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Slagle headlines 20th annual all-area baseball team

By Greg Grabianowski
Sports Editor

One of the best players in the entire state returns for the fourth time in his career to highlight the 20th annual Kossuth County Advance's All-Area Baseball Team this year.

Tate Slagle, a University of Iowa Hawkeye recruit, led the area in most of the offensive and pitching categories during the summer and is joined by teammate Aiden Ulrich, a four-time selection that will play baseball at Central College next year.

Bishop Garrigan's Carter Schwab is back for the third time in his career while Algona's Dawson Elsbecker, Mason Ulrich and Tate Garman; Daniel Meis and Tate Foertsch of Bishop Garrigan, North Union's Cole Nicoson and Houston Nielsen of West Bend-Mallard are back for the second consecutive season.

The 19-member squad is made up of eight seniors, six juniors and five talented sophomores round out the 2025 edition of the team.

This year's first team members pounded out 443 hits in 1,456 plate appearances for a batting average of .304, including 109 doubles, eight triples and belted 26 home runs.

In 493 games played this summer, they crossed the plate 430 times, knocked in 296 RBI and had 22 sacrifices. They drew 210 base-on-balls, were hit-by-a-pitch 75 times and swiped a total of 199 bases.

In the field, this summer's members handled 1,519 chances, including 363 assists with just 80 errors for a fielding average of .947.

FIRST TEAM SELECTIONS

Tate Slagle
Algona
Senior Pitcher



Slagle concluded his fabulous high school baseball career with an outstanding senior campaign. He led the area in 13 different categories during the 2025 season. Tate was a unanimous selection this season by the North Central Conference as a pitcher.

Slagle led Class 3A in batting average with a .505 season average with 50 hits in his 99 at bats, including 15 doubles, one triple and blasted 10 home runs for a slugging average of .980.

He crossed the plate 47 times, drove in 46 RBI and had one sacrifice. The Algona senior walked 21 times this summer, swiped 15 bases, was hit-by-a-pitch three times and had an on-base average of .581.

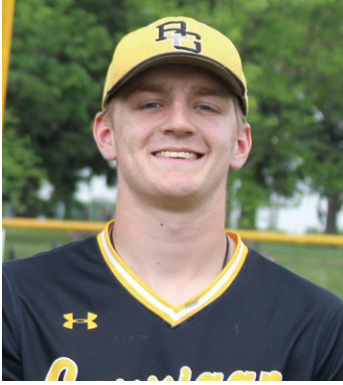
In the field, Tate handled a total of 155 chances, including 33 assists with nine errors committed for a season fielding average of .942.

The Bulldog right-hander pitched in 10 games, nine of them were starts with a 6-2 record with one save in 47.2 innings pitched as he recorded a state-leading 115 strikeouts and had an earned run average of 1.03.

In Slagle's 127 career games at Algona, he batted at a .421 clip with 148 hits in his 387 career plate appearances, including 40 two-baggers, nine triples and belted 20 career home runs.

He scored 148 runs, knocked in 136 RBI and had nine sacrifices. The future Iowa Hawkeye coaxed a total of 85 base-on-balls, stole 74 bases and was hit-by-a-pitch 11 times. Tate handled a total of 542 chances during his career in the field with 38 errors for a career fielding average of .929.

Brady Galligan
Bishop Garrigan
Senior Shortstop



Galligan had a breakout senior campaign as he had a lot to do with Bishop Garrigan winning 18 games this summer. He led his squad in seven different categories this year as the senior was named to the Top of Iowa Conference first-team as an infielder.

Brady compiled a team-leading batting average of .373 with a team-high 31 hits in a team-best 83 plate appearances, including seven two-baggers and one home run for a slugging average of .494.

He touched the plate a team-leading 25 times, chased home 14 RBI and had one sacrifice. The black-and-gold senior stole 18 bases, drew seven walks, was hit-by-a-pitch three times and had a team-high on-base average of .453.

In the field, Brady handled a total of 58 chances for the Golden Bears that featured 33 assists with four errors for a season fielding average of .931.

On the bump, the Bishop Garrigan right-hander appeared in a team-high 11 games as seven of those contests were starts. He compiled a 5-4 record in 43.1 innings thrown while fanning 43 batters and had an earned run average of 1.78.

In his 87 games played wearing the black-and-gold baseball uniform, Brady had 55 hits in his 188 at bats for a career batting average of .305, including seven doubles and one round tripper.

He crossed the plate 59 times during his career, knocked in 33 RBI and had three sacrifices. The Golden Bear senior drew 17 base-on-balls, swiped 32 bases and was hit-by-a-pitch nine different times.

