

The Wildcat Echo

A publication by the students of Maquoketa Valley High School

FFA succeeds again and again, judging team joins Team USA

by Natalie Ries, FFA Reporter

Once again the Maquoketa Valley FFA chapter is succeeding at the highest levels. Last week 13 members traveled to Indianapolis to participate in the dairy cattle evaluation and management event and dairy handling event at the National FFA Convention, or they attended to learn and experience more about FFA.

To be able to participate in a career development event or a leadership development event, the team or individual has to win at the state level. The dairy cattle evaluation and management team won the state competition for the fifth time in the last 20 years resulting in Maquoketa Valley FFA earning the most state titles in this event in the state of Iowa.

Bianka Ronnebaum, Caden Kremer, Ty Hoeger and Ford Domeyer made up the dairy cattle evaluation and management team. These four have been hard at work winning the state title and traveling out of state to receive fifth place in the nation. These four traveled to Indianapolis as Team Iowa and came back as part of Team USA, as they will travel to Europe in



The dairy judging team of Ford Domeyer, Ty Hoeger, Caden Kremer and Bianka Ronnebaum have qualified to compete at the world daily judging competition next summer.

2025 to judge at the Royal Highland show. Individually all four members did an awesome job. Domeyer received a silver rating. Ronnebaum received a gold rating, Kremer received a gold rating, and Hoeger received

a gold rating.

Braden Ronnebaum also participated in the dairy handling event. Ronnebaum received state champion in Iowa and received a silver rating at the national level.

Maquoketa Valley High School Presents 

FREAKY FRIDAY

HIGH SCHOOL AUDITORIUM



Friday,
7:00 p.m.
November 1st



Saturday
7:00 p.m.
November 2nd



Sunday
2:00 p.m.
November 3rd

Ticket Prices:
\$8.00

MV hosts district-wide BINGO night



Monday night, MV hosted its first BINGO night for students and the adults in their lives. Sophomore Ever Botos helped at the event by serving popcorn.

Wildcats take down Columbus, prepare for N-P

by Maya Smith

Last week, the Cats competed at home in the first playoff round against Columbus. It was an exciting first quarter, the Cats had a touchdown within the first minute of the game and ended the quarter 27-0. Despite allowing a touchdown for Columbus, the Cats also secured another 20 points, ending the half 47-6. The second half didn't include as much scoring, and the game ended 61-13, another Wildcat victory.

Coach Christensen remarked: "I thought we played well, other than one kickoff coverage and a couple of dropped passes. We did a great job of shutting down their run, which was their strength. We continue to take what the opponents give us offensively. Overall I thought we did a good job of coming out right from the start and imposing our will on them. I think the routine we are able to get into at home is a big factor to our success. But, I know the boys also really appreciate the support from the community and it fires them up to play well."

Here are some game stats:

Throwing: Brady Wall; 160 yards; 1 touchdown, Trevor Grimm; 61 yards; 1 touchdown

Rushing: Brady Wall; 94 yards; 4 touchdowns, Rogan Heidt; 83 yards; 2 touchdowns, Dylan Knipper; 1 yard; 1 touchdown

Receiving: Eli Dougherty; 77 yards; 1 touchdown, Dylan Knipper; 81 yards; 1 touchdown

Defense: Nathan Beitz; 5.5 tackles; 4 solo; 1 sack, Kyle Engelken; 5.5 tackles; 1 solo Interceptions: Eli Dougherty; 1 interception; 8 yards, Lukas Chesnut; 1 interception

Kicking: Dalton Africa; 433 yards; 10 kick-offs, Eli Dougherty; 7/8 PAT

Seniors Tate Intorf and Nathan Beitz are excited for tonight's game. I asked them a couple questions.

Going into this postseason play, any game could be your last. How do you feel about that?

Tate: We have an opportunity that most people don't. I think we have to stay hungry and know we aren't done yet.

Nathan: Don't get complacent. And be humble and hungry dawgz.

How do you feel going into this game against Nashua Plainfield?



