOR — In only his first season with the University of Wisconsin-Superior Track and Field team, 2021 Esko graduate Gage Stankiewicz has made quite the impression as a new member of the Yellowjackets.

The recently named Upper Midwest Athletic Conference Track and

Field Rookie of the Year has been a fixture at the top of the leaderboards at multiple events over the course of the season as an accomplished thrower, and is currently ranked No. 23 nationally in the shot put.

Back in March, Stankiewicz represented the Yellowjackets at the NCAA Division III Indoor Track and Field Championships in the shot put where he placed 12th with a mark of 15.05 meters in his final throw of the event.

STANKIEWICZ: Page B2