



Road to state, a recap of trek to success

Luverne girls' 4-by-800 claims state title, 2021 Rock County track season recap

By Brennen Rupp

The Luverne Cardinals had five relay teams and eight individuals compete in the Class A State Tournament on Friday, June 18, at St. Michael-Albertville High School.

The Hills-Beaver Creek track team had two relay teams and two individuals compete at the state meet.

For the girls, Luverne finished fifth overall with 34 points. Rockford placed first overall with 46 points.

The Luverne boys tied for 20th overall with Nova Classical Academy with 15 total points.

The H-BC boys tied for 58th overall with East Central, Sauk Centre, Pillager, Caledonia/Spring Grove and Proctor with four points apiece.

The team of Morris Area/Chokio-Alberta took home first place overall with 42 total points.

The highlight of the day was the Luverne girls' 4-by-800 relay team of Regan Feit, Tiana Lais, Jenna DeBates and Tenley Nelson taking home first place with a time of 9 minutes, 34 seconds and 65 milliseconds.



Brennen Rupp photo/0624 48

The Luverne girls' 4-by-800 relay team took home first place at the Class A State Meet on Friday, June 18. The members of the relay team are (from left) Regan Feit, Tiana Lais, Jenna DeBates and Tenley Nelson. The relay team finished with a time of 9:34.65.

State track/page 3B

By Brennen Rupp

Rock County was well represented at the 2021 Class A State Track and Field Meet in Albertville on Friday, June 18.

A total of 10 individuals and seven relay teams from Rock County competed at the state meet that was held at the St. Michael-Albertville High School.

Luverne

Luverne's Ashton Sandbulte competed in the 100-meter dash and finished third overall in the event with a time of 11 seconds and 2 milliseconds.

Sandbulte's time set a new program record in the event, breaking the previous record of 11.09 set by Jon Ehde in 2013.

Sandbulte finished the season with 10 first-place finishes in the 100.

Luverne's Gracie Zewiske placed seventh at the state meet in the 400 with a time of 59.38. Zewiske finished the season with five first place finishes in the event.

At the section meet, Zewiske set the program record in the 400 with a time of 58.73.

Luverne's Tenley Nelson placed fifth in the 3,200 at

the state meet with a time of 11:08.71. Nelson ran the event four other times in the season and had two first place finishes.

Jenna DeBates finished sixth at the state meet in the 3,200 with a time of 11:11.78. DeBates finished the season with five first place finishes in the event.

Camden Janiszkeski set a personal best at the state meet in the 1,600 with a time of 4:31.47. Janiszkeski finished 10th overall in the event.

Janiszkeski finished the season with seven first place finishes in the event.

Luverne's Eli Radtke finished 12th in the pole vault at the state meet with a mark of 12-0. Radtke finished the season with 11 first place finishes in the event.

Regan Feit placed 10th in the 300-meter hurdles at the state meet with a time of 47.86. Feit finished the season with 10 first place finishes in the event.

Jocelyn Hart finished fifth in the shot put at the state meet with a throw of 38-06.75.

The 4-by-800 relay team of Feit, Lais, Nelson and De-

Track recap/page 3B

Redbirds sweep Adrian A's

By Brennen Rupp

The Luverne Redbirds improved to 11-3 on the season by going 3-0 this past week.

Luverne opened the week by defeating the Brandon Valley River Rats 6-5 on Wednesday, June 16.

The Redbirds then swept a doubleheader against Adrian on Sunday, June 20. Luverne won game one of the doubleheader 11-3 and then took game two 5-0.

Luverne 6, Brandon Valley 5

With the game tied at 5-5 in the bottom of the seventh, Skyler Wenninger hit an RBI single to walk it off for the Redbirds on Wednesday, June 16.

Ben Serie pitched all seven innings and picked up the win on the mound

for the Redbirds.

Luverne 11, Adrian 3

The Redbirds took game one of their doubleheader against Adrian on Sunday, June 20, 11-3.

The Redbirds scored four runs in the bottom of the first inning to jump on the A's early.

Adrian scored two runs in the top of the third to trim Luverne's lead to 4-2.

In the bottom of the fifth inning the Redbirds blew the game wide open by scoring seven runs to make the final it an 11-2 ballgame.

The A's scored one run in the top of the sixth inning to make the final score 11-3.

Derek Lundgren pitched all seven innings for the Redbirds and

Redbirds/page 2B

Luverne trap team competes at state qualifier



Submitted photo/0624 trap

The Luverne trap shooting team sent 10 individuals to the state qualifier meet in Alexandria on Friday, June 18. They are (front row from left) Grant Wieneke, Jacob Henning, Holden Overgaard, Hunter Ahrendt (back row) Scott Loosbrock, Austin Henning, Chase Overgaard, Morgan Ahrendt, Camron Kopp, Peter Baustian, Justin Dohlman and Joe Loosbrock.

By Brennen Rupp

The Luverne trap shooting team sent 10 individuals to the state qualifying event in Alexandria on Friday, June 18.

The 10 individuals that represented Luverne at the event were Peter Baustian, Grant Wieneke, Holden Overgaard, Morgan Ahrendt, Jacob Henning, Hunter Ahrendt, Chase Overgaard, Justin Dohlman, Cameron Kopp and Austin Henning.

In his first round of shooting, Holden Overgaard shot a 23 and a 25. During his second round he shot a 22 and a 24.

Hunter Ahrendt shot a 23 and 25 during his first round. He finished the day by shooting a 21 and 24 in his second round.

Austin Henning shot a 21 and 25 during his first

Trap/page 2B

After 25 years Luverne's Mike Wenninger steps away from coaching baseball

By John Rittenhouse

A longtime Luverne High School teacher and coach is experiencing a major lifestyle change.

After 25-years, Mike Wenninger is stepping down as head coach of the LHS baseball program.