In the field, Galligan handled a total of 153 chances, including 77 putouts and 68 assists with eight errors for a career fielding average of .947.

20TH ANNUAL ALL-AREA BASEBALL TEAMS

FIRST TEAM

Tate Slagle	Algona	12	P
Brady Galligan	Bishop Garrigan	12	SS
Dawson Elsbecker	Algona	10	OF
Nick Leerar	Bishop Garrigan	12	OF
Jaxon Eischen	Algona	11	SS
Carter Schwab	Bishop Garrigan	11	1B
Aiden Ulrich	Algona	12	C
Max Merrill	North Union	10	OF
Mason Ulrich	Algona	10	1B
Daniel Meis	Bishop Garrigan	12	P
Cole Nicoson	North Union	11	2B
Tyler Hansen	West Bend-Mallard	10	C
Houston Nielsen	West Bend-Mallard	12	SS
Aiden Engel	Algona	11	OF
Tate Foertsch	Bishop Garrigan	11	C
Ryan Weier	Algona	12	3B
Tate Garman	Algona	11	OF
Casey Rezac	North Union	10	2B
Drew Muller	Bishop Garrigan	12	OF

SECOND TEAM

Levi Walker	Algona	11	OF
Brennen Bollinger	North Union	12	1B
Thadd Kolasch	Bishop Garrigan	12	OF
Caden Walders	North Union	12	C
Aidan Deitering	Bishop Garrigan	10	3B
Wes Streit	Algona	11	P
Grady Goddard	West Bend-Mallard	10	P
Carson Schneider	West Bend-Mallard	11	OF

On the mound during his career, the right-hander pitched in 21 games for Bishop Garrigan as 10 of those contests were starts. He had a 7-4 record in 71.1 innings thrown with 66 strikeouts and had a career earned run average of 2.26.

Dawson Elsbecker
Algona
Sophomore Outfielder



Elsbecker had a nice sophomore season for the Bulldogs as he returns to the first team for the second consecutive year. He was chosen to the North Central Conference's first-team this summer in the outfield as a unanimous selection.

At the plate, the Algona sophomore compiled a season batting average of .389 with 42 hits in an area-high 108 at bats, including eight doubles for a slugging average of .463.

Dawson touched the plate 42 times, drove in 20 RBI from his leadoff slot and had one sacrifice. He led the red-and-black in stolen bases with 18, was hit-by-a-pitch three times, walked 19 times and had an on-base average of .489.

Roaming the outfield this summer, he handled a total of 24 chances, including 17 putouts with five errors for a fielding average of .792.

Elsbecker got his feet wet this summer on the mound as he pitched in five games as three of them were starts. He had a 3-0 record in 15.2 innings hurled with 19 strikeouts and had an earned run average of 2.23 this year.

In his first 66 games played for the Dawgs, Dawson has batted at a .350 clip with 68 hits in his 194 plate appearances, including 11 two-baggers.

He has crossed the plate 73 times so far in his career, knocked in 33 RBI and has a pair of sacrifices. Elsbecker has coaxed a total of 45 walks, swiped 25 bases and been hit-by-a-pitch on seven different occasions.

In the field in his first 66 games played, the Algona sophomore has handled a total of 65 chances, including 50 putouts with 10 errors for a career fielding average of .846.

Nick Leerar
Bishop Garrigan
Senior Outfielder



Leerar put together a solid senior season for the Golden Bears as he makes an appearance on the all-area first-team for the first time in his high school career.

He was selected to the Top of Iowa Conference's first-team all-conference squad this year as an outfielder. Nick compiled a batting average of .354 with 28 hits in his 79 plate appearances, including team-highs of 10 doubles and three home runs plus added one triple for a team-leading slugging average of .620.

The black-and-gold senior scored 20 runs and drove in 19 RBI this summer. He coaxed a total of nine base-on-balls, swiped 16 bases, was hit-by-a-pitch four times and had an on-base average of .446.

Roaming the spacious centerfields in the area this summer, Leerar handled 28 chances, including 23 putouts with just one error for a fielding average of .964.

Nick pitched in three games this season all of them were in relief. He had a 1-0 record in four innings of work while fanning five and had an earned run average of 3.50.

In his 59 games played wearing the Golden Bear uniform, the senior had 41 hits in his 163 at bats for a batting average of .282, including 14 doubles, one triple and belted five home runs during his high school career.

