

The Verona Press

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Verona Area School District

Dr. Larry Love selected as next Badger Ridge principal

MADDIE BERGSTROM
 Staff Reporter

The Verona Area School District announced that Dr. Larry Love has accepted the position as principal of Badger Ridge Middle School (BRMS) beginning in the 2023-2024 school year.



Love

According to a news release, Love has four years of experience in school administration. This includes six years serving as an educator in various settings, working as an administrator of a Two-Way English/Spanish Immersion program, along with over a decade of professional work experience and five years of education research.

In his previous roles, he served as a middle school educator, behavior support specialist, middle school assistant principal, elementary school principal and instructional coach for educators.

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Press announces staff additions

De Laruelle new managing editor; Bergstrom new reporter

The Verona Press has a new managing editor and reporter to cover the city and surrounding townships - both University of Wisconsin-Madison graduates.



DeLaruelle

Scott De Laruelle has been promoted to managing editor for O'Rourke Media publications in the Madison market - the Verona Press, Oregon Observer, Stoughton Courier Hub and Fitchburg Star.

He holds a bachelor's degree in journalism from the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire (1998) and a master's degree in journalism from the University of Wisconsin-Madison (2003), and has been opinion editor and staff reporter for

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Bergstrom

Boys hockey



STUDENT BECOMES MASTER

“Right from the start he was on a trajectory to beat that record...That wasn't an ultimate goal of his, but that's something he wanted to do. It was something I wanted him to do as well.”

— Charlie Parker

Cordray passes friend, mentor to become all-time leading scorer

JACK MILLER
 Digital sports editor

Reece Cordray grew up looking up to Charlie Parker.

Parker - a 2014 Verona grad - would spend summers hanging out with a young Cordray.

Nearly a decade later, the two are intertwined in Verona boys hockey history. Cordray - now a senior forward at Verona - recently surpassed his mentor and friend as the Wildcats' all-time leading scorer.

Cordray became Verona's all-time points leader during a win over University School of Milwaukee on Jan. 31. Cordray has scored 16 points since then and now sits with 198 career points. Parker's 179 points was a program career best for nearly nine years.

“It (scoring record) feels really good,” Cordray said after a 7-0 win over Waukesha on Feb. 10. “I passed my mentor Charlie Parker. I just have a lot of people to thank, my linemates all four years, coaches obviously. None of it would be possible without them.”

Parker - who's helping out on Verona's coaching staff this season - wasn't able to attend the Jan. 31 game against University School, but kept a watchful eye on the game's box score.

“I knew he was close and I was watching the box score,” Parker said. “When I saw what happened and saw that he had beaten it...I gave him a call. I was just fired up for him. It was fun to see. I'm happy he was able to do that. It's cool that it's someone I know. It makes it that much more fun for me.”

Longtime friends

Parker said in his junior and senior years of high school he would look after Cordray in the summertime.

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City of Verona

Common Council passes series of annexation agreements

MADDIE BERGSTROM
 Staff Reporter

The City of Verona Common Council passed an ordinance to annex around 32 acres of Town of Verona land east of County M and south of County PD during a meeting on Monday, Feb. 13.

This ordinance passed despite apprehension from the town regarding the city's

decision to not include the full width of the Right-of-Way on County PD in the annexation, which the Council said would cause issues with public safety.

City Administrator Adam Sayre received a letter from the Town of Verona on Feb. 13 addressing concerns with the annexation, but said those date back to the beginning of January.

“Specifically, their concern relates to the

annexation - or lack thereof - of County Highway PD,” he said. “What they point to as part of their concern is that we have not included any of that Right-of-Way - and the boundary agreement has a statement that talks about potentially the entire width of that Right-of-Way [being] annexed.”

Sayre said the town board's current

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The **Verona Press**
 WISCONSIN MEDIA GROUP

Verona Area Performing Arts Series

PERFORMANCES NOW AT
 VERONA HIGH SCHOOL, 234 WILDCAT WAY

2023-2024 Season

“Those Were The Days”
 William Florian, Former Singer - New Christy Minstrels
 Saturday, Mar. 11, 2023, 7:30 p.m.

VAPAS, PO Box 930316, Verona WI 53593 • Tickets available only online www.vapas.org

Boys basketball

Wildcats' comeback comes up short against Spartans

Deischer scores team-high 15 points

MARK NESBITT
Sports editor

Senior guard Finley Deischer scored a team-high 15 points, but the Verona boys basketball team couldn't pull off a comeback and lost to Madison Memorial 68-60 on Saturday, Feb. 11, in Madison.

The Wildcats trailed the Spartans by three points at the half. Memorial outscored Verona 35-30 in the second half.

Verona senior guard Gavin Farrell added 11 points and went 4 of 4 from the free-throw line. Senior guard Zack Zimmerman added 10 points and hit two 3-pointers. With the loss, Verona (11-7, 9-6 Big Eight) is tied with Janesville Craig for fifth place in the Big Eight standings.

The Wildcats shot 40.3% (21 of 52), but shot 29.1% from beyond the arc (7 of 24). The Spartans made about as many free throws (16) as the Wildcats attempted (17). Verona shot 11 of 17 from the charity stripe.

Verona sophomore guard Tre Poteat chipped in nine points and hit one 3.

Verona sophomore forward Drew Murphy, who is averaging 20.3 points per game, missed the game with an ankle injury.