Wenninger came to Luverne as a wide-eyed 22-year-old prior to the 1996-97 school year, and his quarter century run as the face of LHS baseball came to an end with a June 8 loss to Paynesville that wrapped up a successful 20-5 season.

Now, for the first time in a long time, Wenninger, 48, finds himself not playing or coaching baseball during the summer months.

"I've been involved in baseball as a player or a coach my whole life," Wenninger stated.

"It all started with me playing catch with my grandfather and my uncles, and I remember watching one of my uncles with amateur teams in the New Ulm area when I was really young. My dad (Randy) was the coach of a couple of the youth teams I played with, which I think was a special time for both of us."

Mike Wenninger/page 2B



Jason Berghorst photo/0624 MW

Mike Wenninger poses for a photo at Redbird field in Luverne. The long-time Luverne high school baseball coach is stepping down after 25 years.

Big South announces all-conference teams

By Brennen Rupp

The Big South Conference announced its All-Conference teams for boys' tennis, boys' and girls' golf, softball and baseball.

Baseball

The Luverne Cardinals finished the 2021 season with a 20-5 overall record. They finished first overall in the Big South All-Conference small school standings.

The Cardinals' season came to an end in the section semifinals when they lost to Paynesville 14-5.

The Cardinals had five players earn first-team All-Conference honors and one named to All-Conference honorable mention.

Casey Sehr, Bailey Cowell, Cade Wenninger, Connor Connell and Ethan Beyer were all named All-Conference, while Braydon Ripka earned honorable mention.

"It's about the team," Luverne coach Mike Wenninger said.

"That team game gets you the accolades at the end of the season. We're not going to get all those all-conference honors if we're .500. Us putting it together as a group gave us the opportunity to have that many all-conference players. Deservedly so, you don't get 20 wins without having

All-Conference/page 2B

Mike Wenninger/Continued from page 1B

Based on the way things have worked out, Randy Wenninger (and his wife, Monica) played important roles in creating their son's love of the sport.

Randy was serving in the Air Force in Topeka, Kansas, when Monica gave birth to Mike, and they moved to Alexandria shortly after that before settling down in New Ulm, where Mike made his way through the town's school system.

He became a three-sport standout (baseball, basketball and football) during his high school days as an Eagle, but baseball became his calling card.

After receiving limited varsity playing time as a sophomore, Wenninger became a full-time starter as a junior, when he played multiple positions.

As a senior, he emerged as an outstanding pitcher for a program that recorded consecutive third-place finishes at the Minnesota State Class AA Baseball Tournament in 1990 and 1991.

"The guys I grew up with in New Ulm really liked baseball and we were pretty good at it," Wenninger recalled.

"We had some really good coaches, too. ... I learned a lot from them."

Between his junior and



Brennen Rupp photo/0624 Mike W

A candid shot of Mike Wenninger during Luverne's section tournament game in Marshall.

senior seasons, Wenninger gained seven to eight miles per hour on his fastball, which opened the door to a college career for the hard-throwing right-handed pitcher.

Wenninger spent one year at Dakota Wesleyan College (Mitchell, South Dakota) before transferring to South Dakota State University (Brookings) for the next three seasons.

He played college ball with LHS graduates Terry Van Engelenhoven, Mark Schoeneman and Micky Sehr at SDSU, and they helped influence Wenninger to take physical education position/head baseball coach positions that were available in Luverne in the summer of 1996.

Wenninger toured LHS with then Cardinal baseball coach Mark Lundgren and liked what he saw.

When then high school principal Gary Fisher offered Mike the positions, he accepted the jobs without hesitating.

There's little doubt that Wenninger was the perfect fit for both positions.

Being a physical education instructor kept him from being boxed into one classroom during the typical school day, which was something he fancied.

His track record as a baseball coach speaks for itself.

Wenninger's 25-year reign includes just one season with a Cardinal team having a below .500 record.

His 2001 team won the Section 3A title and went on to place second at the Class A State Tournament.

LHS won another Section 3A title in 2003, and the Cardinals captured Section 3AA titles in the 2009

and 2013 seasons.

The 2009 team finished as the consolation runner-up at the state tournament, while the 2013 team won the consolation title at state.

It was Wenninger's devotion to the development of players that made his tenure a successful one.

In some ways, his job was just beginning when the high school season was complete.

Wenninger coached Luverne's VFW and Junior Legion teams every summer since 1997, and he worked with the seventh- and eighth-graders playing summer ball for the past 20 years.

Those commitments did take up a lot of time, but he said it was time well spent.

"Having the opportunity to watch kids develop from the time when they were in seventh grade through their senior seasons was rewarding," he said.

"In some cases, watching the progress they made truly was amazing. If you don't invest a lot of time into coaching and developing players, you won't get much back in return"

Now that his coaching career is complete, Wenninger has more free time to spend with his children, Skyler, Mckenzi and Cade (who just graduated from

LHS).

Mike plans to travel to Cade's baseball games at Briar Cliff College in Sioux City, Iowa, next spring instead of coaching LHS baseball.

"I'll miss competing, which goes along with being a coach," he said.

"I won't miss the long bus rides and the long hours it takes to be a coach."

He said he's grateful for the experiences and for the support of his family.

"It was a big part of my life and I made a lot of friends by playing and coaching baseball over the years. For that, I have to give thanks to my wife (Lauri Wenninger)," he said.

"She had to sacrifice a lot so I could coach and play a kids' game for a long time. Our athletic family was blessed to have her by our sides through all of it. I've always believed that behind every good coach is a better wife, and that's definitely true for me."

John Rittenhouse, Star Herald sports writer for more than 30 years, came out of retirement to write this feature on the coach he'd worked with for 25 years.

Luverne Legion goes 2-1

By Brennen Rupp

The Luverne Legion team went 2-1 this past week, including a 1-1 performance in a Marshall tournament.

Luverne started the week with a 7-5 loss against Marshall and then bounced back to defeat Albany 6-5.

