

Sports

SEND IN SPORTS NEWS

The Dispatch prints sports news submitted by area teams. Send news in! Email: dispatch@wnypapers.com.

People in SPORTS

As part of the Wildcat Week of Honors, Daemen College head women's soccer coach Dan Dolan announced his team's awards for the 2019 season. The Wildcat Week of Honors was held May 4-8 as a way to virtually celebrate the accomplishments of Daemen's teams and student-athletes.

Grace Stranahan of Grand Island was named the Most Improved Player by the Daemen College women's soccer program.

Dolan said, "Grace is very ambitious and has a lot of big goals for herself. She reached all of the goals she had for her sophomore year and she became one of the best players not just on our team, but in the conference."

Stranahan appeared in all 18 games and made 17 starts while

helping the Wildcats to their first-ever NCAA tournament berth and the most wins of the program's NCAA Division II era.

A sophomore, Stranahan finished second on the team in goals (6), assists (5) and points (17) – all career-high totals.

She ranked in the top 10 of East Coast Conference leaders in goals (ninth), assists (sixth) and points (seventh). She scored four goals and recorded three assists during the team's eight-game unbeaten streak to start the season, a stretch that tied for the longest unbeaten streak in program history.

She finished the season being named to the All-ECC third team.

The All-Western New York Scholar Athlete list for the Winter 2019-20 season, as named by Section VI, includes Grand Island High School boys ice hockey player **Mitch Fusillo**.

Of the 685 nominations; there were 16 two-season winners, 135 winners, and 534 honorable mentions.



If you would like the Dispatch to publish news of a notable athletic achievement, send it to our email address, dispatch@wnypapers.com, attn People in Sports, or mail it to Island Dispatch, 1859 Whitehaven Road, Grand Island, NY 14072.

Paddles Up cancelled

The Niagara River Greenway Commission has announced that the 2020 Paddles Up at Beaver Island State Park has been cancelled due to the current Covid-19 restrictions and the concern for participants' health.

This year's Paddles Up would have been the 15th anniversary of the event meant to highlight paddling on the Niagara River.

In its place will be an online paddling event where participants can post photos and videos of their adventure on area waterways, the Green-

way Commission announced Thursday. The "Paddles Up Solo" Facebook Event will take place from July 17 to 31. Participants are asked to take a picture or video of themselves paddling during this time and post it to the Paddles Up Solo Facebook Event page. Doing so will automatically enter them into a random drawing for one of three prizes. Visit the Niagara River Greenway Facebook page for event details.

Kids can get involved too, by participating in a coloring contest sponsored by Rotary Club of Grand Island. Look for the Paddles Up coloring page in the Island Dispatch or Grand Island Pennysaver. Send in your colored page to Niagara Frontier

Publications by July 27 and the winners will be drawn by the end of the month. Prizes will be announced on the coloring contest page.

Organizers of the annual Paddles Up include the Niagara River Greenway, Buffalo Niagara Waterkeeper, Niagara Outfitters, Grand Island Recreation Department, New York State Parks and Rotary Club of Grand Island, and they are urging all Western New Yorkers to spend time on the water in order to reduce stress and provide a safe family activity. They remind you to follow the current pandemic guidelines and to also wear a personal floatation device while out on the water.

Grand Island High School athletes commit to play collegiate sports

Division I and Division II athletes are receiving scholarships. Grand Island Central School District Athletic Director Jon Roth reports that 20 graduating seniors from Grand Island High School have committed to play collegiate sports next year.

Division I Commits

Adam Daghestani, University at Buffalo Wrestling
Abigail Blair, St. Anselm College (New Hampshire) women's hockey
Izabella Black, West Virginia University rowing
Joshua Kam, University of Rhode Island men's soccer
Marissa Lewis, St. Bonaven-

ture University women's cross country

Sean Christian Rustowicz, University at Buffalo football

Division II Commits

Lydia Sweeney, Cedarville University (Ohio) women's basketball
Kayla Robinson, Frostburg State University (Maryland) women's soccer
Brooke Amato, Daemen College women's soccer
Kyle Vanderzell, Daemen College men's soccer
Josiah Meyer, Medaille College men's lacrosse
Tucker Leggett, Heidelberg University (Ohio) men's lacrosse

Division III Commits

Ben Moskala, Washington and Jefferson College (Pennsylvania) football
Blake Bielec, SUNY Buffalo State football
Kaylynn Savoy, Chatham University (Pennsylvania) women's hockey
Sean Murray, SUNY Potsdam men's volleyball
Tom Shemik, SUNY Potsdam men's volleyball
Abigail Krull, Medaille College women's bowling
Gabriella Bergstrom, Gordon College (Massachusetts) softball
Makayla Montes, Niagara County Community College softball;



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No Thunder on the Niagara this summer

Due to unforeseen circumstances associated with the COVID-19 pandemic, the Hydroplane Racing League has cancelled the entire 2020 series, which includes the Thunder on the Niagara off North Tonawanda and Grand Island.

"Our priority is the health and safety of our racing teams, partners, attendees as well as our volunteers and employees, said HRL commissioner, Didier-Bernard Sequin. "We feel a deep disappointment, but we are dealing with unfortunate circumstances and we support the measures implemented by the government. We are convinced that our fans understand the situation and will be happy to see hydroplane drivers back in 2021 HRL circuit."

Niagara Frontier Boat Racing Association commodore Gary Roesch of Grand Island said, "This decision is difficult for us to take, but we, the Thunder on the Niagara committee, understand that it is necessary and we support the decision.

"We look forward to Aug. 7-8 2021, and promise our fans and sponsors that we will have an event that you will be proud of."

Personal friend of the Gecko.

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