



# Area track and field teams well-represented at state meet

Individuals, relays from 7 teams will compete at state June 3-4

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Gillett's Ben Matczak completes his leg of the 4x800 relay during the Division 3 Suring Regional on May 23 in Suring. The relay team is seeded second going into state.

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## HIGH SCHOOL TRACK

# 11 individuals, 2 relay teams ready for state meet

## Witt-Birn's Rogowski in 4 individual events

By **MORGAN RODE**  
Sports Editor

Eleven area individual athletes and two relay teams qualified for the 2022 Wisconsin Interscholastic Athletic Association Track and Field Championships, which will run June 3-4 in La Crosse.

Wittenberg-Birnamwood will send the most individual athletes to state of any area team. Reese Rogowski, Simon Schairer and Jalynn Horacek will represent the Chargers in an eye-popping eight events.

Rogowski will take part in three sprints and the long jump.

"It means a lot because it's been very tiring competing in four events most of the time, so just knowing that I was able to qualify in all four was a relief," said Rogowski.

She will run in a loaded 100-meter dash field of 18 competitors. Her seed time of 12.63 seconds ranks 12th.

Rogowski enters state with the third-best time (25.27) in the 200. She also ranks third in the 400 (58.25). The Witt-Birn junior has the sixth-best mark in the long jump of 17 feet, 3 inches.

Last year at state, Rogowski placed sixth with the 100, fifth in the 200, third in the 400 and 10th in the long jump.

"It helps because now I am more comfortable with the craziness of the state meet environment," said Rogowski on how her past state experience can help her this time around. "I'm hoping to make it to finals on Saturday for as many that I can."

After making it to state in the triple jump as a junior, Schairer will compete in the 400, long jump and triple jump this time around.

"Qualifying in three events my senior year is special to me because it was my goal all season to make it to state again and to be able to qualify in three events makes it even better," said Schairer.

His triple jump mark of 44-2¾ ranks

fifth in the Division 2 field going into state. He placed 11th at state in the event last year.

Schairer ranks ninth in the 400 (51.35) and 11th in the long jump (21-2¾).

"My experience from last year will help me because this year I will know how I have to prepare myself better and I know what I have to do to do good at state," said Schairer. "My goal for each event is just to place as best I can and PR (personal record) in all my events."

Horacek will compete in the triple jump at state.

"I'm happy that I get to go to state again and have a satisfying end to years of track," said Horacek, a senior.

Her leap of 33-10¾ ranks 14th heading into state.

Horacek also reached state in the triple jump as a junior, but wasn't able to post a mark.

"Last year's experience will help me this time because now I know to take a few extra steps back before jumping, so I don't scratch all of my jumps again," she said. "At state I just want to get a good jump in and perform my best."

Shawano is sending two individuals and one relay team into the Division 1 competition.

Senior Elliott Lowney will run in the 100 and 200 dashes.

"It means so much to me that I made it in both the 100 and 200. With moving up to Division 1 this year, I didn't know what to expect, I just had to go out there and run my races," said Lowney.

A year ago in Division 2, Lowney placed second at state in the 200 and seventh in the 400.

Lowney heads into the state meet with the fourth-best 200 time in Division 1 of 22.06. He ranks 11th in the 100 (11.01).

"This year I'm hoping to do better than I did last year which was second so there's only one place better than



Lena's Natalie McNurlen competes in the triple jump during the Division 3 Suring Regional on May 23 in Suring. McNurlen made it to state in the event.

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that so I'll be shooting for that in both events," said Lowney.

Isabel Roloff will run in the 100 on the girls side.

"It is extremely special for me to qualify for state in my last year of high school track," said Roloff. "Moving to Division 1 has also made this accomplishment more of a feat because of the stiff competition I had to face at the regional and sectional meets."

She also has state experience after placing second in the pole vault and fourth in the 100 at last year's D2 meet. Roloff comes into state ranked fifth in the 100 with a time of 12.24.

"I am hoping to get back on the podium at state like last year and place in the top eight in my events. I'm also hoping to end my season with some PRs and run my best next weekend."

Roloff is also part of the girls 4x200 relay team that qualified for state. Makenna Bubolz, Adalyn Barkley, Piper Novitski and Onna Hermann also are part of the relay team, which is ranked 22nd coming into state with a time of 1:47.87.

Bonduel will send a pair of individuals to state, with Brenna Hertzfeldt competing in the girls discus and Karter Schroeder taking part in the boys high jump.

"Qualifying for state is really special this year because I came up a little short last year and to get another chance at it my senior year means a lot," said Hertzfeldt.

"It feels great to make it to state," said Schroeder. "It's a dream I've had this whole season and to finally see it come true is wonderful."



**Bonduel's Karter Schroeder competes in the high jump during the Division 3 Suring Regional on May 23 in Suring. Schroeder qualified for state in the event.**

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Hertzfeldt ranks 14th in the Division 3 field with a throw of 109-4. Schroeder is 15th with a mark of 5-11.

Hertzfeldt admitted that shot put is her stronger event, but wasn't able to make it to state in that event. "That being said, my biggest goal at state would be to get a PR or even break the school record," she said. "It's not going to be easy, but I also want to just enjoy the experience as well."

Schroeder said he'd rely on his coaches for guidance at state and his family for support. "My goal this year at state is just to enjoy the experience and return to state next year and make my mark then," said Schroeder.

Gresham/Bowler's Emmitt Kietlinski will be one of Schroeder's competitors in the high jump, and will also compete in the triple jump at state.

"Bowler has a long history of excellence in the jumping events. I am proud to validate my place amongst those that went before me by qualifying in two jumping events again this year," said Kietlinski.

A year ago, the Bowler athlete took fourth in the triple jump and 14th in the high jump. Kietlinski was happy just to get to state last year, but this year, he's hoping to turn in top finishes.

