

SPORTS

Send your scores and story ideas to sports editor Bob Burrows

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TRACK AND FIELD



PHOTO COURTESY OF EVE GOLDSTEIN

Somerset's Eve Goldstein shows off the gold and bronze medals she won at the 2022 Maccabiah Games, an Olympic-style track meet held for people of the Jewish faith in July in Israel.

An international CHAMPION

Somerset grad Goldstein wins gold medal in Israel

BY DAVE NEWMAN
Correspondent

Somerset's golden girl is now an international track and field champion.

Eve Goldstein won four WIAA state track championships while at Somerset High School. She has now added a gold medal at a world competition. Goldstein competed in the 2022 Maccabiah, an international competition for athletes of the Jewish faith. There were 10,000 athletes from 50 countries competing at the 2022 games, the third largest international sports competition. The United States was represented by 1,300 athletes at the games.

Goldstein won the championship in the women's

open division shot put event. That came the day after she placed third in the women's open division discus throw.

Goldstein is a 2020 graduate of Somerset High School. She won two WIAA state shot put championships and two discus titles. She was in position to compete for two more state titles, but there was no state meet held in 2020 due to COVID. Goldstein now competes at the University of North Dakota, where she is an elementary education major.

Competing at the Maccabiah had a familial meaning for Goldstein. Her father, Chad, competed at the Maccabiah 29 years ago. He also placed third in the discus while taking second in the shot put.

The three-week trip to Israel was an incredibly fulfilling experience into the Jewish life for Goldstein and many of the athletes. While there were numerous events that stood out in Goldstein's memory, the Maccabiah's opening ceremonies were near the top of the list.

"It was a big production," Goldstein said of the opening ceremony. "All teams walked out in alphabetical order. I felt like a celebrity, like I was in the Olympics."

This trip wasn't just about track for Goldstein or many of the American athletes. It was an immersion into the Jewish life and tradition.

Goldstein received her bat mitzvah in a ceremony while in Israel. This is a ceremony where a girl becomes rec-

ognized in Jewish tradition as having the same rights as an adult. For girls, this event usually happens when they're 12 years old.

There were numerous outings for the U.S. track team, which traveled together. Goldstein listed the Dead Sea, the Holocaust Museum and Old Jerusalem as some of her most memorable destinations. She said staying at a hotel with athletes from other countries opened up opportunities to make friends with people from all over the world.

When she competed at Maccabiah, Goldstein's dad was in attendance. They had relatives in Israel and Chad stayed for the second week

See Goldstein Page B3

HOCKEY

Big plans for Hudson Hockey Association

Addition would connect Gornick, Drewiske arenas

BY BOB BURROWS
Sports Editor

The Hudson Hockey Association is celebrating 50 years of success in 2022, and is setting its sights on laying the foundation for the next 50 years by moving ahead with long-planned improvements to its Gornick Arena and Drewiske Arena facilities.

HHA's Excellence at Every Level Campaign has already raised roughly \$3.2 million of its \$5.5 goal to provide much needed maintenance at the Hudson Civic Center and improvements that will provide additional modernized locker rooms, a central single-point entrance, new updated concession stand, and an expanded multi-use community room, among other things.

A new 20,000 square foot addition will connect Gornick Arena and Drewiske Arena and provide a central lobby with concessions and locker rooms, including bathrooms and showers, on the lower level, and an upper lobby that would include a community room with a catered kitchen and ice viewing.

"The intention was not to build the Taj Mahal, but to incorporate community and functionality while improving the experience for our youth," said Anthony Aderhold, campaign chair.

The history of the Hudson Hockey Association dates back to 1972 when practices and games were held outside at the Burton Field Rink. In 1980 parents and community members banded together to build Hudson's first indoor hockey arena, known as "The Bubble," and in 1986 came together to build the Hudson Sports and Civic Center, also known as Gornick Arena.

Construction of a second sheet of ice next to Gornick Arena, known as Raider Arena, was completed in 2007 and was renamed Karen Drewiske Memorial Arena in 2014 after the passing of Drewiske, who was known as Hudson's "Hockey Mom" and had been a long-time supporter of HHA as well as the Benchwarmer's Club, Hudson Boosters and many other civic

See Hockey Page B3

GOLF

Obermueller wins second state amateur championship

Title comes 13 years after first win

BY BOB FEIDLER
Contributor

A spectacular three-under par over the final nine holes enabled 2005 River Falls High School graduate and current Hudson resident Tyler Obermueller to win his second Wisconsin State Amateur Championship, 13 years after winning his first, at Sand Valley Golf

Resort in Nekoosa July 21.

Obermueller, 35, birdied three holes on the back nine in the final round to shoot a 1-under-par 71 and finish the 72-hole tournament at 3-under 286. Adam Miller of Nekoosa, the 2021 WSGA player of the year and a caddie at Sand Valley, eagled the 18th hole for a 71 and finished at 287.

Obermueller, a two-time WIAA individual state champion at

River Falls High School, won his first state amateur title as a University of Wisconsin senior in 2009. But this championship was especially satisfying as he had his dad Ken as his caddy and his seven-year-old son Peyton and mother Robbie in the gallery.