Big Eight Standings

Team	Overall	Conf.
Middleton	18-1	15-1
M. La Follette	13-5	12-5
M. Memorial	12-7	11-4
S. Prairie West	11-5	10-5
Verona	11-7	9-6
Janesville Craig	11-7	9-6
Madison East	7-11	7-8
Janesville Parker	5-14	5-11
Sun Prairie East	5-14	4-12
Beloit Memorial	4-15	2-14
Madison West	3-17	2-14

If You Go

What: Verona (11-7) vs. Madison East (7-11)

When: 7:15 p.m., Friday, Feb. 17

Where: Verona Area High School

Exhibit and speaker series Nothing to Hide

Mental illness in the family

Opening Night February 19!

5:00-6:30 Info fair, Exhibition Opening, and Reception

6:30 Keynote Speaker: Autumn Forss, NAMI

Calendar of events

February 19, 5:00 Opening Night

February 26, 6:30 Addiction

March 5, 6:30PM Grief, Loss, and Trauma

March 10, 5:30PM Family Pizza and Movie Night (*Inside Out*)

March 12, 6:30PM Youth and Mental Health

March 18, 6:30PM Movie Night (*As Good as it Gets*)

March 19, 6:30PM Responses to Mental Illness

March 26, 2:00PM Elderly and Mental Health

Exhibit courtesy of *Family Diversity Project*

Free and Open to the Public

Salem United Church of Christ, 502 Mark Dr. Verona

www.salemchurchverona.org/nothing-to-hide

Questions? spundt@salemchurchverona.org



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Verona's All-Time Points Leaders

No.	Name	Grad Year	Pts.	G	A
1	Reece Cordray	2023	198	91	107
2	Charlie Parker	2014	179	84	95
3	Mack Keryluk	2022	169	71	98
4	Zach Jones	2013	168	82	86
5	Cale Rufenacht	2022	153	70	83

Cordray: Senior forms one of the best lines in state with Moline, Marske

Continued from page 1

"I was driving him around to things he wanted to do," Parker said. "We were doing stuff together. We would skate together. This is when he was probably 9 or 10 years old. I would go train in the summer and I would bring him out. We would skate together, play golf together. We basically just hung out all summer and did just normal stuff I would do and stuff he would do."

Parker recalls being impressed by Cordray's hockey skills early on.

"It's funny because I remember when we were back skating together he always had a great shot," Parker said. "Even when he was young, he always had a great shot. He had an ability to pick corners and find the back of the net."

Dynamic play right from the start

Fast forward some eight or nine years later and Cordray still has his great shot to go along with a whole bag of skills and tricks.

"Reece has been dynamic from the start," Verona head coach Joel Marshall said. "He's a natural playmaker and goal scorer all in one. His speed is probably unmatched from what I've seen from teams we've played this year. He's hard to contain."

Cordray was an instant impact player for Verona, scoring 26 points as a freshman (11 goals, 15 assists), helping the

Wildcats to the Division 1 state championship.

"Reece and I have talked a lot over his four years of playing high school," Parker said. "Right from the start he was on a trajectory to beat that record... That wasn't an ultimate goal of his, but that's something he wanted to do. It was something I wanted him to do as well."

Breakout season

Cordray said he started to think more about the all-time points record after a breakout junior campaign.

"After last year, I had a lot of points playing with Anthony (Heinrichs) and Easton (Simpson)," Cordray said. "I just knew I needed another season like that and I would have it."

Cordray scored a team-leading 55 points in the regular season last year. That came after he recorded 26 points in both his freshman and sophomore regular seasons.

Elite line

This season, Cordray has formed one of the state's best lines with seniors Conrad Moline and Jack Marske.

Moline has 55 points (27 goals, 28 assists) this season, while Marske has collected 45 points (22 goals, 23 assists). Those are good for second and third best on the team behind Cordray's team-leading 72 points (29 goals, 43 assists).

The line of Cordray,

Moline and Marske lead the state in plus/minus. Cordray is a state-leading plus 43, while Moline is a plus 42. Marske is third in the state as a plus 33.

"It's great playing with two other players of that skill level and caliber," Cordray said. "We work well together. Hopefully we can keep it going."

Marshall said Verona's star-filled line all play hockey at a high level year-round outside of the high school season.

"They understand the game well, know how to read plays," Marshall said. "Us coaches kind of hold them to a different standard if they want to play at a different level after high school. There's a little bit of a different standard there. We try to keep them from getting too cute, too pretty. But they take pride in the plus/minus. They get scored on in any game, they're not happy. It's just that competitive nature in those guys that push each other to do better. It's fun to watch as a coach."

Cordray is tied for fifth in the state in assists with 43 on the season.

"I got Jack and Conrad and they're both really good shooters and goal scorers," Cordray said. "I feel like I've had more chances to pass this year than in past seasons."

Proven pieces

Moline also was a key contributor on Verona's 2019-2020 state championship team, scoring 32 points (13 goals, 19 assists) as a freshman.

"They (Moline and Cordray) were on that state championship team and played integral roles four years ago," Marshall said. "They want to get back to that spot."

The journey back to the state tournament begins on Thursday, Feb. 16, for top-seeded Verona when they take on Aquinas or Reedsburg in a regional final.

"We have to keep working hard in practice and keep treating every game like it's our last," Cordray said. "If we play our best, I like our chances against anybody."



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