Kietlinski enters state just an inch off the top mark (6-5) in the high jump. He's fifth in the triple jump with a mark of 43-1¼.

"In the triple jump, I'd like to set a personal best and hope that's good enough to land me on the podium," said Kietlinski. "In the high jump there



**Suring's Christine Sleeter competes in the high jump during the Division 3 Suring Regional on May 23 in Suring. Sleeter will compete in the high jump and pole vault at state.**

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are at least five jumpers capable of winning the event. My goal is to be in that mix of top jumpers with a chance for an incredible end to the season."

Christine Sleeter will represent Suring in two D3 events at state.

"Making it to state is so incredible, especially in two events," said Sleeter. "It is definitely something I will remember for a long time."

Sleeter will take part in the high jump, an event she ranks fifth in with a mark of 5-2. She's ranked 16th in the pole vault (8-9).

The Suring junior said she'd continue relying on the advice of coach Heidi Gerndt.

"She has pushed me and set me to such high expectations. I definitely would not have made it this far if it wasn't for her," said Sleeter, who hopes to enjoy the state experience, place as high as possible, PR in both events and break the school's record of

5-5 in the high jump.

Gillett has one individual and relay team headed to La Crosse. Alex Peterson is the individual that qualified, and is also on the relay team.

"Qualifying in two different events was the goal going into the (sectional) meet," said Peterson. "I knew the 4x800 was going to be stacked like it normally is, and I had huge goals in mind for the 3,200. These performances will give us more confidence and more focus going into the state meet."

The 4x800 relay is seeded second with a time of 8:24.97. Evan Peterson, Connor Hanson and Ben Matczak fill out the four-runner team. Jesse DeBauch and Scott Herroux are the alternates.

The boys 4x800 relay team that included the Peterson boys, Connor Hanson and Derek Hanson last year at state placed second.

Alex Peterson is also running the

## ONLINE

Lists of area sectional qualifiers and live state updates can be found at [www.newmedia-wi.com](http://www.newmedia-wi.com). Full results from regionals and sectionals can be found at [www.wiaawi.org/Sports/Spring/Boys-Track-Field/Tournament](http://www.wiaawi.org/Sports/Spring/Boys-Track-Field/Tournament).

3,200 at state for a second straight year. He placed sixth last spring and is ranked fourth with a time of 9:41.7 this year.

"In my 3,200, I was racing for time," said Peterson of his sectional race. "I was only 2-ish seconds off of our school record at the time, so I knew if I ran my best I could beat it. Even though I didn't win, I ended up beating our school record by 7-ish seconds. Next weekend will be another photo finish race I'm sure, so my goals are to run another PR and finish in the top three."

Natalie McNurlen will represent the Lena/St. Thomas Aquinas Academy co-op in the girls triple jump.

"It is extremely special to me to be able to accomplish goals I have set for myself since the very beginning of high school," said McNurlen.

The Lena junior ranks fifth with a mark of 34-11¼ heading into state.

She said she'd rely on her dad for advice when she heads to state.

"My goal next weekend is to break my own personal best of 34-11," said McNurlen. "Hoping that everything goes right and it will translate into a podium place."

## HIGH SCHOOL SOFTBALL

# Bonduel cruises to regional title win

## Pulaski ousted in regional title game

By **MORGAN RODE**  
Sports Editor

Regional softball playoff action continued this past week across the state, with two area teams making it to the regional finals.

Bonduel picked up a win to advance to sectionals, while Pulaski was eliminated.

### Bonduel

After blanking eighth-seeded Crivitz 3-0 in a regional semifinal contest on May 24, Bonduel continued its magical season with a convincing 7-0 win over Crandon in a Division 4 regional title game on May 27 in Bonduel.

The top-seeded Bears jumped out to a 4-0 lead after an inning and starting pitcher Claire Gehm kept the fifth-seeded Cardinals in check from there.

"It's quite the day. A lot of accomplishments happening today," said Gehm, who graduated along with her senior classmates later in the day. "It feels really great just to know that everyone's out here watching — we had a good crowd. Just a lot of good things happening today and it feels amazing."

After Gehm put up a zero in the top of the first inning, Bonduel got to work with the bats.

Tatum Sporisky drew a four-pitch walk before stealing second and moving to third on a sacrifice bunt from Lila Pleshek. Hailee Thompson then walked and ended up at second after not stopping at first.

Hailey Zernicke then came through with a two-run single to plate Sporisky and Thompson and get the Bonduel crowd buzzing.

"It was big, considering in previous games it's taken us awhile to get going with the hits," said Zernicke of the strong first inning. "At practice we've been working on hits a lot, working on line drives instead of popping up every time."

Nakiyah Henning turned the buzzing into a frenzy after crushing a ball over the center fielder's head. Hustling right from the moment the ball left her bat, Henning was able to score right behind Zernicke on an inside-the-park home run.

"Our coach always preaches visualizing, and I haven't been hitting



Bonduel's Macy Niles makes a throw to first during the team's regional title win over Crandon on May 27 in Bonduel.

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Bonduel's Ella Hischke watches a run-scoring hit of hers during the team's regional title win over Crandon on May 27 in Bonduel.

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the best lately, so last night before I went to bed, I just visualized myself hitting the ball and that's actually so impactful, it's unreal," said Henning. "When I got up there, I was just cool and collected.

"I just took a few pitches, and then when I hit it, it was obviously an awesome feeling. It just darted off the bat like nothing, it felt awesome. I honestly didn't think it was going to be a home run, I thought maybe a triple, and then

my coach was waving me around and I was running fast. It worked out good and it was a great feeling. Lot of great feelings here today."

After Gehm put up a couple more scoreless frames, Bonduel added to its lead with a two-run third.

Thompson ripped a one-out double off the left-center fence and later scored on a wild pitch. Henning was hit by a pitch with two outs, stole second, moved to third on a wild pitch and then scored on a single by Ella Hischke.

