

THE CHARGER

CHARGERS PLACE 4TH AT REGIONAL TENNIS, QUALIFY 3 FOR STATE

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Tennis season will continue for another week.

Three Wabaunsee players placed in the top six of the Hillsboro regional Friday and Saturday, placing 4th as a team and qualifying for the state tournament next weekend in Kansas City.

"It's a great feeling to send some players to state for the first time," head coach Brendan Praeger said. "Wabaunsee has had a lot of good teams in the past and I'm glad we're finally playing on that level again."

Senior Autymn Schreiner punched her ticket to get into the state tournament on Saturday. Schreiner went into regionals as the sixth seed and played against the eighteenth seed, Callie Bernhardt from Hillsboro. Schreiner easily defeated her with a score of 6-0, 6-1.

"Her first match was a breeze," head coach Brendan Praeger said. "I could tell she was focused and calm. She never let the other girl have a chance."

Schreiner then went on to the second round and played Emma Sand, the third seed from defending state champions Kansas City Christian. Schreiner took a tough loss 1-6, 4-6.

For a chance to compete at state, Schreiner had to win her next match. She competed against Isabella Matteucci from Sacred Heart. Schreiner lost to Matteucci last year to end her season, and also split matches earlier in the year. Schreiner avenged last year's loss and secured her spot at state with a score of 6-2, 6-2.

"I was able to get to every ball and continued to do everything right. I had the confidence in regionals that I normally don't have," Schreiner said.

Schreiner moved on in the bracket to play for fifth. She finally got to play against one of Rossville's players, Alivia Sherer.

"I'm glad she got the chance to face Rossville. We've been the only



Left: Schreiner hits a forehand at the Seaman Invitational. She placed fifth at regionals and enters state with a 25-5 record. **Right:** Raegan Feyh and Kendyl Bolinder talk between points at Seaman. The pair finished sixth at regionals and enter state with a 13-15 record.

MEL team for so long and I wanted to meet her on the court," Praeger said.

Schreiner placed fifth, after taking the win from Sherer, 6-0, 6-1. Since she finished fifth she will play a runner-up from a different regional. "She was really aggressive and patient. She waited for the right opportunity to finish the points," assistant coach Brandi Miller said.

Juniors Kendyl Bolinder and Raegan Feyh also qualified for the state tournament. Bolinder and Feyh entered regionals unseeded, but drew the tenth seed and played the seventh seed, Isaac and Plenert from Hillsboro. Bolinder and Feyh had lost to the pair earlier in the week at Abilene, and agreed that they should have won and this was their chance to prove it. Bolinder and Feyh took an early lead against Hillsboro and received a win, 6-2, 6-2.

"Kendyl did a good job with her groundstrokes and serving, and I was aggressive at the net, so everything all came together and we were able to play our best," Feyh said.

Bolinder and Feyh continued in the bracket and played second seeded Yenni and Elliott from Smokey Valley. It was a hard match, and the pair didn't come out successful, los-

ing 0-6 in both sets.

The pair still had a chance for state against Marysville's Schroller and Spurgeon. It was another tough match, but after losing the first set 3-6, the pair was able to come back and win the next two sets 6-2, 6-2. Bolinder and Feyh received their spot for state and the opportunity to play for fifth place.

"I knew they had the skills to get to state, but I've been frustrated with their inconsistency at times this year. I can tell they were focused and they improved a lot throughout the year. It's a great feeling to see that work pay off," Praeger said.

Bolinder and Feyh played a challenging game against Edelman and Staullbaumer for fifth place. They competed hard, but took the loss 1-6, 4-6, receiving sixth place.

Junior Lily Ogden finished her season at regionals. Ogden was seeded as the tenth seed, and played Matteucci in the first round. Praeger said that she played well, but was never able to take control in the match. Ogden lost 0-6, 1-6, and ended her season with a record of 17-12.

"She was matched to a tough girl, but still played a great game," Miller said.

Ogden plans to return next year and continue to improve. Praeger said that she will probably be the strongest returning player next year.

"I'm looking forward to winning more matches next year and beating some of the girls that I lost to this year," Ogden said.

Senior Kaytlyn Meseke and sophomore Mayah Mumpower also ended their season at regionals. They were drawn in as eighteenth seed and played a play-in game against the eleventh seed, Housley and Sanchez from Maysville.

"This pair wasn't seeded, but they were really playing their best this week. They placed 2nd at Abilene and carried a little momentum into regionals," Praeger said.

Meseke and Mumpower started out rough, down 0-4 in the first match, but they were able to pull themselves out of the hole, and win both sets 7-5.