Luverne wrapped up the week by defeating Russell-Tyler-Ruthton 3-2 on Monday, June 21.

Marshall 7, Luverne 5

Marshall jumped on Luverne early by scoring five runs in the first two innings to take a 5-0 lead.

Luverne got on the board by scoring three runs in the top of the fourth to trim Marshall's lead to 5-3.

Marshall got one run back in the bottom of the fourth to push their lead back to 6-3.

Luverne inched closer by scoring two runs in the top of the fifth to trim Marshall's lead to 6-5.

Marshall added an insurance run in the bottom of the sixth to make it a 7-5 game.

Unfortunately, Luverne

was unable to mount a seventh inning rally and fell to Marshall 7-5.

Luverne 0 0 0 3 2 0 0
Marshall 2 3 0 1 0 1 x

Hitting: Beyer 1-3; Wenninger 2-4; Crabtree 2-4; Overgaard 1-4; Ripka 2-4; Halverson 1-3;

Luverne 6, Albany 5

With the game deadlocked at 0-0, Luverne struck first by scoring one run in the bottom of the third to take a 1-0 lead.

Albany scored three runs in the top of the fifth inning to take a 3-1 lead.

Luverne tied the game by scoring two runs in the bottom half of the inning.

Albany broke the tie by scoring two runs in the top of the sixth inning.

Luverne tied the game back up at 5-5 when they scored a pair of runs in the bottom half of the inning.

After holding Albany off the board in the top of the seventh inning, Luverne walked it off by scoring a run in the final inning to win 6-5.

Albany 0 0 0 0 3 2 0

Luverne 0 0 1 0 2 3 1

Hitting: Beyer 2-4; Wenninger 2-4; Crabtree 1-3; Overgaard 2-4; Halverson 1-3

Luverne 3, RTR 2

Luverne scored one run in each of the first three innings to claim an early 3-0 lead after three innings.

RTR scored two runs in the top of the fourth inning to trim Luverne's lead to 3-2.

That would be the final movement on the scoreboard as the two teams failed to push across any runs in the final three innings.

With the win Luverne now owns a 2-2 record on the young season.

They'll be back in action on Thursday, June 24, when they hit the road to take on the Minneota legion team.

RTR 0 0 0 2 0 0 0 0
Luverne 1 1 1 0 0 0 x

Hitting: Cowell 2-3; Wenninger 2-3; Anderson 2-3

Redbirds/ page 1B

struck out nine batters.

Adrian 0 0 2 0 0 1 0
Luverne 4 0 0 0 7 x

Batting: Nath 1-2; Johnson 2-3; Zeutenhorst 1-4; Haugen 2-4; Lundgren 1-2; Reisdorfer 1-4; Meyer 1-4
HR: Johnson, Zeutenhorst
RBI: Johnson 4; Zeutenhorst 3; Lundgren; Reisdorfer; Meyer

Luverne 5, Adrian 0

The Redbirds completed the two-game sweep of the A's by blanking them in game two 5-0.

The Redbirds pushed across two runs in the top of the first to take an early 2-0 lead.

In the top of the third Luverne scored one more run to push their lead to 3-0.

The Redbirds scored the final two runs of the game in the top of the fourth to make the final score 5-0.

Luverne 2 0 1 2 0 0 0
Adrian 0 0 0 0 0 0 0

Batting: Nath 1-2; Paquette 1-4; Johnson 2-4; Zeutenhorst 3-4; Haugen 1-4; Lundgren 1-4; Reisdorfer 2-4; Crabtree 2-4; Meyer 1-3
RBI: Paquette 2; Johnson; Zeutenhorst; Haugen

All-Conference/from page 1B

good baseball players. You can't just have one good kid to get you there, you have to have a good team."

Tennis

The Luverne tennis team reached the Class A State Tournament for an 11th straight season in 2021.

Cunningham, Blake Frahm, Ben Jarchow and Griffen Jarchow all received All-Conference honors for the Cardinals.

Softball

The Cardinals' softball team had four members of

the team receive all-conference recognition.

Roz Oye and Billie Connell earned all-conference honors, while Ainslie Robinson and Carly Olson both received honorable mention honors.

Golf

For the girls' team, Morgan Gonnerman and Lauren Hansen both received all-conference recognition.

On the boys' side of things, Henry Hartquist earned all-conference honors.

Luverne trap/from page 1B

round. He shot a 20 and 22 in his second round.

Baustian shot a 20 and 21 in his first round and a 21 and a 22 in his second round.

In his first round, Wieneke shot a 22 and a 20. In his second time through he shot an 18 and 19.

Morgan Ahrendt shot an 18 and 20 during her first round. In her second round she finished with a

22 and 18.

Jacob Henning shot a 22 and 21 in his first round. He finished the day by shooting a 21 and 18 in his second round.

Dohlman shot a 22 and 22 in his first round. He finished with a 23 and 23.

Kopp shot a 15 and 24 during his first round and then finished by shooting a 17 and 18 in the second round.



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State track/continued from page 1B

It marked the third straight season that the Cardinals took home first place in the event.

Nelson placed fifth in the 3,200 with a time of 11:08.71. DeBates finished sixth at the state meet in the 3,200 with a time of 11:11.78.

Luverne's Ashton Sandbulte placed third in the 100-meter dash with a time of 11.02. Sandbulte's time set a program record in the event that was previously held by Jon Ehde, who had a time of 11.09 in 2013.

"It's a good day for him," Luverne track coach Pete Janiszewski said. "That's something that he's been working toward all season. It's been one of his main goals to get the program record and to get to the state tournament. To set the program record at the state meet is pretty special for him."

Luverne's relay team of Feit, Lais, Nelson and Gracie Zewiske took home fifth place in the 4-by-400 event with a time of 4:07.26.

The Luverne boys' 4-by-200 relay team of Arekel McLaughlin, Eli Radtke, La-



Brennen Rupp photo/0624 Ashton

Luverne's Ashton Sandbulte finished third in the 100-meter dash at the state track meet on Friday, June 18. Sandbulte set a new school record with a time of 11.02.