Crandon's best chance to score came in the sixth as a liner to right appeared like it would plate a runner from second, but Sporisky made a diving catch to preserve the shutout.

"My biggest thing is just my defense," said Gehm. "I know that when I have the full count and I pitch it right down the middle, I know that my defense will back me up, and if they don't, we can get them the next play. We just have to hold them, and that's what we've done all season."

Bonduel tallied its seventh and final run in the bottom of the sixth. Macy Niles doubled and later scored when Abby Stoltenow put the ball in play and reached on an error.

### Pulaski

Pulaski was eliminated after an 11-1 loss to third-seeded Green Bay Preble

on May 26 in Green Bay.

Before that, Pulaski kept its season alive with a 5-1 win over Green Bay Southwest in a Division 1 regional semifinal playoff game on May 24 in Pulaski.

The sixth-seeded Red Raiders got a strong start out of Morgan Vertz in the circle and some timely hitting to earn the victory over the 11th-seeded Fighting Trojans.

After Vertz struck out two batters in the first, Gabrielle DeCleene clobbered a home run over the left-center fence to give Pulaski a quick 1-0 lead.

"Every game, I'm just looking to get my teammates ready to hit. I was kind of going up there ready to... I had a feeling," said DeCleene. "When I hit it, I was like, 'OK, this is the start of a good game.'"

Cassie Benberg and Vertz followed DeCleene's homer with singles before Meghan Molthen ripped a double to plate Benberg.

Just when it looked like Pulaski might run away with the game, two popups and a lineout ended the threat without another run scoring.

Pulaski put together another rally in the second, with Benberg driving in Hailey Wiedeman with a sacrifice fly to make it 3-0.

The lead allowed Vertz to attack



**Pulaski players celebrate a home run by Gabrielle DeCleene, center, during the team's playoff win over Green Bay Southwest on May 24 in Pulaski.**

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the Southwest lineup the rest of the way. She finished the game with 12 strikeouts.

Despite the big strikeout numbers, Vertz wasn't satisfied with her performance.

"So today I didn't have my best game, that is for sure. I just tried to hit my spots and relied on my team because I knew they had my back throughout the game today," said Vertz.

After being told she struck out 12 batters, she laughed while saying, "I didn't know I had that many" and then added, "I just didn't have my control I normally have throughout the game."

After tallying two more strikeouts in the second inning, Vertz struck out the side in order in the third. She had three more strikeouts in the fifth.

## FYI

This week's softball sectional results can be found online at [www.newmedia-wi.com](http://www.newmedia-wi.com) and will appear in the June 10 edition of the paper.

third-seeded Denmark.

Seventh-seeded Wittenberg-Birnamwood's upset bid came up just a couple runs short in a 4-3 Division 3 playoff setback to second-seeded Oconto.

Sixth-seeded Tigerton came up short in a 4-0 loss in a Division 5 playoff clash against No. 3 Three Lakes/Phelps. Tigerton didn't record a hit in the contest, but Abby Swartz and Skyler Hauser both drew walks. Hauser pitched the entire game, with only two of the runs she allowed being earned.

The seventh-seeded St. Thomas Aquinas Academy/Lena co-op couldn't get its offense going in a 10-0 Division 5 playoff loss to No. 2 Laona/Wabeno.

Fifth-seeded Marion couldn't slow fourth-seeded Newman Catholic in a 16-1 loss in five innings in a Division 5 matchup.

Seventh-seeded Bowler/Gresham had its season come to a close after a 18-0 loss in three innings during a Division 5 contest against No. 2 Edgar.

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There was only one inning she didn't record a strikeout, and that's when Southwest scored in the sixth.

After its offense had gone silent for a few frames, Pulaski added two key insurance runs in the bottom of the sixth to help seal the victory. Vertz plated Maddie Christenson on a fly to right before Molthen singled in Benberg.

With two runners on in the top of the seventh, Vertz got a popup to finish off the contest.

## Other regional action

The other six area softball teams that were still alive to start the week were eliminated in regional semifinal play May 24.

Sixth-seeded Oconto Falls fell short in a 7-5 Division 2 playoff loss to

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## HIGH SCHOOL TENNIS

# Pulaski's Heezen, Sperduto make state as special qualifiers

By NEW MEDIA STAFF

The Pulaski and Shawano boys tennis teams each had a No. 1 doubles team qualify for sectionals, with Pulaski's Connor Heezen and Eric Sperduto making it to state as special qualifiers.

A maximum of 16 additional doubles teams that were eliminated earlier in the tournament series could have been added to the field of competitors by the state seeding committee. Heezen and Sperduto were one of the duos chosen, and earned a No. 53 seed.

"It's been crazy for both of us. We were planning on it being our last tennis match together after losing to Notre Dame (at sectionals)," said Heezen. "And I being senior was facing the reality that this was my last high school match. Speaking for me

though, I had this weird feeling that it wasn't over and then it happened, so it was great."

The Pulaski pair is scheduled to play their first match at 3 p.m. on May 2.

"At state we are going to go in with a positive attitude and take it one point at a time. It's truly an honor just to get to this point," said Heezen.

Shawano and Pulaski each competed in the Division 1 Rhinelander Subsectional on May 23. Heezen and Sperduto and Shawano's George Buerman and Tristan Sheldon each won a match to be among the four doubles teams to advance to sectionals.

Heezen and Sperduto won 6-3, 6-1 over Green Bay West's Jonathan Allen and Carter Bankes to move on.

Buerman and Sheldon earned a 6-4,

6-2 win over Wausau West's Nathan Hartman and Andrew Lipowski.

At the Division 1 Wausau West Sectional on May 26, Heezen and Sperduto lost their lone match 6-2, 6-2 to Notre Dame's Aidan Burich and Mason Olson.

Buerman and Sheldon dropped a 6-0, 6-1 match to De Pere's Jackson Harpt and Owen McDonough.

