defeated the Goslings 50-47 and advanced to the sectional final game on March 19. The game was close, but the Warriors
fall to Eagles in regionals but win conference title
Girls have a tough end to a great season

Senior Cole Simms moves past a Watertown opponent during the WIAA tournament on March 19. The game was close, but the Warriors
The boys trailed during the whole game, then caught up during the last quarter of the game, only to be defeated by a last-second shot.

Madden signs with SCAD

Senior Michelle Madden signs with the Savannah College of Art and Design (SCAD). Madden will be playing golf for SCAD next year in Savannah, Georgia. (Photo by Kelsey Rudisill)

The boys reflected optimistically on their performance. "In our first playoff game we played well together, and everything flowed. In our second playoff game, we didn't execute," said senior Nick Soper.

"Down the stretch in the Edgewood, Madison West and Sun Prairie games, we were really clicking. Our shots were falling in, and our defensive rotations were near perfect. And really, we were just playing loose and having a lot of fun," said junior Jared Staeger.

In the Edgewood game, the boys won 87-59, and in the Madison West game, the Warriors triumphed 58-47. "The season ended earlier than we'd hoped, but there weren't a lot of expectations coming into the year from outside the program, because we lost so many players. But we won 19 games and conference," said senior Kyle Breunig.

The seniors are going to miss their team. "I'm sad that it's all over, but I had a lot of fun," said Breunig. "It was fun while it lasted," said Soper.

Those who will remain in high school will miss their teammates as well. "I'm going to miss the friendships we had. They are a great group of guys, and we are really going to miss them on and off the court next year," said Staeger.

The season was excellent, and some moments were unforgettable. Breunig said, "Even though we lost, the fourth quarter comeback against Sun Prairie in our last game was a memorable moment." Soper said, "Winning conference for the fourth straight year in a row was a big accomplishment for the senior class."

The Warriors will have to build up their team next year, just as they did this year. Staeger said, "We are losing seniors who played key roles for us this season, so building up team chemistry with the guys who will be getting minutes next year is big."
Getting to State

Three athletes share their personal state experiences

Keegan Schlittler

Purple Sage: Was this your first state experience? If not, how did you do last year?
Keegan Schlittler: Not my first—previous years can’t compare to how we did this year. We did alright but not as good as this year.
PS: Describe your state experience.
KS: I was more excited than nervous. The weekend before at sectionals I had [my] best times and we got a few records, so mostly I just wanted to have fun and take it all in. While I was swimming in the relays and the fly, I felt great. I knew I was going fast, and it felt good. In the IM though, I took it out too fast and towards the middle I started feeling sick. It was weird thinking that it was my last meet, and that’s what I was thinking about. I just wanted my last meet to be my best meet and it was.
KS: What were your results for state? Were you proud of your performance or disappointed?
PS: What were your results for state? Were you proud of your performance or disappointed?
KS: I was very happy with my results. It was especially cool to get a record in the 400-yard free relay with both of my brothers. I was definitely proud of the results.
KS: What was the most difficult part in your state experience?
PS: As an athlete, what does it mean to you to have gone to state?
KS: As a high school athlete, especially a senior, going to state is the greatest achievement possible. It makes all the hard work we put in during the season worth it.
PS: Who or what helped you the most to get to state?
KS: There are a lot of people who helped me get to state. Number one on the list is all of my teammates. Without them pushing me and actually making it fun for me to be there, I would never have come close to what I have done this year. My coach is also to thank, pushing us every day while making practice bearable. Lastly, my parents who have supported me in swimming for 10 years, being at every meet and always pushing me to be better.
KS: What was the most difficult part in your state experience?
PS: Describe your state experience.
KS: The most difficult part came before state. The hard practices and sore muscles and wanting to just stop at some points. State was the easy part.
PS: What was the most fun part in your state experience?
KS: The most fun part was my last event, the 400-yard free relay. With me, my two brothers [senior Taylor Schlittler and freshman Aiden Schlittler] and [senior] Patrick Vincent, we broke the school record we set the week before. It was a great way to go out.