It brought back memories of when Tyler was a young boy and caddied for his father when he won the River Falls

See Goldstein Page B3



PHOTO COURTESY OF BOB FEIDLER

River Falls native and Hudson resident Tyler Obermueller hoists his seven year-old son Peyton into the air as his father, and caddy, Ken looks on after sinking his final putt to win the 121st Wisconsin State Amateur Championship at Sand Valley Golf Resort in Nekoosa July 21. It was the second state amateur title for Obermueller, who claimed the title as a University of Wisconsin senior in 2009.

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FOOTBALL



Tuesday, Aug. 2 marked the first day of high school football practice in Wisconsin, and the River Falls Wildcats elected to hold its first practice in the evening under the lights at the high school's Wildcat Field. The first games for local teams are scheduled for Aug. 18-19.

BOB BURROWS / STAR-OBSERVER PHOTO

High school football season is here

First week of practice in the books

BY BOB BURROWS
Sports Editor

The day high school football players in Wisconsin have been waiting for arrived Tuesday, Aug. 2, with the first official practices of the season.

That included local teams River Falls, Hudson, New Richmond, St. Croix Central and Somerset, as they began to prepare for their first games of the season Aug. 18 and 19.

River Falls is back in the Big Rivers Conference this season after spending the last two seasons in the Mississippi Valley Conference.

The Wildcats were switched to the MVC in football only in 2020 after the WIAA Board of Control approved a statewide football-only conference realignment

plan from the Wisconsin Football Coaches Association. New Richmond was moved from the Middle Border Conference to the BRC at the same time, but the Wildcats are back in the BRC this season after a successful appeal to the WIAA, with Rice Lake moving from the BRC to the MBC to keep the BRC an eight-team league.

River Falls will open the 2022 season Thursday night, Aug. 18, with a nonconference game at Wisconsin Rapids. Hudson will also kick off Aug. 18 with a road game at Marshfield while New Richmond will open Friday, Aug. 19, at home against Medford.

Somerset will open its first football season in 35 years without legendary coach Bruce Larson when the Spartans host Bloomer in a nonconference game Thursday,

Aug. 18. Larson, who passed away last February at the age of 58, will be posthumously inducted into the Wisconsin Football Coaches Association Hall of Fame in April 2023. Somerset will recognize Larson's hall of fame induction before the 7 p.m. kickoff, and the Spartans will honor their state championship teams from 2002, 2012 and 2014 during a halftime ceremony on the field. Long-time Spartan defensive coordinator Joe Hutter will begin his first season as head coach.

St. Croix Central will also kick off the season at home Friday, Aug. 19, against Spencer/Columbus Catholic.

Readers can reach Bob Burrows at bburrows@ourorkemediagroup.com

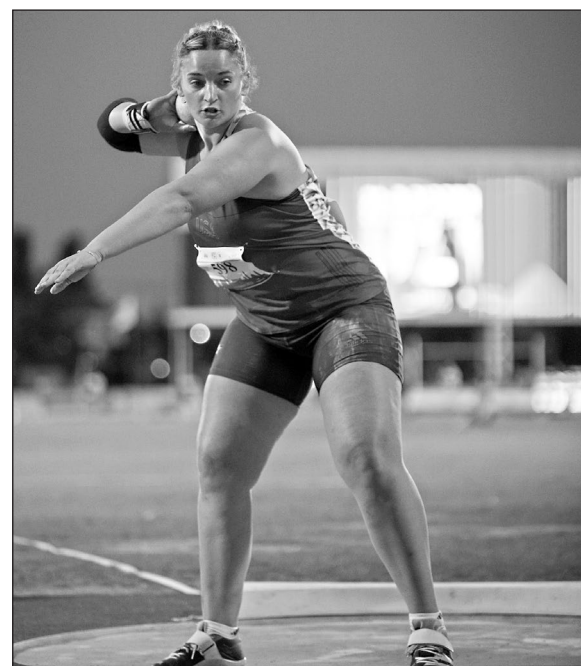


PHOTO COURTESY OF EVE GOLDSTEIN

Fourteen year-old Ryan Swanson of River Falls is pictured Eve Goldstein is shown competing at Hebrew University Stadium in Jerusalem during the 2022 Maccabiah Games. Goldstein won the championship in the shot put and took third place in the discus throw in this international competition.

GOLDSTEIN

PAGE B1

Eve's trip with those relatives.

"I'm glad my dad got to experience, he got to coach me," Eve said. "I got to meet my cousins that I never knew existed. They were very welcoming." All of those relatives were in the stands to see Eve compete.

Eve's mother, Shannon, is a Christian and Eve said she was raised celebrating holidays of both religions. She said this trip gave her a far greater understanding of the Jewish life and her heritage.

One of the events from her trip that was most memorable for Goldstein happened in a train station in Tel Aviv. Goldstein is a talented singer and musi-

cian. She has sung the National Anthem many times at Somerset High School events and she has performed in musicals at the school.

While waiting in this train station with the rest of the U.S. track team, she noticed a grand piano. Goldstein pulled up some music on her phone. She had one of her teammates hold the phone for her and Goldstein began playing the song. Her deep, powerful voice rang out through the train station and drew many people to see who was delivering this musical gem.