Back at the subsectional, Shawano's No. 2 doubles team of Tristan Tetting and Isaac Welander had the team's other win on the day, knocking off Green Bay West's Tommy Erler and Aiden Riesterer by a score of 6-3, 6-2. The Hawk duo was denied a spot at sectionals after falling 6-0, 6-1 in their second match.

Pulaski's No. 3 duo of Jacob Ebent and Alex Kouzov also earned a win

## ONLINE

Full results from subsectionals and sectionals can be found at [www.wiaawi.org/Sports/Spring/Boys-Tennis/Tournament](http://www.wiaawi.org/Sports/Spring/Boys-Tennis/Tournament).

at subsectionals, taking down D.C. Everest's Andru Dettman and Cooper Engen 6-1, 6-3. The Red Raiders pair then fell 6-0, 6-0 in their next matchup.

Pulaski's Bryce Rolhoff won a 6-4, 6-4 match over Bay Port's Rodney Ehrhardt at No. 2 singles play before falling 6-1, 6-2 in his next and final subsectional match.

Justin Freadrich, Pulaski's No. 4 singles player, won a tight 6-4, 7-6 (7) match over Wausau West's Eli Hackett in his subsectional first match of the day. Freadrich was then topped 6-4, 7-5 in his final match.

## BABA HIGHLIGHTS

By NEW MEDIA STAFF

### East-West Division

#### Caroline 13

#### Gresham 12 (12 inn.)

Caroline knocked off Gresham in a 12-inning slugfest on May 29 in Gresham.

Tyler Marquardt and Eric Kroening each posted three hits for Caroline. Simon Welch and Austin Hoffman added two hits each, with Hoffman also homering.

Justin Reminger earned the win on the hill for Caroline, while Gresham's Paul Murphy took the loss.

Brett Nelson tallied five hits for Gresham, while Joe Ejnik, Tom Nietzer, T.J. Arrowood, Chase Quinney and Mike James providing three hits each. Arrowood, Murphy and Quinney also homered.

#### Tigerton 11

#### Neopit 6

Tigerton topped Neopit on May 29 in Tigerton.

Conner Harris hit two home runs, one of which was a grand slam, to lead Tigerton at the plate. Pat Provoast also homered among his two hits. Patrick Bailey chipped in three hits, while Austin Hoffman and Justin Sivertson had two each.

Paul Sellner picked up the win for Tigerton. Mequan Corn Jr. was dealt the loss.

Raymond White homered among his three hits to lead Neopit offensively. Mequan Frechette also had

## ONLINE

Visit [www.bababaseball.com/index.html](http://www.bababaseball.com/index.html) for up-to-date standings and statistics from the BABA.

three hits, while Mike Pecore and Sam Tourtillott had two hits each.

#### Little Falls 11

#### Leopolis 5

Little Falls eased past Leopolis on May 29 in Leopolis.

Kal Fischer led Little Falls at the plate with three hits. Cam Gruenwald and Sawyer Strebe had two hits each.

Chris Dunn earned the win on the mound after working four innings. Andrew Kristof was tagged with the loss.

Trae Moede led Leopolis with three hits, while Thomas Kazik belted a homer.

#### Tilleda 9

#### Shawano 1

Tilleda rolled to a win over Shawano on May 29 in Tilleda.

Zach Fehrman struck out 10 batters and allowed just three hits across nine innings to earn the win for Tilleda.

Stephen Reinke posted two hits for Tilleda, with Lane Schultz and Teagan Lehman adding in doubles.

Waylon Penass had two hits for Shawano. Josh Springborn was the losing pitcher.

### Northern Division

#### Aniwa 9

#### Elderon 8

Aniwa edged Elderon on May 29 in Aniwa.

Ryan Govek tallied two hits for

Aniwa. Nolan Hoppe was the winning pitcher.

Bryce Zorowski and Trevor Groshek each homered for Elderon. Zorowski had two hits, while Groshek and Austin Worzalla had two each. Worzalla was dealt the loss on the hill.

#### Antigo/Polar 18

#### Birnamwood 6

Antigo/Polar tripled up Birnamwood in a matchup May 29 in Antigo.

Jed Weix tallied four of Antigo/Polar's 15 hits, with Will Kubeny adding three hits. Cole Kuenzli got the win on the hill.

Brad Knoblock and Corey Krull

each posted three hits and homered for Birnamwood. Logan Thiex suffered the loss.

#### Eland 18

#### Wittenberg 2

Eland dominated Wittenberg in a May 29 matchup in Wittenberg.

Jeremy Jensen recorded five hits, including two doubles, for Eland. Blade Niewandowski chipped in three hits, while Ryan Richter homered among his two hits.

Niewandowski earned the win, while Noah Cole took the loss.

Seth Steliga led Wittenberg with a pair of hits.

## PRO FOOTBALL

# Green Bay claims defensive lineman Chris Slayton off waivers from San Fran

The Green Bay Packers have claimed defensive lineman Chris Slayton off waivers from the San Francisco 49ers.

General Manager Brian Gutekunst announced the transaction May 25.

Slayton (6-foot-4, 307 pounds) was originally drafted by New York Giants in the seventh round (No. 245 overall) of the 2019 NFL Draft. He spent almost all of his rookie season on the Giants' practice squad before being elevated to the active roster for the final game of the season, but did not play.

After being released by the Giants following the 2020 training camp,

Slayton spent time that season on the practice squads of the Buffalo Bills and Atlanta Falcons.

In 2021, he was with the Falcons for the offseason and training camp and spent the first part of the season on the practice squad before being released. Slayton had a brief stint on the Pittsburgh Steelers' practice squad before joining the San Francisco 49ers' practice squad in mid-November, where he would be for the rest of the season.

In college, Slayton appeared in 49 games with 42 starts, starting every game in his final three seasons at Syracuse. He will wear No. 60.



