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# Trio of 1,000 point scorers lead girls all-area team

By Greg Grabianowski  
Sports Editor

ALGONA—Three young ladies that went over the 1,000-point plateau during their high school careers this winter and four girls that were named all-state headline the 29th annual Kossuth County Advance all-area girls' basketball squad.

Bishop Garrigan's Graclyn Eastman and Sacha Alesch along with Ainsley Ulrich of North Union each tallied their 1,000th point this winter as those three along with Emmi Bartolo of Bishop Garrigan were chosen to an all-state team.

Eastman, Ulrich and Bartolo are all members of the squad for the third time in their career. North Union's Shallice Walders and Alesch return from last year's first team as Algona's Bella Jo Dunning and Hayden McLaughlin move up from last season's second team.

This year's team is made up of three seniors, five juniors and one talented freshman. The nine young ladies poured in a total of 2,881 points in 227 games this winter for a combined scoring average of 12.69 points per outing.

They combined to connect on 1,062 of 2,457 attempts from the field for 43.2 percent; drained 300 of 848 three-point field goal attempts for 35.3 percent and sank 455 of 621 free throws for 73.2 percent.

They yanked down a total of 1,200 rebounds; handed out 562 assists, registered 532 steals this season and blocked a total of 169 opponent shot attempts.

## 29TH ANNUAL ALL-AREA GIRLS BASKETBALL TEAMS

### FIRST TEAM

Graclyn Eastman	Bishop Garrigan	11
Ainsley Ulrich	North Union	11
Sacha Alesch	Bishop Garrigan	12
Kate Limbaugh	Algona	9
Emmi Bartolo	Bishop Garrigan	12
Shallice Walders	North Union	11
Hayden McLaughlin	Algona	11
Bella Jo Dunning	Algona	11
Carley Nielson	Bishop Garrigan	12

### SECOND TEAM

Maya Lentz	Algona	11
Madelyn Tigges	Bishop Garrigan	10
Maisey Bierstedt	North Union	11
Addie Montag	West Bend-Mallard	12
Chloe Dickey	West Bend-Mallard	12

### TEAM STATS

<b>Offensive Average (GP—Points—PPG)—</b>	
Bishop Garrigan	27 1,904 70.51; Algona 25 1,415 56.60;
North Union	24 1,225 53.12; West Bend-Mallard 23 815 35.43
<b>Defensive Average (GP—Points—PPG)—</b>	
Algona	25 797 31.88; Bishop Garrigan 27 980 36.29;
North Union	24 1,032 43.00; West Bend-Mallard 23 1,089 47.34

### FINAL TEAM STANDINGS

Bishop Garrigan	24-3	15-1
Algona	20-5	13-1
North Union	15-9	10-6
West Bend-Mallard	9-14	3-8

## GIRLS ALL-AREA STAT LEADERS

**Points Scored (GP—Pts—PPG)**—Ainsley Ulrich, NU 24 486 20.25; Graclyn Eastman, BG 26 443 17.03; Sacha Alesch, BG 27 363 13.44; Hayden McLaughlin, AHS 22 304 13.92; Kate Limbaugh, AHS 22 304 13.81; Bella Jo Dunning, AHS 25 277 11.08; Emmi Bartolo, BG 27 274 10.14; Madelyn Tigges, BG 27 249 9.22; Shallice Walders, NU 24 228 9.50; Scarlett Olson, WBM 23 214 9.33; **Field Goals Made**—Eastman, BG 176; Ulrich, NU 170; Alesch, BG 135; McLaughlin, AHS 125; Limbaugh, AHS 123; Dunning, AHS 105; Tigges, BG 104; Bartolo, BG 96; Olson, WBM 79; Maya Lentz, AHS 76; Walders, NU 76; **Three-Point Field Goals Made**—Ulrich, NU 61; Bartolo, BG 58; Alesch, BG 56; Lentz, AHS 38; Alyssa Haugland, BG 38; McLaughlin, AHS 36; Carley Nielson, BG 30; Maisey Bierstedt, NU 28; Dunning, AHS 26; Olson, WBM 26; **Free Throws Made**—Eastman, BG 91; Ulrich, NU 85; McLaughlin, AHS 62; Walders, NU 52; Limbaugh, AHS 49; Addie Montag, WBM 45; Dunning, AHS 41; Tigges, BG 40; Alesch, BG 37; Bierstedt, NU 33; **Overall FG Pct (FGM-FGA—Pct)**—Lily Wickman, BG 28-48 58.3%; Taylor Parsons, NU 39-67 58.2%; Limbaugh, AHS 123-215 57.2%; Eastman, BG 176-313 56.2%; Makenna Elsbecker, AHS 13-24 54.2%; Addyson Faris, BG 48-95 50.5%; Tigges, BG 104-208 50.0%; Alesch, BG 135-296 45.6%; Bryn Nicolson, NU 9-21 42.9%; Alyssa Welbig, NU 9-21 42.9%; **Three-Point FG Pct (FGM-FGA—Pct)**—Limbaugh, AHS 9-16 56.2%; Nielson, BG 30-80 37.5%; Haugland, BG 38-105 36.2%; Brooklyn Berte, BG 5-14 35.7%; Bartolo, BG 58-164 35.3%; Alesch, BG 56-163 34.3%; Elsbecker, AHS 5-15 33.3%; Faris, BG 15-47 31.9%; McLaughlin, AHS 36-114 31.6%; **Free Throw (Pct—FTM-FTA—**