Goldstein said she enjoyed the experience so much that she is planning to compete at the next Maccabiah in 2025. She said the 2022 trip changed her. "I'm not a new person," she said. "But I have a new perspective on life."

GOLDSTEIN

PAGE B1

Golf Club championship. The Obermuellers are a golfing family as Tyler's sister also played at the University of Wisconsin.

"Winning at Sand Valley with the family was memorable," Tyler said. "I have so many good memories of playing with my father and sister. I look forward to playing for many years with my two young sons."

The tournament was played at Sand Valley, a world class golf destination in central Wisconsin. The course was set-up hard and fast with difficult pin placements, making birdies hard to come by. But that didn't bother Obermueller, who was just one of two golfers to finish the three-day event under par.

"The course played to my strength, which is my short game," he said. "I could grip it and



PHOTO COURTESY OF BOB FEIDLER

Tyler Obermueller, left, his dad Ken, and son Peyton after Obermueller won his second Wisconsin State Amateur Championship at Sand Valley Golf Resort in Nekoosa July 21.

rip it off the tee without much danger of losing a ball."

Obermueller said he went to Sand Valley with his family just hoping to do the best he could and have fun. It was just his second time competing in a state ama-

teur championship since winning his first title in 2009.

"Winning was unexpected, especially against a very talented field of younger players," he said. "Between family activities and work, I haven't played

that much this season. I think of myself as a bit of a weekend warrior."

Obermueller capped an extraordinary couple of weeks by also winning the Troy Burne Golf Club championship this past Sunday, Aug. 7. "Troy Burne is a true championship test, one of the jewels of Wisconsin," he said about his home course.

His fellow competitor and four-time Troy Burne champion Bill Forsbrook was impressed by Obermueller's play Sunday.

"He played exceptional," Forsbrook said. "Just when you think he's in trouble, he makes birdie." Three-time club champion Garrett Samb noted that Obermueller is the only golfer from western Wisconsin to win the state title in recent years and the first two-time winner since 2001.

"His game is complete," Samb said. "Distance and touch."

TITLE

PAGE B2

Millers, starting with their 15 hits. Cunningham produced the team's first complete game from a pitcher this season in the seven-inning win. Ellsworth only managed two unearned runs against him in the sixth inning.

The Millers put up a good fight against Prescott, using one of the most age-diverse pitching staffs in league history. Jon Will, 52, started on the mound for the Millers, working the

first three innings. Krech, 18, pitched shut-out ball over the final four frames.

The Millers scored their run in the second inning when Cunningham reached on an error and scored on a single by Krech.

Stephens said all his players plan to return for next season. He's hoping to add some help.

"In the long retrospect, we need pitching," Stephens said.

Correspondent Dave Newman contributed to this story

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HOCKEY

PAGE B1

organizations.

Since its founding, the Hudson Hockey Association has produced 46 youth state championship teams, eight high school state championship teams, and had over 20 players advance to college or junior hockey. Several have gone on to play professional hockey, including current high school coach Davis Drewiske, who won a Stanley Cup championship with the Los Angeles Kings in 2012.

Aderhold said in 2018 when he was treasurer of the association, the group started recognizing recurring costs associated with repairs and maintenance, specifically to the fire suppression system in Drewiske Arena.

"This prompted a deep dive into deferred maintenance, along with what was always the vision of connecting the rinks," he said.



STUDIO EA ARCHITECTS

The exterior view of the Hudson Civic Center after the planned 20,000 square foot addition linking Gornick and Drewiske arenas.

He said by connecting the rinks with a 20,000 square foot addition, it would allow for the removal of the temporary locker rooms in Drewiske Arena and provide more seating.

"So then Drewiske will become the primary rink, which was always the intention," he noted.

"The seating capacity for the primary rink of Drewiske will then become close to 1,000. By having that type of seating capacity we can now host major WIAA sectional tournaments."

He said the addition will also allow Hudson to host more summer and off-season tourna-

ments.

"We've lost out on tournaments by not having a centralized lobby location," he said. "And the reason for that is because a lot of the vendors that sell T-shirts, sweatshirts, you name it, they won't go to those because you have two separate lob-

bies. So either you have to reduce ice, or they'll go off to Blaine or White Bear Lake or someplace else."

Aderhold said the ability to host more tournaments could have up to an additional \$15 million to \$20 million impact to the St. Croix Valley and Hudson communities.

"That was all calculated based on a couple of things," he said. "It was based on the additional tournaments, the average team size, and then we did another survey of what the average spend was by a family. Granted, this wasn't inflation adjusted for now, but it was \$700 for hotel, food and then just general shopping."

The Hudson Hockey Association will host a ceremonial groundbreaking celebration for the new addition on Thursday, July 18, from 5:30-9 p.m. at the Hudson Civic Center. The evening will include a performance by Yam Haus along with guest speakers, including recent NHL first-round draft choice Isaac Howard, as well as an auction, food trucks and the opportunity to view floor plans for the updated facility.

"It will be a fun celebration," Aderhold said.

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