He touched the plate 41 times in his career, knocked in 34 RBI and had one sacrifice. Leerar walked 27 times for Bishop Garrigan,

BASEBALL ALL-AREA STAT LEADERS

BATTING—Batting Average—Tate Slagle, AHS .505; Tate Garman, AHS .429; Dawson Elsbecker, AHS .389; Jaxon Eischen, AHS .381; Brady Galligan, BG .373; Nick Leerar, BG .354; **At Bats**—Elsbecker, AHS 108; Slagle, AHS 99; Ryan Weier, AHS 92; Aiden Ulrich, AHS 86; Mason Ulrich, AHS 85; Eischen, AHS 84; **Hits**—Slagle, AHS 50; Elsbecker, AHS 42; Eichen, AHS 32; Galligan, BG 31; Aiden Ulrich, AHS 29; Nick Leerar, BG 28; **Doubles**—Slagle, AHS 15; Aiden Ulrich, AHS 11; Nick Leerar, BG 10; Elsbecker, AHS 8; Galligan, BG 7; Weier, AHS 6; Cole Nicoson, NU 6; **Triples**—Schwab, AHS 3; Aiden Ulrich, AHS 2; Slagle, AHS 1; Daniel Meis, BG 1; Nick Leerar, BG 1; **Home Runs**—Slagle, AHS 10; Aiden Ulrich, AHS 4; Nick Leerar, BG 3; Meis, BG 2; Caden Walders, NU 2; Garman, AHS 1; Eischen, AHS 1; Aiden Engel, AHS 1; Mason Ulrich, AHS 1; Galligan, BG 1; Max Merrill, NU 1; Nicoson, NU 1; **Slugging Average**—Slagle, AHS .980; Aiden Ulrich, AHS .651; Nick Leerar, BG .620; Weier, AHS .571; Galligan, BG .494; Elsbecker, AHS .463; **Runs Scored**—Slagle, AHS 47; Elsbecker, AHS 42; Aiden Ulrich, AHS 31; Eischen, AHS 29; Galligan, BG 25; Tate Foertsch, BG 22; **Runs Batted In**—Slagle, AHS 46; Aiden Ulrich, AHS 30; Weier, AHS 27; Mason Ulrich, AHS 24; Engel, AHS 22; Carter Schwab, BG 22; **Base-On-Balls**—Slagle, AHS 21; Elsbecker, AHS 19; Thadd Kolasch, BG 19; Eischen, AHS 18; Aiden Ulrich, AHS 18; Walders, NU 18; **Sacrifices**—Drew Muller, BG 4; Engel, AHS 3; Mason Ulrich, AHS 3; Aidan Deitering, BG 3; Sam Schutjer, AHS 2; Brooks Kuhlman, AHS 2; Kolasch, BG 2; Meis, BG 2; Nate Leerar, BG 2; Greyson Colegrove, NU 2; Houston Nielsen, WBM 2; **Hit-By-A-Pitch**—Aiden Ulrich, AHS 13; Deitering, BG 9; Weier, AHS 7; Eischen, AHS 7; Engel, AHS 6; Galligan, BG 6; Casey Rezac, NU 6; **Stolen Bases**—Foertsch, BG 22; Elsbecker, AHS 18; Galligan, BG 18; Colegrove, NU 18; Nick Leerar, BG 16; Slagle, AHS 15; **Strikeouts**—Houston Nielsen, WBM 4 in 73 AB; Garman, AHS 4 in 62 AB; Foertsch, BG 6 in 100 AB; Schutjer, AHS 7 in 36 AB; Leyton Veon, WBM 8 in 68 AB; Eli Hanson, WBM 9 in 68 AB; **On-Base Average**—Slagle, AHS .597; Eischen, AHS .523; Aiden Ulrich, AHS .513; Garman AHS .508; Elsbecker, AHS .489; Carson Schneider, WBM .471

FIELDING—Chances—Aiden Ulrich, AHS 185; Foertsch, BG 158; Mason Ulrich, AHS 156; Slagle, AHS 155; Brennen Bollinger, NU 123; Walders, NU 123; **Putouts**—Aiden Ulrich, AHS 160; Mason Ulrich, AHS 145; Bollinger, NU 141; Foertsch, BG 125; Slagle, AHS 113; Schwab, BG 112; **Assists**—Meis, BG 45; Nielsen, WBM 36; Colegrove, NU 34; Slagle, AHS 33; Galligan, BG 33; Foertsch, BG 31; Deitering, BG 31; **Errors**—Levi Walker, AHS 0 in 31 CH; Kolasch, BG 0 in 24 CH; Muller, BG 0 in 14 CH; Kaden Graves, BG 0 in 13 CH; Teague Alesch, BG 0 in 9 CH; Cesar Falcon, WBM 0 in 9 CH; **Fielding Average**—Walker, AHS 1,000; Garman, AHS 1,000; Kolasch, BG 1,000; Muller, BG 1,000; Graves, BG 1,000; Alesch, BG 1,000; Falcon, WBM 1,000; Trent Morey, WBM 1,000; Wyatt Hanson, WBM 1,000