Oconto Falls' Caden Leonhardt follows through on a shot during the Division 2 Clintonville Regional on May 24 at Riverside Golf Course in Clintonville. Oconto Falls advanced to sectionals as a team.

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## HIGH SCHOOL GOLF

# 5 teams, 1 individual qualify for sectionals

## Bonduel wins regional title behind medalist Uelmen

By **MORGAN RODE**  
Sports Editor

Five area boys golf teams and one individual golfer qualified for sectionals after strong outings at regionals on May 24.

Shawano and Pulaski took part in the Division 1 Notre Dame Regional at Thornberry Creek at Oneida. Menominee Indian/Gresham, Oconto Falls and Wittenberg-Birnamwood participated at the Division 2 Clintonville Regional at Riverside Golf Course in Clintonville, while Bonduel, Lena and Marion golfed at the Division 3 Iola-Scandinavia Regional at Glacier Wood Golf Course in Iola.

To qualify for sectionals, a team had to place in the top four, or individuals had to be among the top four scores out of golfers not on a sectional-qualifying team.

### Division 2

Oconto Falls advanced to sectionals after placing fourth at the Clintonville Regional with a team score of 354. Witt-Birn just missed out on qualifying for sectionals as a team after placing fifth with a score of 361, but had Calvin Scheurer advance as an individual.

Menominee Indian/Gresham placed 10th with a mark of 495 and didn't have any individual golfers advance.

Oconto Falls' five-golfer team all finished within 12 shots of each other. Kady Riel led the team with an 18-hole round of 85. He had the team's top mark (41) on the front nine.

Rease Hodkiewicz fired a round of 87 for the Panthers, while Trevor Metzler carded a 90. Caden Leonhardt posted a mark of 42 on the back nine to finish with a round of 92. Thomas Carmody tallied a 97 to

round out the team.

"Qualifying for sectionals is a huge accomplishment. To do it another year straight with pretty much the same team is awesome," said Metzler. "Senior Rease is a great leader, who we all built a friendship around, is the reason we had our heads high today. We did this today for him and we all wanted it bad from start to finish."

Scheurer fired a round of 82 to advance. That mark was good enough for the sixth-best individual score out of all golfers on the day.

Scheurer shot a 44 on the front nine before a 38 on the back nine.

"Qualifying for sectionals means a lot to me, because even though I struggled on the front, I was able to rally and come back to post a qualifying score to keep my season alive," said Scheurer, who added that his short game is what will determine if he can qualify for state.

Witt-Birn's Nolan Fraaza fired a round of 86 at regionals. That tied him for the fourth-best individual score of golfers not on a sectional-qualifying team, but he was defeated in a playoff hole.

Dylan Resch (90), Owen Schultz (103) and Joey Seegmiller (113) were Witt-Birn's other three golfers.

Menominee Indian/Gresham had four golfers in action.

Saswaen Shawanokasic led the team with a round of 95. Dugan Webster (119), Jack Haffner (135) and Trentyn Harrison (146) filled out the team.

### Division 1

Shawano and Pulaski each qualified for sectionals after placing third and fourth, respectively, at the Notre Dame Regional. Shawano had a team score of 345, and Pulaski was at a 347.

Kaden Marcell fired a round of 76 to place second as an individual and lead Shawano on the course.

"I think qualifying for sectionals as a team means a lot to us," said Marcell. "I think as a team we've come a long from the start of the year, consistently showing improvement."

Shawano's other four golfers finished within 10 shots of each other. Owen Moesch fired an 88, while Ayden Hale shot a 90. Gage Gorman tallied a 91 and Akryn Verhein a 98.

Pulaski was led by Dylan Carley's round of 81. He shot a team-best 39 on the back nine.

Connor Burant wasn't far behind with an 85, while Colin Schultz tallied an 89. Dixon Holewinski's 92 and Zachary Valeria's 95 rounded out the team.

### Division 3

Bonduel and Lena both qualified for sectionals after placing first and third, respectively, at the Iola-Scandinavia Regional.

Bonduel had a team score of 367, comfortably ahead of second-place finishing Oconto's 384. Lena tallied a 404. Marion failed to advance after placing sixth with a mark of 443 and didn't have any individuals advance either.

Bonduel was led by Cooper Uelmen's round of 77. That mark was the best at the regional. Uelmen fired a 37 on the front nine.

"As a team, it just shows how much time and effort we put in, and that it's finally paying off," said Uelmen. "It's nice to put a couple trophies in the case for the school to remember us. It also means a lot to me as an individual because it shows what I'm capable of. I hope to continue this momentum into sectionals."

Colin Margelofsky was second on Bonduel with a round of 90, while Charlie Tauchen fired a 99. Reece



Wittenberg-Birnamwood's Calvin Scheurer takes a shot during the Division 2 Clintonville Regional on May 24 at Riverside Golf Course in Clintonville. Scheurer qualified for sectionals as an individual.

MORGAN RODE | NEW MEDIA

### FYI

Golf sectional results can be found online at [www.newmedia-wi.com](http://www.newmedia-wi.com). Full regional results can be found at [www.wiaawi.org/Sports/Spring/Boys-Golf/Tournament](http://www.wiaawi.org/Sports/Spring/Boys-Golf/Tournament).

Stoltenow's 101 and Jake Dreyer's 107 rounded out the team.

Lena was guided by Braden McVane's 95 and Drake Dionne's 96.

Mason Simonson carded a 100 for the Wildcats. Evan VanderZanden tallied a round of 113, while K.C. Miller was at a 117.

"Qualifying as a team made the team and I feel a sigh of relief," said McVane. "This course that we played was playing very tough but the team and I pushed through it and we came out moving to sectionals which was

the whole goal. We are definitely ready for sectionals and we will be playing our best."

Marion's Isaiah Gueths and Sam Gueths led the team with rounds of 103. Quinn Tolan (113), Kasey Roethle (124) and Owen Speigel (146) filled out the team.