**Pct)**—Haugland, BG 8-9 88.9%; Elsbecker, AHS 7-8 87.5%; Alesch, BG 37-43 86.0%; Bartolo, BG 24-28 85.7%; McLaughlin, AHS 62-75 82.7%; Limbaugh, AHS 49-61 80.3%; Ulrich, NU 85-114 74.6%; Bierstedt, NU 33-45 73.3%; Gabby Venteicher, AHS 19-27 70.4%; Nielson, BG 19-27 70.4%; **Rebounds (GP—Off-Def-Totals—RPG)**—Eastman 26 95-160—255 9.80; Limbaugh, AHS 22 83-115—198 9.00; Parsons, NU 24 63-75—138 5.75; Montag, WBM 23 52-85—137 5.95; Bierstedt, NU 24 52-82—134 5.58; Olivia Dickey, WBM 23 40-91—131 5.69; McLaughlin, AHS 25 46-84—130 5.16; Nielson, BG 27 57-72—129 4.77; Ulrich, NU 24 42-82—124 4.95; Walders, NU 24 22-97—119 4.95; **Assists (GP—Assists—APG)**—Bartolo, BG 27 132 4.88; Walders, NU 24 120 5.00; Taylor VanOtterloo, AHS 25 98 3.98; Alesch, BG 27 85 3.14; Emma Spear, AHS 25 75 3.00; Dunning, AHS 25 59 2.36; Lentz, AHS 25 51 2.04; Tigges, BG 27 50 1.85; Avery Weydert, WBM 22 50 2.27; Venteicher, AHS 25 47 1.88; **Steals (GP—Steals—SPG)**—Eastman, BG 26 80 3.07; Bartolo, BG 27 77 2.85; Walders, NU 24 74 3.08; Alesch, BG 27 73 2.70; Nielson, BG 27 58 2.14; Olson, WBM 23 58 2.52; Tigges, BG 27 57 2.11; Samantha Hoyer, NU 24 48 2.00; Dunning, AHS 25 42 1.68; McLaughlin, AHS 25 42 1.68; Weydert, WBM 22 42 1.90; **Blocked Shots (GP—Blocks—BPG)**—Eastman, BG 26 84 3.23; Bierstedt, NU 24 47 1.95; Tigges, BG 27 37 1.37; Montag, WBM 23 31 1.34; Limbaugh, AHS 22 24 1.09; Dunning, AHS 25 17 0.68; Dickey, WBM 23 16 0.69; Lentz, AHS 25 16 0.64; Olson, WBM 23 11 0.47; Ava Roethler, BG 20 9 0.45; Walders, NU 24 9 0.37; Ulrich, NU 24 9 0.37

## FIRST TEAM SELECTIONS

Graclyn Eastman  
Bishop Garrigan  
Junior Center



Eastman returns to the first-team all-area squad for the third consecutive season as she led the area in rebounding, field goals made, free throws made, steals and blocked shots this season.