After making it to the first round, Meseke and Mumpower competed against the sixth seed from Smokey Valley, McMillan and Jones. Unfortunately, McMillan and Jones ended Meseke's career and Mumpower's season with a score of 4-6, 2-6, finishing with a record of 12-14.

"I am proud of how Mayah and competed and grateful that we ended the season on a good note," Meseke said.

Miller had the opportunity to step up as head tennis coach on Saturday. Praeger unfortunately was not able to make it to the second day of competition due to ongoing back issues. Meseke streamed matches on Instagram live so Praeger and others at home could watch the matches.

"I'm glad we have a good assistant and players who can work hard independently," Praeger said.

The three players and coaches are ready for the chance to compete at state. Some are excited for t-shirts with their names on them, some for the different experiences and others for the different people that will be competing. They are the first state tennis qualifiers since Bailee Henry and Haley Turner in 2013.

"I can wait to compete against the best at state. We might even face my old coach at Central Plains, which would be pretty cool," Praeger said.

EDITORIAL

Sex trafficking presentation valuable for students

Terry Hund and Barry Feaker with the Topeka Rescue Mission spoke with students last Wednesday on the dangers and warning signs of sex trafficking. It was a worthwhile presentation for WHS students.

The speakers began

by explaining what sex trafficking is and how to identify it. Sex trafficking is the exploitation of children and young adults for a monetary gain. Some signs of this may include having an older boyfriend, skipping school, and suddenly having many expensive items that they didn't have before. Then, they explained ways for young adults to avoid sex trafficking and signs to report. All of their information was included on a handout given to students before the presentation.

The presentation was shown to students in a very straightforward manner. Feaker gave a very clear explanation on what these issues are and how to avoid them. He also spoke clearly on issues such as porn addictions and sex, something that is refreshing to hear cut and dry.

Often sex education in schools is taught in abstinence-only methods and isn't spoken about very clearly. When speakers are unafraid to discuss difficult topics they makes a better impact that resonates with students longer.

This was one of the most beneficial speakers that we have ever hosted at our school in the last few years. They spoke clearly and on a level that students can understand about an issue that affects people everywhere, no matter how small the community may be.

Sometimes presentations are not worth missing class time. We hope that in the future our school will continue to host worthwhile speakers.

The Charger

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Junior high football winning big this season

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250 rushing yards in an entire season would be impressive for our typically struggling football team.

Eighth grade running back Miguel Hernandez hit that mark in the first half of the opening game against St. Marys.

The football team is off to a promising start, with a current record of 4-2 and a combined total of 176 points in 6 games.

"This season has been great," eighth grader Zach Frank said. "It feels like a completely different team. The leadership and team chemistry are definitely a lot better than last year."

The stats speak for themselves — the team averages 26.4 points per game. In the first two games alone, Hernandez has made his name known around Wabaunsee by being a key player in the team's suc-

cess. In the team's first game against St. Marys, Hernandez had a total of 5 solo touchdowns and over 250 running yards. In the second game against his previous school, Rossville, he scored 3 touchdowns and totaled 150 rushing yards. After these achievements, he gives credit to Wabaunsee's coaches.

"The coaches here are always rooting for me and pushing me to reach my best self. This helps me improve everyday," Hernandez said.

Along with scoring more points, the team has a high number of players going out for this 2019 season.

"We have about 25 players out, which is the most I've had since I've been here. This makes a huge difference in practice to get the right looks, and also gives us more depth in case injuries happen," head coach Dakota Soderlund said.

Another component of their success is their use of the high school playbook.

"I believe they have been effec-

OTHER JH SPORTS

Volleyball has a 2-4 record as of October 8. "We're trying our best, but we have tough competition and as usual not that many girls," eighth grader Kaci Meseke said.

They stay connected with the high school by going to summer camps hosted by high school coaches and players, and by going to high school games.

The cross country team also has strong connections to the high school, mainly through practicing with the high school team. This gives them the "high school practice" feeling early, preparing them for what is to come.

We have some players that have been running the offense for two years and I think it has helped them gain some confidence and develop consistency to do it right each play. That consistency will help them

in high school so they can hit the ground running and know what to do," Soderlund said.

The players share a similar belief. "It's effective in many ways, like if any of us eighth graders start as freshmen; it helps the varsity for sure and gives us a jump start into high school and gets us noticed by high school coaches," Frank said.

High school head coach Jess Rutledge had a few things to say about this group of kids. "They have an incredible team, great coaching staff, and amazing players. I'm really excited to have this group in high school," Rutledge said.

In preparing junior high athletes like this group, they always work in the offseason. During the summer they stay busy with weights and camps, led by Rutledge and Garret Eck. During season the high school coaches stay involved.

"When we're able to, we like to be on the sidelines and talk to the kids and give advice," Rutledge said.