Shad Smith and Sandbulte placed fifth overall with a time of 1:31.87.

Luverne's Jocelyn Hart placed fifth in the shot put with a throw of 38-06-75.

H-BC's relay team of Dewell Rauk, Cole Baker, Gavin Wysong and Tyson Bork placed sixth overall with a time of 44.48.

Zewiske finished seventh in the 400-meter with a time of 58.73.

The Luverne 4-by-400

relay team of McLaughlin, Camden Janiszewski, Smith and Sandbulte placed eighth overall with a time of 3:34.97.

Feit finished 10th overall in the 300-meter hurdles with a time of 46.51.

Luverne's Camden Janiszewski finished 10th in the 1,600 with a time of 4:33.33.

Luverne's relay team of Sarah Stegenga, Isabella Oye, Christina Wagner and Zewiske placed 10th overall with a time of 1:49.14.

Radtke placed 12th overall in the pole vault for the Cardinals with a mark of 12-00.00.

H-BC's Taryn Rauk placed 14th overall in the 200-meter dash with a time of 27.25.

The H-BC 4-by-100 relay team of Abigail Harris, Ashlee Kelderman, Layla Deelstra and Rauk finished 12th overall with a time of 52.05.

Bork placed 14th overall in the 200 with a time of 23.36 for the Patriots.

See related coverage throughout this week's sports section.



Brennen Rupp photo/0624 Rauk

Hills-Beaver Creek's Taryn Rauk runs her leg of the 4-by-100 relay at the state track meet on Friday, June 18. The Patriots placed 12th overall with a time of 52.05.

Track season recap/continued from page 1B

Bates placed first with a time of 9:34.65.

The 4-by-200 relay team of Sarah Stegenga, Isabella Oye, Christina Wagner and Zewiske placed 10th at the state meet with a time of 1:49.14.

The 4-by-400 relay team of Feit, Lais, Nelson and Zewiske placed fifth with a time of 4:07.26.

The 4-by-200 relay team of Arekel McLaughlin, Radtke, LaShad Smith and Sandbulte placed fifth at the state meet with a time of 1:31.87.

The 4-by-400 relay team of McLaughlin, Janiszewski, Smith and Sandbulte placed eighth with a time of 3:34.97.

Hills-Beaver Creek

The Patriots' 4-by-100 relay team of Dewell Rauk, Cole Baker, Gavin Wysog and Tyson Bork placed sixth at the state meet with a time of 44.48.

The group of H-BC sprinters had sixth first place finishes in the relay event during the regular season and set the program record three times during the regular season.

The quartet first set the program record on April 29, in Luverne when they had a time of 44.66.

The team did it again at the Sub-Section meet on June 3, with a time of 44.59.



Submitted photo/0624 relay

The Hills-Beaver Creek 4-by-100 relay team of (from left) Tyson Bork, Gavin Wysong, Cole Baker and Dewell Rauk placed sixth at the state meet on Friday, June 18.

The group of sprinters set the program record again at the 3A Section Meet on June 10, when they finished with a time of 44.21.

Bork finished 14th at the state tournament in the 200 with a time of 23.36. Bork finished the season with four first place finishes in

the event.

Taryn Rauk placed 14th in the 200 with a time of 27.67. Rauk ran the event three other times during the



Brennen Rupp photo/0624 400

Luverne's Gracie Zewiske runs in the 400-meter dash during the state meet on Friday, June 18. Zewiske placed seventh at the state meet with a time of 59.38.

season and had two first place finishes.

The 4-by-100 relay team of Abigail Harris, Ashlee Kelderman, Layla Deelstra and

Rauk placed 12th at the state meet with a time of 52.05.

That group finished the season with four first place finishes.

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Three-peat: Luverne girls' 4-by-800 relay team wins third straight state title

By Brennen Rupp

For a third straight season, the Luverne Cardinal girls' 4-by-800 relay team raced their way to a state championship in the event.

On Friday, June 18, at St. Michael-Albertville High School, the quartet of Regan Feit, Tiana Lais, Jenna DeBates and Tenley Nelson took home first place with a time of 9:34.65.

"It's special," Luverne track coach Pete Janiszkeski said. "Anytime you can win a state title, it's a special feeling. To do it three years in a row is something else."

Feit, Lais, DeBates and Nelson saved their best for last. The 9:34.65 time was the best mark that the team posted all season.

"We raced really well," Janiszkeski said.

"For us to get the best time of the year out there was important. There were other teams in the mix of things.

He said the runners stepped up and had great races.

"Tiana had a great race with her personal best (PR) split," the coach said. "Jenna had a great PR split. Tenley had a great time and Regan was close to a PR split."

The 2021 season marked the first year that Lais and DeBates were members of the state championship relay team. Nelson and Feit have been members of each relay



Brennen Rupp photo/0624 800

The Luverne girls' 4-by-800 relay team placed first at the state meet on Friday, June 18. They are (from left) Regan Feit, Tiana Lais, Jenna DeBates and Tenley Nelson. The quartet of runners finished the event with a time of 9:34.65. It marked the third straight season that the 4-by-800 relay team won the event at state.

team that took home the state championship.

"Those two have been a part of each one of them," Janiszkeski said. "It's extra special for them. It's a testament to them. They take a lot of pride in it. We've established that tradition in that event."

The only thing that could slow down Luverne's 4-by-800 relay team was the COVID-19 pandemic.

Due to the outbreak last season, there was no spring sports season in the state of Minnesota in 2020.

That pause in action didn't allow the Cardinals to

go for the three-peat in the event. Janiszkeski believes that if there had been a season last year, that the Cardinals would be celebrating their fourth straight title.

"I think we could have done it four years in a row if we had a season," Janiszkeski said. "They take a lot of pride

in that event. They want to be a part of that tradition. I thought this was probably the most balance we've had in the event."