The Bishop Garrigan junior was named to the Iowa Print Sports Writers Association's first-team all-state team for the third straight year as well as the Top of Iowa Conference's first unit for the third time. She was also chosen to the all-regional and all-district teams.

Graclyn is the daughter of Nicole Bennett and Cory Eastman of Rolfe and has younger siblings named Kinley, Braxton, Easton and Macy. "Grac" or "G" is the nickname she is known by her black-and-gold teammates.

"Graclyn had a big year both offensively and defensively," said Bishop Garrigan head coach Brandon Schwab. "She led us in rebounding and took a step forward in playing away from the basket a little more."

"Graclyn attacked the rim off the bounce more as last year she played most of the time with her back to the basket. She was a big rebounder for us. Graclyn is a hard worker and is a good teammate."

"She took practice to the next level this year, taking it a little more focused than in the past. Graclyn was constantly a floor leader for us out there. If you saw anybody on the floor celebrating when her teammate did something good, it was probably her. "I think her biggest improvement from last year was her ball handling and getting the ball out in transition after a steal or a rebound. I also thought she was a much better defensive player this season."

Eastman poured in a team-leading 443 points in 26 games for the Top of Iowa Conference champions for a scoring average of 17.03 points per contest.

She connected on a team-high 176 of 313 overall field goals for 56.2 percent; missed all seven of her triples and made a team-high 91 of 131 chances from the charity stripe for 69.5 percent.

The Golden Bear junior ripped down an area-high 258 rebounds, including 95 offensive boards for a rebounding average of 9.92 boards per game.

Graclyn led Bishop Garrigan in steals with 81; blocked shots with 81 and also dished out a total of 44 assists this winter while on the court.

In her first 79 games wearing the black-and-gold uniform, she has tossed in 1,320 points for a career scoring average of 16.70 points per outing.

Eastman has been successful on 524 of 946 shots from the floor for 55.3 percent; hit 4 of 25 attempts behind the three-point line for 12 percent and sank 268 of 407 foul shots for 65.8 percent.

The Golden Bear post player has yanked down 796 rebounds for an average of 10.07 caroms per contest. She has handed out 146 assists; came up with 215 steals and rejected a total of 196 shots so far in her career.

The Class 1A state championship game this season is her most memorable basketball game and scoring 40 points against North Union at Armstrong her sophomore year is most memorable basketball moment.

Audi Crooks of the Iowa State Cyclones is her favorite college basketball player while learning how

to work with people and teamwork is the biggest thing she has gained from playing basketball.

Graclyn would like to continue her basketball career when she graduates next spring and would like to be a dental hygienist someday when she gets older.

### GRACLYN EASTMAN PROFILE

**If I could visit anyplace in the world, it would be:** Bora-Bora

**Three people I would like to have dinner with:** Kobe Bryant, Audi Crooks, Coach Schwab

**When I am not playing sports, I am:** Hanging out with my family or friends or babysitting

**It would surprise people that I am:** A bad driver

**When I get older I want to be:** A dental hygienist

**My sports role model:** Audi Crooks

**My everyday role model:** My parents

**I cannot go a day without:** A fun drink

**Biggest superstition or something I do before every game:** I always roll my socks down a certain way

**What is your favorite type of music to listen to before a game:** Country

### FAVORITES

**Team:** Iowa Hawkeyes Women's Basketball Team

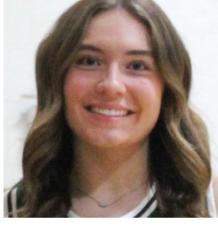
**Class:** History Through Film

**Book:** "Regretting You" by Colleen Hoover

**Song:** Anything by Megan Moroney

**Teacher:** Mrs. Miller

Ainsley Ulrich  
North Union  
Junior Guard



Ulrich makes the first-team all-area team for the third straight year after leading North Union to the Class 1A regional final this winter.

She led the area in scoring and three-point field goals made. The North Union junior guard was chosen to the Iowa Print Sports Writers Association's first-team all-state squad for the second consecutive year.

She was also selected to both the all-district and all-regional teams. Ainsley was named to the Top of Iowa Conference's first team for the third straight season.

She is the daughter of Betsey and Jason Ulrich of Ringsted. Ulrich is joined in her family by an older sister named Ella and a younger brother named Brigg. "Ains" is the nickname she is known by her green-black-and-silver teammates.