Ben Hutchins

Senior Keegan Schlittler
Swimmer

Ben Hutchins: No, last year my best result was third place.
KS: What was the most difficult part in your state experience?
BS: The most difficult part came before state. The hard practices and sore muscles and wanting to just stop at the first race, but after it I felt very relieved.
BS: What were your results for state? Were you proud of your performance or disappointed?
KS: I placed second in the giant slalom, fifth in the slalom and first in the [super-G]. I was very pleased with everything but the slalom, where I felt I had a big mistake. I came in second overall, and our team placed fourth.
BS: As an athlete, what does it mean to you to have gone to state?
KS: It means the world to me. It’s been a dream of mine to compete at the state level with other athletes. It’s an awesome experience. Truly, a dream come true.
BS: Who or what helped you the most to get to state?
KS: Mike Harman: Who or what helped you the most to get to state?
PS: There are a lot of people who helped me get to state. Number one on the list is all of my teammates. Without them pushing me and actually making it fun for me to be there, I would never have come close to what I have done this year. My coach is also to thank, pushing us every day while making practice bearable. Lastly, my parents who have supported me in swimming for 10 years, being at every meet and always pushing me to be better.
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Mike Harman

Senior Mike Harman
Wrestler

Mike Harman: Wrestling is a very physical sport. It’s not just about being big, but also about being smart. I’ve learned a lot from my coaches and wrestlers at the high school level. They’ve taught me how to win and stay strong in the ring. It’s truly an amazing experience.

Sarah Zander, for always being there for me and supporting me in everything I do, as well as my mom and dad, and sister, [sophomore] Megan Harman. I would also extend a huge amount of gratitude to my community for all their support.

PS: What was the most difficult part in your state experience?
MH: The most difficult part was training and getting ready to compete at the high school varsity level.
PS: What was the most fun part in your state experience?
MH: The most fun part would be waking up the morning of state only to realize that I had been majorly [toilet papered] and my car was wrapped in it.
Co-op finishes season at state

Kelly Martin
Reporter

This season, the Waunakee-DeForest Co-op girls’ gymnastics team placed second at sectionals and qualified for state with 139.425 points out of 160, the highest score a Waunakee team has ever achieved.

State was held on March 6 and 7 in Wisconsin Rapids. All of the varsity players who competed in sectionals were able to advance to state including freshmen Alyssa Cynkar and Jess Maiers from DeForest, freshmen Emily Gamm and Tanner Regali, sophomore Caroline Patz, junior Corinne Spiczenski and seniors Jamie Floost and Kirsten Polley.

For individuals, Cynkar, Maiers and Regali advanced. Regali competed in all four events: beam, bars, floor and vault. Regali placed the highest on beam: 10th in the state. Cynkar competed in floor and on bars, placing ninth on bars. Maiers competed in beam and on floor, placing 11th on floor. Regali said the hardest event was “vault, because I usually score the lowest on it.”

At state, the girls placed ninth with an overall score of 136.333 as a team. The first place recipient was Arrowhead with a score of 144.715.

Along with the team’s first trip to state came a lot of nervous emotions. Polley said, “The most difficult part of the season was not letting the pressure of being at state get to us.” Although many gymnasts did not have their best performances, Polley said, “The best part of the season was making it to state as a team. It really made all the hours of hard work in the gym pay off.”

This was only the team’s second year in Division 1. Patz said, “We had a really great season and accomplished so much more than we were expected to.”

The newly formed Co-op from Waunakee’s perspective was great. Polley said pros for joining up with DeForest were that, “Meets were better because we were one team and not two, both for scores and for cheering each other on.”

“The team now looks forward to next year. Patz said, “Next year should be an awesome year for us, despite losing two seniors. We’re all really excited and hopeful for next year.”

The Waunakee-DeForest Co-op’s first year ended with the excitement and success the girls have experienced.

Learn more about:
Gymnastics Events

Uneven Bars – Gymnasts need to complete specific skills, like moving from the low bar to the high bar, performing skills on each bar and a clean dismount.

Floor Exercise – The most creative of the gymnastics events, the floor, combines dance and acrobatic elements in a choreographed routine.

All Events – In conference matches, there are only two judges. At state, all events are scored by three judges and are out of 10 points. The average of these are the gymnast’s score. Team scores are the sum of each individual’s score. Gymnasts’ scores can be lowered by penalties. These are earned by mistakes in their routines and rule obstructions.

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The Purple Sage