The 4-by-800 relay team will lose Feit to graduation, but will return Nelson, Lais and DeBates. Along with those three, the Cardinals

will get Brooklynn Ver Steeg back from a torn ACL injury that forced her to miss the 2021 track season.

With a strong group returning in 2022, the Cardinals will have a good chance of winning their fourth straight state championship in the 4-by-800 relay.

Luverne tennis reaches state tournament for 11th straight season

By Brennen Rupp

A dynasty is defined as a line of hereditary rulers of a country.

The Luverne boys' tennis team is not the Ming Dynasty, but the Cardinals have ruled over the Big South Conference and Section 3A for the past 11 years.

Under the guidance of first-year head coach Lucas Larson, the Cardinals made their 11th straight Class A State Tournament appearance in 2021.

The Cardinals were ousted in the opening round of the state tournament by Mounds Park Academy 5-2.

Pierce Cunningham qualified for the individual state tournament for the Cardinals after winning the individual Section 3A Tournament.

Cunningham lost in the opening round of the state tournament to Minnehaha Academy's Lincoln Reichenau 2-1.

Cunningham lost the opening set 7-5. The Luverne junior answered

back to win the second set 7-5. In the third set it was Reichenau defeating Cunningham 6-1.

The Luverne doubles team of Ben Jarchow and Blake Frahm qualified for the Doubles State Tournament after winning the Section 3A Doubles Tournament.

In the doubles state tournament, the Luverne duo of Jarchow and Frahm fell in the first round to Hermantown's team of Zam Plante and Aaron Evjen in straight sets.

The Hermantown duo won the first set 6-1 and then knocked the Luverne duo out of the tournament by defeating them in the second set 6-2.

Road to state tourney

The Luverne tennis team opened the season on Friday, April 9, in Luverne with a 6-1 win, setting the stage for a successful season that led to the state



Brennen Rupp photo/0624 Pierce

Luverne's Pierce Cunningham qualified for the individual state tournament after winning the 3A individual section tournament.



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Submitted photo/0603 LHS Tennis

The Luverne tennis team won the section championship on Tuesday, May 25, in Redwood Falls by defeating Yellow Medicine East 6-1. Pictured (from left) are Logan Ommen, Ethan Nath, Jayson Rops, Griffen Jarchow, Pierce Cunningham, head coach Lucas Larson, John Miller, Ben Jarchow, Blake Frahm, Kyle Ferguson, Chance Tunnissen, Spencer Kracht.

Luverne tennis/continued from page 4B

tournament.

LHS 6, Fairmont 1

Luverne's No. 1 singles player Pierce Cunningham kicked off his season in impressive fashion on April 9. Cunningham defeated Ameya Komaragiri 6-0 in the first set and 6-0 in the second set.

Griffen Jarchow won his match in three sets. Jarchow won the first set 6-3, and then dropped the second set 6-3. Jarchow won the third set 10-3 to pick up the victory.

Chance Tunnissen won his match in two sets. Tunnissen won the first set 6-4, and then won the second set 6-1 to pick up the victory for the Cardinals.

Blake Frahm and Ben Jarchow, Luverne's top doubles team, won their opening match of the season.

The duo won the first set 6-4 and then took the second set 6-2 to pick up the victory.

Ethan Nath and Logan Ommen won their match 2-0. They won the first set 6-0 and then took the second set 6-1.

Jayson Rops and Kyle Ferguson won their match in straight sets. The duo won the first set 6-1 and the second set 6-0.



Brennen Rupp photo/0624 Blake

Luverne's Blake Frahm serves the ball during a match in Luverne during the 2021 regular season.

LHS 3, St. James 2

Griffen Jarchow and Cunningham defeated their opponents in straight sets April 10. The duo won the first set 6-0 and the second set by the same score.

Ben Jarchow and

Frahm won their match 2-0. They won the first set 7-5 and the second set 6-3.

Rops and Miller won a back-and-forth match 2-1. The Cardinals duo dropped the first set of the match

6-4.

Rops and Miller bounced back to win the second set 6-2, and it was Rops and Miller coming out on top, winning the pivotal third set 10-7.

LHS 7, Blue Earth 2

Pierce Cunningham won the first set of his match 6-1. He then picked up the win with a 6-1 second set victory.

Griffen Jarchow won the first set of his match 6-2. He then won the second set 6-0.

Blake Frahm and Ben Jarchow won the first set of their match 6-3. The duo then won the second set 6-4.

Ethan Nath and Logan Ommen won a back and forth first set 7-5. They then won the second set 6-2.

Jayson Rops and John Miller won their match in straight sets. The duo won the first set 6-0. They then took the second set 6-3 to pick up the 2-0 victory.

LHS 4, YME 3

The Cardinals edged the Sting tennis team 4-3. Griffen Jarchow won his match in straight sets. Jarchow won the first set 6-1 and the second set 6-0 to pick up the victory.

Miller won his match in straight sets. Miller won his first set 6-0 and the second set 6-2.

Frahm and Ben Jarchow won the first set of their match 6-4. The Luverne duo won the second set 6-0 to pick up the victory for the Cardinals.

Nath and Ommen won the first set of their match 6-0. The duo won the second set 6-2 to pick up the victory.

LHS 7, Montevideo 0

The Cardinals didn't lose a match against Montevideo on Saturday.

Cunningham won his match 2-0. Cunningham won the first set 6-1 and the second set 6-0.

Griffen Jarchow won his match in straight sets. Jarchow won the first set 6-0 and the second set 6-1.

Miller won the first set of his match 6-3 and the second set 6-4.

Ferguson won his match in straight sets. Ferguson won the first set 6-1 and the second set 6-0.

Frahm and Ben Jarchow won their doubles match in straight sets. They won the first set 6-2 and the second set 6-2.

Nath and Ommen won their match in straight sets. They won the first set 6-2 and the second set 6-2.