Coach Christensen addresses the players in the Columbus game last Friday night. (photos by Lilly Kraft)

Tate: I feel pretty good. We are playing the best team in the state, so we have to practice and prepare like it.

Nathan: We are playing the best team in the state. Our mindset doesn't change.

What is your opinion on this year's team? How have these guys grown and evolved?

Tate: I think we are tight as a fist. We learn from each other and continue to grow week to week. Everybody needs to do their job whether they are on the scout team or first team.

Nathan: We are full of dawgz. Rogan=dawg, Dylan=dawg, Tate=dawg, Bwall=dawg, Anderson=dawg, and whole squad=dawgz.

Everyone has a big spot on the team. We all know what's expected and what we need to do in order for the team to reach their goal.



The marching band took to MV's field for the last time this year last Friday night.



On to state: A special year for a special team



The state-qualifying cross country team includes **Bianka Ronnebaum, Taryn Burbridge, Audra Burbridge, Alexis Halverson, Jada Knipper, McKenna Bush and Breanna Bush.**

by **Maya Smith**

This has been a great year for the Maquoketa Valley Girls Cross Country team! With nine rookies in total coming to the team, five of them competed on varsity to win the district meet at North Linn, adding the title District Champions on top of their Conference Champion title.

This kind of success hasn't happened in a while. In fact, it's been 34 years since the girls have brought home conference champs. Districts was very emotional for the team, and when asked, all of them say that bringing home the title wouldn't have happened without the work they've put in over the season and the sacrifices everyone made, including a quick plane ride made by **Bianka Ronnebaum** from Indianapolis.

Let's take a look into this special team. Three of these varsity runners, **Alexis Halverson, Bianka Ronnebaum, and Jada Knipper**, joined just this year. They had various reasons for joining.

Alexis: "Deciding to go out for Cross Country was not a hard decision for me as I was looking for a switch up. I knew going in it wasn't going to be an easy sport, but I also knew that it would come down to mental toughness during races. I think you build a lot of mental toughness at meets and that will hopefully help me out during basketball season."

Bianka: "Going out for XC was an indecisive decision. I didn't put too much thought into it. I wasn't looking forward to playing volleyball, so I decided to switch it up. Since some of my friends said they would go out, it made it a much easier decision."

Jada: "Once I thought about it more I knew it was the right choice but I was just scared

because I had no idea what I was getting myself into. My friends were also making the change with me which made it easier."

Seniors **Leah Reicher** and **Jordan Hatfield** also joined the team this year.

When asked about how cross country has changed them, all three of these seniors mentioned the amount of mental toughness that they've developed as the season has gone on. **Jada Knipper** says, "I never would have thought that in June, when we started summer running, we would be getting ready to go to state this weekend."

Seasoned senior **McKenna Bush** reports that she can't even begin to explain how proud she is of every single person on the team. "Early on in the season, the second week of practice I believe, we ran practice at Bailey's Ford. Me, **Bianka, Alexis, and Jada** got a little lost out on the trails. We ended up running a bit longer than we expected and got into a conversation about the upcoming season. That was the moment I realized that we had the potential to be good. At the end of our run, we agreed that we would all push each other and work as hard as we can. That was when I knew it was more than potential. We were going to do well."

Unfortunately for **McKenna**, the experience of running a full varsity team was never possible until this year, making

this year's success much sweeter. "I don't think I will ever forget the moment we found out. We were walking back to camp as a team, the live scores were coming in, and as a team, we were reflecting on the race and making predictions on the scores. The moment we all realized we had won we were all back at camp with our parents. Nobody believed it at first, and everybody was in shock. When it finally started setting in, we all cried, cheered, and hugged each other, and it was a beautiful moment."

In addition to this team success, the two **Burbridge** sisters placed in the top ten at districts, automatically qualifying themselves to compete individually at state. **Taryn Burbridge**, a three-time state qualifier, is excited to experience state with the team, "I am so thrilled to share this experience with the team. Everyone has been working hard all season. I think what makes this experience even more memorable was during summer running, new girls on the team were only running a mile a day. It has been great to see the growth in each one of my teammates. This whole season the girls team has been overlooked and hasn't been given the credit they deserve. After being conference and district champs, I am excited to see how the team will do at state. This will be a new experience for me as it has always been me by myself at the state meet, so I am very excited that I won't have to do everything solo, and can help my teammates succeed at state."