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## DAIRYLAND LEAGUE HIGHLIGHTS

By NEW MEDIA STAFF

### Hortonville 5

#### Pulaski 2

Hortonville defeated Pulaski on May 27 in Hortonville.

Hortonville scored three runs in the sixth and two in the seventh to rally for the win.

Jason Infusio homered to give Pulaski the lead before Hunter Larson drove in Mac Cisar in the sixth.

### Navarino Hardball Challenge

#### Hofa Park 7

#### Navarino 6 (9 inn.)

Hofa Park edged Navarino in extra innings in a Navarino Hardball Challenge opening day game on May 26.

Rob Schuettpeiz was the hero for Hofa Park, driving in the game-winning run. He hit a two-run homer and RBI double earlier in the contest. Brinton Anderson also homered for Hofa Park.

Hofa Park led 5-0 before Navarino

scored six unanswered runs.

### Manitowoc 9

#### Appleton 8

Manitowoc edged Appleton in the other opening day game on May 26.

Manitowoc built a 9-2 lead before hanging on late.

### Bonduel 8

#### Appleton 2

A five-run third inning helped Bonduel down Appleton on May 27.

Adam Frost drove in two runs on two hits and scored twice for Bonduel. Chase Reinke had three hits, while Eric Gruenwald had two. Reinke worked all seven innings to earn the win on the mound.

### Waupaca 12

#### Shawano 1

Waupaca cruised past Shawano on May 27. The Lakeman scored seven runs in the fifth inning to break a tie game.

Walker Smith and Jake Pankratz

### FYI

Statistics for several games were not available by press time. Visit teams' Facebook pages for more details on this past week's games.

each drove in two runs for Waupaca. Luke Behm and Devin Geary had two hits each. Pankratz got the win after striking out eight batters over five innings before Brady Johnson worked two innings.

### Bonduel 7

#### Manitowoc 2

Bonduel eased past Manitowoc on May 28 to win its pool.

Chase Reinke led Bonduel with three hits, while Adam Frost and J.C. Reinke had two hits each. Jack Reinke got the win on the mound after pitching all seven innings.

### Viroqua wins pool,

#### Kewaskum, Waupaca advance

Viroqua lost 2-1 to Navarino but bounced back with a 3-2 win over Hofa

Park to win its pool and advance to the semifinals.

Kewaskum and Waupaca joined Bonduel and Viroqua in the semifinals.

### Waupaca, Kewaskum advance to final

Waupaca topped Bonduel and Kewaskum took down Viroqua in semifinal action May 29.

Waupaca won 7-3, with Luke Behm's three-RBI, three-hit game leading the team. Jason Ellie got the win on the hill.

### Waupaca 2

#### Kewaskum 0

Waupaca blanked Kewaskum in the championship game on May 29. Luke Behm was named the tournament's MVP after tallying 10 hits in total.

Behm had three hits against Kewaskum, while Ryan Makuski also had three hits.

Makuski got the win on the mound after working two innings in relief of Adam Kennedy. Jim Nighbor got the save after getting the last six outs.



## AUTO RACING

# 5 drivers win caution-free features

Stedjee, Rhoades, Bennett, Hedrick, Stueck earn wins

By **DAVE BUSS**

Special to NEW Media

On a night where the Shawano Speedway paid respect to those who gave the ultimate sacrifice for our country, Vern Stedjee, Travis Rhoades, Joel Bennett, Jeremie Hedrick and Calvin Stueck earned respect with wins. In a rare occurrence, every feature went caution free.

There are wins that you back into and there are wins that are yours to lose. In the IMCA Stock Car division, Stedjee didn't do either; he simply earned his win. He earned his win off the track after rolling his car a few weeks back and returning.

But maybe even more impressive was how he earned his win on the track. While the scoresheets will show he led every lap, he had to earn the win.

With Jordan Barkholtz, Dan Michonski, Trent Nolan and even his son Dylan trying to force a mistake, Vern would not be denied. He simply ran a near-perfect race and fended off all challenges.

Nolan would win the battle for second, with Barkholtz grabbing the third spot ahead of Michonski.

Forrest Kernen would look to make a snoozer out of the IMCA Sport Mod feature, pulling away from the field from his front row starting spot.

Once again, bad luck cost Kernen



Jeremie Hedrick won the IMCA Modified feature race on May 28 at Shawano Speedway.

PRECIOUS PHOTOGRAPHY

the lead, as mechanical issues caused him to be black flagged.

Rhoades inherited the top spot when Kernen hit the pits. Rhoades eventually saw Teagan Wudstrack move into the runner-up spot.

Wudstrack needed a caution flag to shrink the gap and get an opportunity to go for the win. Bad news for Wudstrack would be good news for Rhoades as the race went caution free.

Rhoades grabbed the win with Wudstrack, JJ Vanderloop and Jeffery Teske rounding out the top four.

In the Late Model Division, Bennett was simply unstoppable. Bennett led another caution-free feature from green to the checkered flag for a dominating win.

Kyle Raddant worked hard to try and keep touch with Bennett to no avail. Meanwhile, Nick Anvekink was doing his best to catch Raddant. Anvelink grabbed the runner-up spot with five laps remaining but have nothing for Bennett. Raddant finished third with Todd Frank grabbing fourth.

After over a decade since his last trip to victory lane, Hedrick dominated yet another caution-free feature in the IMCA Modifieds.

Hedrick avoided the temptation of hammer down racing and brilliantly worked the corners to build up a lead of over one full straightaway.

Nick Holtger battled Jerry Wilinski for the second-best car in the feature, with Holtger grabbing the runner-up

spot. Wilinski grabbed third with Jordan Bartz wheeling it to fourth.

The Mighty 4s were looking to complete a night where every division went caution free when they took the track. Technically, they completed the task.