Spencer and Caleb Kracht won the first set of their match 6-4. They then took the second set 6-3.

LHS 5, Worthington 2

Cunningham, Luverne's No. 1 singles player didn't lose a set in his match. He defeated Alec Langerud 6-0, and 6-0.

Griffen Jarchow defeated Benjamin Schrieber 6-1 in the first set. Jarchow won the second set 6-0 to pick up the match victory.

In doubles action Blake Frahm and Ben Jarchow defeated David Sternke and Devin Kaddee in straight sets.

The duo of Jayson Rops and John Miller defeated Tyson Henkels and Quinten Burns. Rops and Miller won the first set 7-5 and then won the second set 6-0 to pick up the match victory.

Ethan Nath and Logan

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Regan Feit graduates as one of Luverne's most decorated athletes in school history

By **Brennen Rupp**

Regan Feit has been a mainstay on three Luverne Cardinals' varsity teams since she was a seventh-grader.

"I started running cross country and track when I was a seventh-grader and also started playing varsity hockey when I was in seventh grade," Feit said.

"I've been playing hockey since I was a third-grader though and have run in road races for as long as I can remember."

The Luverne senior has been a member of six cross country teams that made the state tournament.

"We went to state every year as a team since I've been in cross country," Feit said.

"We always came pretty close to being on the podium as a team, but just barely came short of placing third many times. When I was a junior, we placed second as a team at the state meet, which was very exciting."

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Minnesota State High School League did not hold a Cross Country State Meet this fall. If there had been a state meet, the Cardinals would have been one of the favorites to win the whole thing.

"I think that we had a very good chance of winning the team title at state this year," Feit said.

"Unfortunately, we were unable to have a formal state meet through MSHSL. We did place first as a team at the 'state' meet we had which was put on through the coaches association this year."

On the ice, Feit has been a member of three teams that made the Class A State Hockey Tournament.

In the spring, Feit has qualified for the state tournament every season since she was a seventh-grader.

All those individual accolades and team success makes her one of the most decorated athletes in Luverne school history.

"Regan is just a pure athlete," said Luverne track and cross country coach Pete Janiszski. "She's very explosive and versatile."

At the Class A State Track Meet on Friday, June 18, Feit competed in her final events for the Luverne Cardinals.

Feit placed 10th in the 300-meter hurdles and was a member of the 4-by-800 relay team that won its third straight state championship.

She was a member of all three of those relay teams that won the event at the state



Brennen Rupp photo/0624 Feit

Regan Feit runs her leg of the 4-by-800 relay for the Luverne Cardinals at the state meet on Friday, June 18.

tournament.

"Not many can say that they are track state champions, but to be able to say that I am a three-time state champion in the 4-by-800 is something very special," Feit said.

"It's unfortunate that there was no state track last year due to COVID-19, but it gave us another year to improve ourselves and be as fast as we possibly can. I am so grateful for the girls that I got to run with in my senior year."

As a seventh-grader, Feit qualified for the state meet in the 1,600.

The following year, she was a member of the 4-by-800 relay team.

As a freshman, she reached the state meet in the 1,600 and in the 300-meter hurdles. The following year, she placed seventh overall at the state meet in the 300-me-

ter hurdles.

"She's versatile," Janiszski said. "She can pretty much do a lot of different distances and events. She's pole vaulted for us in the past. She works hard at it. She's very athletic. She's very good at a lot of things. She has great leadership qualities and is willing to sacrifice individual things for relays and team things. She's always been team-oriented."

On the ice, Feit was a member of three hockey teams that reached the state tournament in 2016, 2020 and 2021.

"She's just a very hard worker," Luverne hockey coach Tony Sandbulte said.

"She's very strong and athletic."

One of Feit's favorite memories during her time on the Luverne hockey team was when the Cardinals defeated Mankato West in the 2019-

2020 section championship to punch their ticket to the state tournament.

"The game was really close and intense the entire time," Feit said. "We had to work hard to try and win, which made winning the game that much better. Being able to make it to state in hockey three times has really been a blessing and was so much fun every time."

Feit may be done competing for the Luverne Cardinals, but she'll get a chance to become a decorated collegiate athlete at Winona State University.

"At Winona State University I will be running mainly the 400 hurdles and the open 400 as well," Feit said.

"The hurdle race will be a little different at college than it is right now because at the high school level in Minnesota it is a 300-meter race with hurdles, but once you

go to college it changes to a 400-meter race with hurdles. The 400 is brutal without hurdles so adding hurdles is going to be a challenge, but it is a challenge that I am willing to take and put the work into being the best I can be at it."

There are people who are addicted to running, and it's safe to say that Feit may be one of those individuals.

It's something that she fell in love with from an early age, and she's thankful that she'll get the opportunity to continue to do something she's passionate about for the next four years.

"I have been running ever since I was little, and I knew that I didn't want to give up my love for running competitively after my high school career was done," Feit said.

"Running in college was a must for me. ... To be able to continue to run in college is so exciting for me and I am

"I have always watched my mom run as I was growing up...My mom has definitely influenced me in becoming a distance runner."

- Regan Feit

very anxious to get started and meet everyone on the track team."

One thing that she said she loves about running is the camaraderie built with teammates and competitors.

"Being able to create more bonds with new people is something I look forward to doing at Winona this fall," Feit said.

"I have found that you make some of the best and closest bonds with your teammates, and being able to continue to make those bonds with the track girls at Winona is something that I'm really looking forward to this fall."

Feit said that it was her mother, Amy Feit, who got her started on the path of long-distance running.

"I have always watched my mom run as I was growing up and would always want to run in the races with her," Feit said.

"My mom has definitely influenced me in becoming a distance runner. She runs a lot of marathons and she would always get up early to train and run before work. I grew up watching her put a lot of work into something she really loves. I think that is what influenced me to join cross country as a little seventh-grader."