The team warms up for the state-qualifying race last week.

continued on next page

Girls cross country, cont.

Freshman Audra Burbridge, who placed third at the qualifier, shares her opinion on both the team and her sister: "This team has helped me in so many ways. They've been a really supportive team which helps so much and this sport has shown that everyone cares about you no matter what the outcome is. This team has also made me realize that cross country has a great environment and everyone is uplifting and everyone is helping to achieve each other's goals. I feel like throughout the season the team has accomplished great things as a group which really shows that hard work pays off in the end."

When asked about running with each other, the two Burbridge sisters say that it has never been better.

Audra: "Running with Taryn has been really great. We like to talk a lot so we kind of distract each other all the time. Taryn's successes have made me more successful because she gives me something to work for. She is a great role model for me and keeps me motivated. If Taryn wasn't running with me at practice and giving me tips on how to get a faster time, I think I would be way slower and would probably not have even given cross country a chance."

Taryn: "I love being able to run with Audra. We never used to run together because she was in middle school and running different things, but now that she is in high school it has been a great experience. I love how competitive she is and how she is always determined to run faster. Although she claims she hates cross country, I think she has enjoyed it this year. Recently she broke the school record that I held, and I am so excited that her hard work is paying off. As a freshman this will be her first time qualifying for state, and it will be even more memorable that she gets to experience going as a team. I believe she will do great things at the state meet, and I can't wait to compete with her!"

Freshman Breanna Bush is very proud of her growth over the season. "Getting back into shape was difficult to say the least but the rest of the team were very helpful and pushed each other a lot. McKenna and Chewy (Matthew Schaul) were always there with advice if you needed them. We



Coach Kirchoff offers some advice to the team before they start their race last week.

all push each other to get better and run mostly as a group and it's an overall amazing and healthy environment to be in. Everybody who is there wants to be there and get better. I know that everyone has gotten better over the seasons and made sacrifices to get to where we are. It's a team sport just as much as it is an individual sport and every runner and every spot is just as important as any other."

Shane Kirchoff, the girls' coach, shares their sentiments: "As the season progressed our team grew in confidence. At the start of the season we were not sure how good we would be with so many new faces. By midseason we know that we could compete with some of the best teams in the state. This gave us confidence going into the state qualifier. This year's team is much larger than years past. The culture of the cross country team has always been that we work hard and support each other. This group enjoys being around each other and it makes for a positive and fun atmosphere to be a part of. I love coaching this team! They are hard working and super competitive. Going into the meet we knew that it would take a total team effort to make it to the state meet. We knew that the top three teams wouldn't be separated by many points. Every single member of our team passed someone in the last 400 meters of the race. This made the difference. Getting to coach this team for another week is a true blessing, and I truly believe they can do something special at the state meet."

The girls will run at 10:30am in Fort Dodge Saturday. Matthew Schaul and Kenyon Baker will run at 11:15.

Athlete of the Week

Name: Kenyon Baker

What do you enjoy most about cross country? The community. Every distance runner I have met is so kind and respectful and we are one big family

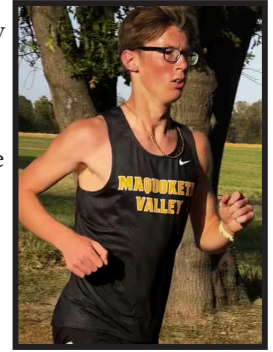
How has cross country changed you? It has made me change my mindset in every-

thing. Sometimes you're not motivated to go on a run but you have to do it to get better at running. It's also changed me by making me think about running in college

What has been your favorite memory of cross country? Making it to state as a team last year and this year qualifying individually

Where would you love to have a meet? I would love to have a meet in Hawaii.