Caution flew before the field took the green flag, but once the race restarted the yellow flag was never seen again.

Stueck piloted the winning car after grabbing the top spot on lap two. Tanner Westphal provided a challenge as the two went side by side for a couple laps with Stueck eventually fending off the challenge.

Brad Wedde would grab the third spot with Carl King fourth.

## COLLEGE HIGHLIGHTS

By **NEW MEDIA STAFF**

### UW-Stout

Pulaski High School graduate Kevin Ruechel placed second in the shot put and third in the discus while representing the UW-Stout men's track and field team during the NCAA Division III Men's Outdoor Track and Field Championships, which ran May 26-28.

Ruechel's top throw in the shot put was 17.58 meters, while his mark in the discus was 53.96 meters.

The Pulaski grad finishes his

career with six All-America awards, including two national shot put titles — the outdoor championship in 2021 and the indoor championship in 2022. Ruechel was sixth in the shot put at the 2019 indoor meet and was named an All-American for the 2020 season when the meet was canceled at the last minute due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

### UW-Whitewater

Bonduel graduate Jessie LaBerge and Oconto's Hannah Wusterbarth were two of six UW-Whitewater athletes to be named All-Americans

by the National Strength and Conditioning Association for their commitment to strength and conditioning and athletic accomplishments during the 2021-22 academic year.

LaBerge played in 13 rounds for the women's golf team during the 2021-22 season, averaging a score of 96.7 per 18-hole round. She recorded her best score of the season (91) in two rounds at the WIAC Championship. LaBerge helped the Warhawks claim their fifth straight conference team title and reach the NCAA Championship.

Wusterbarth appeared in 10

games for the softball team primarily as a pinch hitter. She helped the Warhawks post the program's 16th consecutive 20-win season and reach the WIAC Tournament.

### Winona State

Wittenberg-Birnamwood graduate Maddy Pietz and the Winona State women's 4x400-meter relay team placed 12th at the NCAA Division II Outdoor Track & Field Championships, which ran May 26-28.

The relay team posted a time of 3 minutes, 47.99 seconds.

## HIGH SCHOOL BASEBALL

# 5 area teams win regional quarterfinals



## Gresham takes down Tigerton behind Pecore

By **LUKE REIMER AND MORGAN RODE**  
NEW Media

Five area high school baseball teams earned regional quarterfinal playoff wins last week to extend their seasons.

Gresham, Wittenberg-Birnamwood, Bowler, Marion and Lena will continue regional play this week, while Shawano and Pulaski join the mix as well.

### Gresham tops Tigerton

Gresham kept its season alive with a 12-2 win in six innings over Tigerton in a Division 4 regional quarterfinal playoff game on May 26 in Gresham.

The fourth-seeded Wildcats got out to a hot start hitting and saw a fantastic game on the mound from Lukas Pecore to earn the victory over the fifth-seeded Tigers.

After Pecore went one-two-three in the first inning, the Wildcats jumped out to a 5-0 lead. Pecore got the scoring started with an RBI single. Corbin Welch and Blade Hoffman added two more RBIs with back-to-back singles. Kale James cashed in the last two runs of the inning with a two-RBI double.

“We were more talkative early and put in good at-bats to open the game,” said Hoffman. “You could tell right away that everyone was putting in a lot of effort.”

In the top of the second inning, Pecore really found his groove. The senior struck out the first two batters and then gave up a hit. After the hit, Pecore went back to using his fastball to strike out the next batter.

“They couldn’t really touch my fastball today,” said Pecore. “I stayed on that fastball and mixed in a curveball every now and then to keep them off of the rhythm. There are not many teams in this league that have shown that they can hit my fastball yet, so coming with the curve really helps.”

In the bottom of the second inning, Wildcats’ Bryson Nelson got in on the action, hitting an RBI single to extend Gresham’s lead to six.

When Tigerton entered the top

of the third, it was able to neutralize that run and put the ball in play against Pecore. Tigerton's Loghan Wanta drove in a run on a single. After Wanta's single, Pecore struck out the the next three batters.

The bottom of the third inning began with Hoffman recording a single and then following it up with two stolen bases. Two batters later, Wesley Theix hit a sacrifice fly to center field to score Hoffman.

The top of the fourth inning saw Tigerton score after a throwing error to make the lead 7-2 Gresham. Pecore then struck out two batters to get out of the inning and did not allow another run.

Scoring periodically continued throughout the game for Gresham, as Austin Sperberg and Belasaire Vele recorded two RBI singles. Hoffman and James added two more and Gresham finished the game winning 12-2. Pecore picked up two more strikeouts to give Gresham the victory in six innings.

"We had a talk before the game, where we talked about playing as a team and having fun," said Pecore, on why they were able to win by a large margin. "We just went out there and had fun playing baseball."

### Other regional action

Second-seeded Wittenberg-Birnamwood doubled up seventh-seeded Tomahawk 10-5 in a Division 3 playoff game on May 26 in Wittenberg.

Third-seeded Bowler took down sixth-seeded White Lake 9-4 in a Division 4 contest on May 26 in Bowler.

Second-seeded Marion edged seventh-seeded Port Edwards 4-3 in a Division 4 postseason clash on May 26 in Marion.

Marion's Jaden Stuhr earned the win on the mound after striking out 10 batters over 5 1/3 innings. Ryan Malueg earned the save after getting the final five outs. Ethan Scheef



Tigerton's Loghan Wanta follows through and gets in position to field after throwing a pitch against Gresham on May 26.

LUKE REIMER | NEW MEDIA

### FYI

This week's regional action can be found online at [www.newmedia-wi.com](http://www.newmedia-wi.com) and will appear in the June 10 edition of the paper.

doubled for one of Marion's six hits at the plate.

Fourth-seeded Lena took down fifth-seeded Niagara 6-2 in another Division 4 regional game May 26 in Lena.