Feit said she is looking forward to forging bonds at Winona State but noted that she will miss the relationships that she built during her time as a Cardinal.

"Luverne has so many good people and I've always had such great teammates in all of my sports. We always support each other and try to help each other in any way we can," she said.

"As a Cardinal you always know that someone is there to have your back for you when you need a little help. That is something that I will most definitely miss from the groups of people that I have had the opportunity to be with at Luverne."



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Luverne tennis/continued from page 5B

Ommen defeated Alex Mazariegos and Kevin Le in the first set 6-0. The duo then won the second set 7-6.

LHS 7, RV 0

In singles competition, Pierce Cunningham defeated Redwood Valley's Andrew Muetzel in straight sets. Cunningham won the first set of the match 6-1 and then took the second set 6-2.

Griffen Jarchow also won his match in straight sets for the Cardinals. Jarchow won the first set in convincing fashion, 6-0.

He then won the second set 6-1.

Chance Tunnissen won a competitive match 2-0. Tunnissen defeated Laiten Goodthunder 6-2 in the first set and 7-5 in the second set.

Kyle Ferguson won the first set of his match over Cole Johnson, 6-4.

Ferguson then won the second set 6-2 to pick up the match victory for the Cardinals.

The only doubles match that wasn't a forfeit was between Luverne's Blake Frahm and Ben Jarchow and Redwood Valley's Levi Stoneberg and Noah U'Ren. Luverne's duo defeated Redwood's 6-0 and 6-2.

LHS 6, DB 1

It was all Cunningham, all the time in his match against Dawson Boyd's Gavin Stulz on Saturday, May 1.

Luverne's No. 1 singles competitor defeated Stulz 6-0 and 6-0 to pick up the match victory for the Cardinals.

It was the same result in the No. 2 singles matchup. Griffen Jarchow defeated his counterpart, 6-0 and 6-0.

Ferguson also made quick work of Jordon Perkins in singles competition. Ferguson won the first set 6-0 and the second set 6-0.

No. 4 Kyle Ferguson, Ben Jarchow and Blake Frahm were pushed to the brink against Wylie Wiebe and Jackson Buer.

The Cardinals duo dropped the first set 6-4. They bounced back to win the second set 6-4 to force a third and final set.

In the final set it was Ben Jarchow and Frahm coming out on top with a 10-7 set victory.

Jayson Rops and John Miller defeated Dawson-Boyd's team of Matthew Martinson and Wyatt Wiebe 6-0 in the first set and 6-0 in the second set.

Luverne's Ethan Nath

and Logan Ommen defeated Dawson-Boyd's Justin Perkins and Nate Gruwell 6-0 and 6-0.

LHS 4, PAS 3

The Luverne Cardinals' tennis team improved to 9-0 with a 4-3 victory over Pipestone Area on Thursday, May 6, in Pipestone.

Luverne's top singles player, Pierce Cunningham, defeated Tony Wacker in straight sets.

Cunningham won the first set 6-0 and then picked up a 6-1 second-set victory to win the match.

Griffen Jarchow defeated Will Rops in a back and forth first set 6-4.

The second set was all Jarchow, who picked up a 6-0 victory to win the match for the Cardinals.

Luverne's Chance Tunnissen and Lucas Zupp played a competitive three-set match.

Tunnissen won the first set 7-6. Zupp answered back by winning the second set 6-2.

Zupp edged Tunnissen in the third set 11-9.

In doubles action, the duo of Blake Frahm and Ben Jarchow defeated Pipestone's Cole Paulson and Issac Stilas 6-4 and 6-1.

Luverne's Jayson Rops and John Miller won their match in straight sets. The Cardinal duo defeated Pipestone's Cody Norberg and Chase Wilson 6-1 and 6-2 to help the Cardinals pick up the 4-3 victory.

LHS 4, St. James 3

The Luverne Cardinals' tennis team continued its dominance on Monday, May 10. The Cardinals defeated St. James 4-3 in Luverne to remain undefeated and improve to 10-0 overall.

Luverne's Pierce Cunningham defeated Marco Hernandez in straight sets. Cunningham won the first set 6-0 and took the second set 6-2 to pick up the match victory.

Griffen Jarchow won his match in straight sets for the Cardinals. Jarchow defeated Payton Brown in the first set 6-0.

Jarchow then took the second set 6-1 to pick up the victory.

Kyle Ferguson lost a hard-fought match to St. James' Preston Wegner.

Wegner won the first set 7-5 and then took the second set 6-0.

Brennan Kern defeated Luverne's Chance Tunnissen in straight sets. Kern won the first set 7-6 and took the second set 6-2.



Brennen Rupp photo/0624 Griffen
Luverne's Griffen Jarchow returns a serve at a home match during the 2021 regular season.

Luverne's Blake Frahm and Ben Jarchow defeated the duo of Caleb Rivera and James Gutierrez in a thrilling three-set match.

The Cardinal duo won the first set 6-1. Rivera and Gutierrez bounced back to win the second set 6-3. The Cardinal duo won the third set 6-4 to pick up the 2-1 victory.

Luverne's Jayson Rops and John Miller won a back and forth match over Rudolfo Arreola and Andrel Rivera. Rops and Miller won the first set 7-5 and then took the second set 7-6.

New Ulm 4, LHS 3

It took until the end of the season, but the Luverne Cardinals' tennis team suffered its first match loss of the season on Tuesday, May 18.

Playing for the Big South Conference Championship, the Cardinals fell to New Ulm 4-3 in Luverne.

New Ulm's Isaac Bluemhoefer defeated Luverne's Pierce Cunningham in a three-set match.

Bluemhoefer bested Cunningham in the first set 6-0. Cunningham answered back to win the second set 6-2. In the third and final set, Bluemhoefer edged Cunningham 6-4.

Luverne's Griffen Jarchow defeated New Ulm's Max Gieske in a thrilling three set match.

Jarchow took the first set in convincing fashion 6-0.