If a song could be playing as you crossed the finish line, what song would you like it to be? "5 TO 10" by Don Toliver



Final words from Coach Nefzger

Our Wildcat Volleyball season ended last Wednesday at Jesup. As unfortunate as it was to have the season end I am still so proud of this team. We did not play our best volleyball Wednesday, although this can happen at any time you always wish it does not happen during regional play time. I am proud of how my girls held themselves throughout the matches and continued to play as a team.

We still had a very successful season. We beat the most school wins in school history, placed second in the conference, only having one conference loss, to the conference champions and we had a couple players beat individual records in our record books as well.

The girls had some really nice things to say in the locker room after the game. This was comforting to hear, this was a very close knit group who shared the same big goals. Our team was very young this year. We played three sophomores who, until this year, had no varsity experience. That in itself says a lot. Their future is bright and I am so excited for them.

I will miss this group greatly but am excited to watch their success throughout the rest of the school year.

Meet the Freshmen



Rylan Rausch, Tegan Langel, Kipton Thompson

Name: Vincent Schollmeyer
Siblings: Eric, Billy, Jackson, and Joey

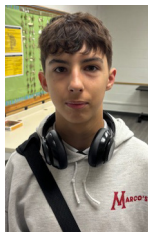
Activities you plan to be in: Football, Basketball, and Track

Favorite subject: PE

Career aspirations: Navy

Hobbies: Fishing, Basketball, Football, listening to music, hanging out with friends, and working out

Something cool about you: I know about sports cards



Name: Rylan Rausch

Siblings: Megan and Kennedy

Activities you plan to be in: Basketball and Baseball

Favorite subject: Study Hall

Career aspirations: Broadcasting

Hobbies: Going outside

Something cool about you: I like the Chicago White Sox

Name: Tegan Langel

Siblings: Two sisters

Activities you plan to be in: FFA

Favorite subject: Ag classes

Career aspirations: Farmer

Hobbies: Hunting

Something cool about you: I live on a farm

Name: Kipton Thompson

Siblings: Greyson, Lennyn, and Breckyn

Activities you plan to be in: Football, Wrestling, Track, and Baseball

Favorite subject: Spanish

Career aspirations: Undecided

Hobbies: Fishing and Baseball

Something cool about you: I like dogs

—typist: MaryEllen Smith

Cutie



by Alaina Mead

This cutie sure isn't ready for Halloween to be over! He is a sophomore and lives in Earlville. This cutie has two siblings, a younger brother and sister. He is also involved in marching band and Spanish club. A fun fact about this cutie is that he wants to work with animals some day! *Our last Cutie was Kelsey Hoeger.*

Jaelyn's Journeys



photo by Jaelyn Butikofer

Where in the school can you find this object? Be the first one to correctly name the place to Mrs. Temple face-to-face to win something from the prize box! Caden was the first student last week to identify the plant in the library.

what's up?

by McKayla Weber

What's your favorite Halloween candy?

Caden Kremer - Reese's Peanut Butter Cups

Sam Howes - Snickers

Logan Clemen - Reese's Peanut Butter Cups

McKenna Conrad - Starburst

Ford Domeyer - Smarties

Isabella Mensen - Reese's Peanut Butter Cups

Karly Kerch - Reese's Take 5

Joellen Beitz - Twix

Lena Lewin - Sour Patch Kids

Ollie Hunter - Milk Duds



Some students, like Leah Reichter and Joellen Beitz got into the Halloween spirit yesterday.

Comedy Corner

—compiled by Grace Richter

This week the Spanish Class celebrated Dia De Los Muertos. Here are some jokes to celebrate!

Why did the skeleton go to the party alone? He had nobody to go with him.

Why was the cemetery so noisy? People were dying to get in.

What did the boy ghost say to the girl ghost? You're so boo-tiful.

What song do skeleton bikers ride to? Bone to be wild.

How do you write a book about cemeteries? In grave detail.