PITCHING—Games Pitched In—Cooper Hoyer, NU 12; Grady Goddard, WBM 12; Aiden Ulrich, AHS 11; Galligan, BG 11; Merrill, NU 11; Nielsen, WBM 11; **Games Started**—Slagle, AHS 9; Aiden Ulrich, AHS 8; Meis, BG 8; Foertsch, BG 7; Galligan, BG 7; Walders, NU 7; Goddard, WBM 7; Season **Record**—Slagle, AHS 6-2; Wes Streit, AHS 5-1; Goddard, WBM 5-1; Aiden Ulrich, AHS 5-2; Galligan, BG 5-4; Schwab, BG 4-0; **Saves**—Eischen, AHS 1; Slagle, AHS 1; Schwab, BG 1; Schneider, WBM 1; **Innings Pitched**—Slagle, AHS 47.2; Meis, BG 45; Aiden Ulrich, AHS 44.1; Goddard, WBM 44; Galligan, BG 43.1; Foertsch, BG 41.1; **Strikeouts**—Slagle, AHS 115; Meis, BG 77; Aiden Ulrich, AHS 73; Foertsch, BG 59; Goddard, WBM 51; Nielsen, WBM 45; **Earned Run Average**—Slagle, AHS 1.03; Foertsch, BG 1.19; Schwab, BG 1.34; Galligan, BG 1.78; Meis, BG 2.18; Elsbecker, AHS 2.23; Goddard, WBM 2.23

Final Team Records—Algona 23-9; Bishop Garrigan 18-8; North Union 8-14; West Bend-Mallard 7-13

was hit-by-a-pitch on seven different occasions and stole a total of 24 bases.

In the field during his career, he handled a total of 65 chances, including 55 putouts with three errors for a career fielding average of .953.

On the mound during his high school days, Nick pitched in four different games with a 1-0 record in five innings thrown with seven strikeouts and compiled a career earned run average of 2.80 for the black-and-gold.

Jaxon Eischen
Algona
Junior Shortstop



Eischen had a breakout season for Algona in 2025 helping lead the team to their second straight conference title. He was named to the North Central Conference's first-team as an infielder and was a unanimous choice.

The red-and-black junior batted at a .381 clip this summer with 32 hits in his 84 plate appearances, including five two-baggers and one home run for a slugging average of .337.

He scored 29 runs, drove in 19 RBI and had one sacrifice. Jaxon drew 18 walks, was hit-by-a-pitch seven times, swiped 12 bases and had an on-base average of .380.

The junior handled a total of 73 chances in the field for a season fielding average of .890. He pitched in five games, one start, with a 0-1 record with one save in 12 innings pitched with 13 strikeouts and an earned run average of 7.58.

In his first 57 games played in as a Bulldog, Eischen has 41 hits in his 120 at bats for a career batting average of .341, including five doubles and one round-tripper.

He has touched the plate 38 times so far in his career, knocked in 22 RBI and has one sacrifice. Jaxon has drawn a total of 24 base-on-balls, been hit-by-a-pitch eight times and stole 17 bases.

In the field, the Algona junior has handled a total of 115 chances, including 46 putouts and 52 assists with 17 errors for a career fielding average of .852.

Carter Schwab
Bishop Garrigan
Junior First Baseman



Schwab returns to the first-team all-area squad for the third consecutive season and led the area this summer in triples. He was a member of the Top of Iowa Conference's second team all-conference team as an infielder.

At the plate, Carter had 26 hits in his 82 at bats for a batting average of .317, including five doubles and an area-high three triples for a slugging average of .451.

He scored 19 runs this season, knocked in a team-leading 22 RBI and had one sacrifice. The black-and-gold junior drew 14 base-on-balls, stole nine bases, was hit-by-a-pitch twice and had an on-base average of .424.

In the field, Schwab handled a total of 123 chances, including 112 putouts with just two errors for a season fielding average of .984.

The Golden Bear left-hander pitched in nine games; three of those contests were starts with a 4-0 record with one save. In 31.1 innings of work, he struck out 20 batters and had an earned run average of 1.34 this summer.

In the first 96 games of his Bishop Garrigan career, Carter has 86 hits in 248 plate appearances for a career batting average of .346, including 15 two-baggers and four triples.

He had crossed the plate on 79 different occasions, chased home 57 RBI and had five sacrifices. The junior has drawn 53 walks, swiped 36 bases and been hit-by-a-pitch 10 times so far in his career.

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