Lane Whiting drove in two runs on two hits and scored twice to lead Lena at the plate. Josh Kristof added two hits for the Wildcats.

Lena's Logan Shallow earned the

win after striking out six batters over three innings. Both of the runs he allowed were unearned. Whiting struck out five batters while earning a four-inning save.

Fourth-seeded Bonduel came up on the wrong end of a 1-0 pitcher's duel against fifth-seeded Peshtigo in a Division 3 regional game May 26 in Bonduel.

Peshtigo scored its one run in the fourth inning. Peshtigo outhit Bonduel 3-2 in the contest.

Cade Johnson took the tough loss on the mound, striking out seven

batters over 6 2/3 innings. Reece Stoltenow and Noah Weier had Bonduel's two hits.

Sixth-seeded Gillett/Suring couldn't slow third-seeded Crivitz in a 15-1 loss in five innings in a Division 3 matchup on May 26 in Crivitz.

Seventh-seeded Menominee Indian was blanked 15-0 by second-seeded Oconto in a Division 3 game on May 26 in Oconto.

Sixth-seeded Oconto Falls was blanked 7-0 by third-seeded New London in a Division 2 playoff game on May 27 in New London.



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# HIGH SCHOOL HIGHLIGHTS

By NEW MEDIA STAFF

## GIRLS SOCCER

### Pulaski 1

#### Green Bay Preble 0

Pulaski toppled Green Bay Preble in a Fox River Classic Conference match on May 26 in Pulaski.

Brianna Kapla netted the lone goal in the 61st minute off an assist from Julie Truckenbrod.

Pulaski goalie Ella Sasse was credited with three saves in the shutout win.

### Shawano 6

#### Hortonville 4

Shawano rallied to a nonconference win over Hortonville on May 26 in Shawano.

Kaylee Rindt scored Shawano's first goal off an assist from Adison Moesch. Adrienne Rekow then scored off an assist from Trinity Popelka.

Shawano's Evony Perez tied the match at three with a goal 19 seconds into the second half. After the Hawks went down again, Abigail Rabideau scored off a Perez assist to tie things again. Caitlyn Moede scored about 50 seconds later to give the Hawks the lead, and Rindt then scored off a Rabideau assist for the final goal.

Shawano goalie Brynlie Boyles made four saves in the win.

### Shawano 8

#### Berlin 1

Shawano rolled past Berlin in a nonconference match on May 24 in Shawano.

Adison Moesch and Abigail Rabideau each recorded a hat trick to lead Shawano. Kaylee Rindt assisted on one Moesch goal, while Adrienne Rekow assisted on the other two. Rabideau scored unassisted three times.

Rindt scored off a Rekow assist and Caitlyn Moede scored on a penalty kick for the other two goals.

### Pulaski 3

#### Xavier 0

Pulaski topped Xavier in a nonconference match on May 23 in Appleton.

Ellie Mangold and Brianna Kapla scored first-half goals for Pulaski, with assists going to Lauren Binkowski and Payton Heise.

Kapla scored again in the second half off a Gianna Logue assist.

## BASEBALL

### Shawano 8

#### New London 3

Shawano knocked off New London on May 24 in New London.



Pulaski's Brianna Kapla, right, scores the game-winning goal against Green Bay Preble in a Fox River Classic Conference match on May 26 in Pulaski.

MORGAN RODE | NEW MEDIA

The win helped Shawano earn a share of the Bay Conference title.

### Bonduel 7

#### Rosholt 4

Bonduel defeated Rosholt in a Central Wisconsin Conference crossover matchup on May 24 in Rosholt.

Bonduel's Easton Reinke drove in three runs on two hits, including a two-run home run. Mason Bohm added two hits.

Brodie Hartmann earned the win on the mound after striking out five batters. Charlie Tauchen picked up the save after finishing out the contest.

### Pulaski 8

#### Green Bay Southwest 7

Pulaski rallied past Green Bay Southwest in a FRCC game on May 24 in Green Bay.

Max Burdette drove in three runs for Pulaski, while Jonah Klingeisen and Mason Petzel drove in two each. Caden Rybicki, Michael Molthen and Logan Hochevar tallied two hits each.

Kyle Olson pitched the entire game for the Red Raiders, striking out six

along the way.

### Witt-Birn 12

#### Loyal 1 (5 inn.)

Witt-Birn scored 11 runs in the first two innings and cruised to a nonconference win over Loyal on May 24 in Loyal.

Chase Krull homered and drove in three runs for Witt-Birn. Brennen Boda drove in three runs and scored twice, while Pierson Potrykus, Mason Meverden and Max Kersten tallied two hits each.

Ian Salvesen struck out four batters over two scoreless innings to pick up the win. Kaden Schmidt had three strikeouts over two innings, while Evan Meverden struck out three batters in one inning.

### Shawano 3

#### Bonduel 0

Shawano blanked Bonduel in a nonconference clash on May 23 in Shawano.

Andrew Popp, Jacob Landon and Jacob Polzin all had two hits and a RBI for Shawano, while Zac Jurmu also had two hits.

Andrew Popp earned the win on the mound after allowing two hits over five innings. Joey Sperberg got the final six outs.

Mason Bohm took the loss for Bonduel after pitching four innings. Cade Johnson and Noah Weier also pitched in the contest. Weier and Brodie Hartmann had Bonduel's two hits.

### Marion 11

#### White Lake 0 (5 inn.)

Marion cruised past White Lake in a CWC-North contest on May 23 in Marion. The Mustangs capped the regular season with a 15-1 overall record and 12-0 mark in the CWC-North.

Jaden Stuhr, Ryan Malueg and Jay Brei all pitched for Marion. Stuhr struck out five batters across two innings, while Malueg had three punchouts in two frames. Brei had a strikeout in the final inning.

Andy Faehling drove in four runs on two hits to power Marion at the plate. Brei had three hits and two RBIs, while Ethan Scheef chipped in two hits.