Gieske battled back to win the second set 7-6 to force a third set. In the third set it was Jarchow coming out on top with a 6-3 set victory.

Luverne's Chance Tunnissen and Kyle Ferguson both lost their respective matches in straight sets.

The duo of Blake Frahm and Ben Jarchow picked up the match victory for the Cardinals over Nathaniel Janssen and Leo Waloch. Frahm and Jarchow won both sets by the score of 6-1.

The doubles team of Jayson Rops and John Miller defeated New Ulm's duo of Cody Gilman and Tate

Trullinger in straight sets. The Luverne duo won both sets by the score of 6-3.

Luverne's Ethan Nath and Logan Ommen lost their doubles match to Isaac Davis and Dylen Carreon in three sets.

Ommen and Nath took the first set by the score of 6-2.

Davis and Carreon answered back by winning the second set 6-3. In the third set it was Davis and Carreon coming out on the winning end 7-6.

LHS 6, RV 1

The Cardinals opened the section tournament on Monday, May 24, with a 6-1 victory over Redwood Valley in Luverne.

With the win the Cardinals advanced to the

semifinals where they'll play either Pipestone Area or Lac Qui Parle Valley/ Dawson-Boyd on Tuesday, May 25, in Redwood Falls.

Cunningham defeated Redwood Valley's Andrew Muetzel in straight sets. Cunningham won the first set 6-1 and then took the second set 6-0.

Griffen Jarchow won his match against Jacob Zollner in quick fashion. Jarchow won both sets by the score of 6-0 to pick up the victory for Luverne.

Tunnissen won his match against Laiten Goodthunder in straight sets. Tunnissen won the first set of the match 6-2 and took the second set 6-0.

Frahm and Ben Jarchow won their match against Levi Stoneberg and Noah U'Ren in straight sets. The Cardinal duo won the first and second set by the score of 6-0.

Section Championship

For the 11th straight season the Cardinals won the right to participate at the state tournament after winning the Class 3A Section Championship on Tuesday, May 25, in Redwood Falls.

LHS 4, Pipestone 3

Luverne's Pierce Cunningham defeated Pipestone's Tony Wacker in straight sets. Cunningham won the first set of the match 6-0. Cunningham then won the second set 6-2 to pick up the match point for the Cardinals.

Griffen Jarchow won his individual match against Pipestone's Will Rops. Jarchow won the first set 6-0 and the second set 6-1.

Chance Tunnissen won a three-set match over Pipestone's Lucas Zupp.

Tunnissen lost the first set of the match 6-2. He then bounced back to win the second set 6-4 and the third set 6-2 to pick up the victory for the Cardinals.

The Luverne duo of Jayson Rops and John Miller defeated Pipestone's team of Cody Norberg and Chase Wilson in straight

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Luverne tennis/continued from page 7B

sets. Rops and Miller won both sets of the match by the score of 6-0.

LHS 6, YME 1

The duo of Rops and Miller kept chugging along against Granite Falls Yellow Medicine East (YME). The Luverne tandem defeated YME's Mason Rhode and Gage Corner by the score of 6-0 in both sets.

The team of Logan Om-men and Ethan Nath won a three-set match over YME's Austin Canatsey and Ryan Syring.

Canatsey and Syring won the first set of the match 6-3. Nath and Om-men bounced back to win the second set 6-1.

The Luverne duo won the third set 6-2 to pick up the match point victory for the Cardinals.

Luverne's Blake Frahm and Ben Jarchow defeated

YME's Derrick Lien and Isaac Olveson in straight sets.

Frahm and Jarchow won both sets by the score of 6-1.

Tunnissen defeated YME's Brandon Beyer in a thrilling three-set match.

Beyer won the first set 6-4. Tunnissen answered back by winning the second set 7-5.

In the third set it was Tunnissen coming out on top with a 10-1 victory.

YME's Jackson Torgerson defeated Kyle Ferguson in a back and forth three-set match.

Torgerson defeated Ferguson in the first set 6-3. Ferguson forced a third set by winning the second set 7-5.

In the third set Torgerson came out on top with a 11-9 victory.

Griffen Jarchow de-

feated YME's Tyler Syring in straight sets. Jarchow won the first set 6-3 and the second set 6-1.

Cunningham won his match against YME's Ean Clark in straight sets.

Cunningham won the first set 6-3 and the second set 6-1.

The Cardinals will lose Rops, Ben Jarchow and John Miller to graduation.

They'll return a strong core of players that will give them a strong chance to qualify for the state tournament for the 12th straight season in Larson's second season as the head coach.

Cunningham will be back for his senior season after qualifying for the individual state tournament.

Griffen Jarchow, the team's No. 2 singles player will also return.



Brennen Rupp photo/0624 Griffen

Luverne's Ben Jarchow hits the ball at home match during the 2021 regular season.



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A note from Mayor Patrick T. Baustian *We're All in This Together*



As COVID-19 is getting smaller and smaller in life's rearview mirror it seems I-90 detour signs are the next obstacle in front of us. Major road construction like the I-90 project can be devastating to our local businesses, especially those located along highway 75 and I-90. There is never a good time for road construction, but unfortunately, it is a necessary evil. What makes this worse is it's coming on the heels of one the most disruptive years in our lifetime. Over the past year we have come together to help one another through the COVID pandemic and now we need to do our part to support our local businesses through the construction project. Buy local.

IF IT'S NOT ONE THING, IT'S ANOTHER

FIRST THE PANDEMIC

...NOW

CONSTRUCTION

WE CAN SURVIVE THIS TOO!

NO MASKS REQUIRED • NO QUARANTINES • NO SHOTS...

JUST

LOYALTY TO OUR LOCAL BUSINESSES

STRONGER TOGETHER

I am confident that Luverne Area Residents, working together, will emerge from this pandemic much stronger as a community.

Luverne
MINNESOTA
Love the life!

Sincerely,


Mayor Patrick T. Baustian