Fantasy Fiction: Trouble in Therapy

We left off last week with Elizabeth and Chris in therapy and realizing they were familiar with the therapist.

by Abby Nieman & Tommie Cole

Chris looked at me and in a hushed voice said, "That's Mrs. Brown. She runs this whole ordeal. She's pretty nice," he leaned in close and added with some dramatics, "but sometimes gets really emotional." I snorted a little bit and watch as my eyes scan the room. There were other girls here. They were doing each other's hair in various different styles. To their left were two boys who were almost identical, but the one defining difference was the large burn scar on the left of one of their faces. It ranged from the top of the eyebrow to the bottom of his chin. It spread from the side of his nose to the beginning of his ear.

I wondered what had happened to him. How did he get this burn scar and why is it so big?

I kept looking around the room. It was like a conference room with three doors: the one I came in, a solid-wood one, and one with green glass. All the doors had carvings, and each one was different. The door I came in had a leaf design on it, nothing else. The one across the room from me had the blue glass, and around the glass was what looked to be a vine with multiple different types of leaves carved into it. The last door was made of natural mahogany wood and there was a tree carved off it. There were also animals painted under the tree. The floor was an assortment of different woods. The theme of this room really fits the name. The chairs we sat on were the ones you would find in a science room. They were the traditional red color with two being blue the two were where the identical boys were sitting.

"We are going to introduce ourselves starting with Christina," Mrs. Brown addressed one of the girls in

the corner. She looked up and tucked a strand of her black and brown hair. She was gorgeous. Anyone would be able to tell. She had light brown skin with freckles littering her face. She had both navy blue and emerald green eyes. She was wearing a cream-colored turtleneck under a matching jacket. Her skirt was the color of coffee along with a matching bag by her brown Mary-Janes.

She seemed to be the shy type and that was confirmed when she opened her mouth and spoke. "H-hey," she took a deep breath before continuing. "My name is Christina Gonzalez. I am 15 years old and yeah." She gave us a soft smile before letting her hair curtain around her face when she looked down.

Another girl to her left put her hand on Christina's shoulder and gave it a squeeze. "Thank you, Ms. Gonzalez. Now let's start going," Mrs. Brown trailed off and looked around the room. "Left!"

The girl who squeezed the previous girl's shoulder turned her head. Her long, silky black hair moved off of her shoulder and honestly, I was a little intimidated. She looked like she lived in a forest, but not in a "homeless and needs a shower" way but in the fact that she kind of looked like a witch. She had on a sheer black top that tied mid-stomach with flowy sleeves and feathers on the ends. She paired the top with a black skirt that went all the way to her ankles and was littered with a fall leaf pattern. She had on at least four charm bracelets and three charm necklaces. Her hands were full of rings and her ear of earrings. These two girls couldn't be more opposite, yet they seemed to be close friends.

"My name is Cynthia Reed. I am 16 years old." Wow, she is only sixteen. She seems so much older. Mrs. Brown seemed a little disappointed, like she wanted more from the girls but she didn't say anything if



she did.

"Okay, you sir! You are next." She smiled at a boy in a way that seemed encouraging.

I looked back over at Chris, "Hey, is he new too? I didn't even notice him when I walked in."

He is smiling at me and it's kind of cute, in a non-weird way. "Yeah, he is. At least I haven't seen him before," Chris replied.

His name was Makia Lawson. He was 17 years old, older than me and the other girls. Then it was Chris' turn: "My name is Chris and I am 15 years old,"

Then I looked around and muttered, "I am Elizabeth Wilson, Eliza for short and I am 16 years old."

I sat back in my seat and put my hands on my head before I could do anything. My heart started to race. My head ached and my thoughts were running in a circle. I could feel Chris' hand on my back and his soft voice which soon faded away and the world started to spin. I was dizzy and wanted out of the room.

All-Conference Volleyball

First Team:

Lili Bauers

Lanni Beaman

Second Team:

Grace Richter

Camryn Paris

Honorable Mention:

Kelsey Hoeger



Contest speech practice begins

Classrooms and the library are abuzz before and after school with groups rehearsing for large group speech contest. Left: A TV News group discusses themes for their event.