"Ainsley led us in scoring and a lot of other statistical categories," said North Union head coach Loren Looft. "She was a leader for us and played hard every night. Ainsley pushed just as hard in practice as she did in games."

"She is very highly competitive player. Obviously the success we had, she had a lot to do with it in one way or another. Ainsley was a great kid to coach. Every post-season honor she received she deserved. It is an honor to coach her and I am glad we have her back for one more year."

"What you see in ballgames from her is exactly what we see from her every day in practice. She makes all of the players around her better. I think she really improved her mid-range game from last year."

Ulrich tossed in an area-high total of 486 points this year in the Warriors' 24 games for a team-best scoring average of 20.25 points per outing.

The North Union junior was successful on 170 of 415 overall field goals for 41 percent; nailed 61 of 179 shots behind the three-point line for 34.1 percent and sank 85 of 114 tries for the foul line for 74.6 percent this winter.

Ainsley hauled in a total of 124 rebounds for a rebounding average of 5.16 caroms per contest. She handed out 37 assists, came up with 57 steals and blocked nine shots attempts this season.

In her first 71 games played in for the green-black-and-silver, Ulrich has scored a total of 1,284 points for a career scoring average of 18.08 points per game. She has connected on 470 of 1,189 shots from the floor for 39.5 percent; splashed 172 of 579 triples in her career for 31.3 percent and made 172 of 244 attempts from the charity stripe for 70.4 percent.

Ainsley has yanked down a total of 265 rebounds, including 91 off the offensive glass for the Warriors so far in her career for a career rebounding average of 3.73 boards per outing.

The North Union guard has passed out 122 assists; pocketed a total of 186 thefts for the green-black-and-silver and rejected 11 shot attempts.

Beating Forest City 47-46 at home her freshman year is her most memorable basketball game while playing with her great teammates in her most memorable basketball moment.

Caitlin Clark of the Indiana Fever is her favorite WNBA player while learning how to overcome adversity is the biggest thing she has learned from playing basketball.

Ulrich is undecided in her future college plans and she would like to become a physical therapist when she gets older down the road.

### AINSLEY ULRICH PROFILE

**If I could visit any place in the world it would be:** The Bahamas

**Three people I would like to have dinner with:** Donald Trump, Michael Jordan, Caitlin Clark

**When I am not playing sports I am:** Hanging out with family and friends

**It would surprise people that I:** Share the same birthday with my sister

**When I get older I want to be:** A physical therapist

**My sports role model:** Caitlin Clark

**My everyday role model:** My mom

**I cannot go a day without:** My phone

**Biggest superstition or something I do before every game:** Which hair tie I wear

**What is your favorite type of music to listen to before games:** Country

### FAVORITES

**Team:** Iowa Hawkeyes

**Class:** Physical Education

**Book:** "Reminders of Him" by Colleen Hoover

**Song:** "Be By You" by Luke Combs

**Teacher:** Mrs. Colegrove

Sacha Alesch  
Bishop Garrigan  
Senior Guard



Alesch becomes a member of the first-team all-area team for the second time in her high school career after helping lead the Golden Bears to this

year's Class 1A state championship game.

She was named to the Iowa Print Sports Writers Association's second-team all-state squad, moving up one team after being a third team choice in 2025.

The Bishop Garrigan senior was both an all-district and all-regional pick this season and earned Top of Iowa Conference first-team all-conference honors after being a second team choice last winter.

She is the daughter of Teresa and Cody Alesch of Algona and is joined in her family by a younger brother named Teague. "Sach" is the nickname she is known by her black-and-gold teammates.

"Sacha had a solid year for us," said Golden Bear head mentor Schwab. "She was able to score at all three levels which was huge for us this year. Sacha had some big scoring games for us and hit a lot of big shots during the season."

"In the past, she was kind of known as just a three point shooter but she worked on getting to the basket and finish. Sacha was a great leader for us as a senior. She really demanded hard work in practice and just simply had a great senior year."

"Her scoring at all three levels was definitely her biggest improvement from last year. Sacha's mid-range game was really good this season. She is also a really good free throw shooter."

Alesch scored 363 points in 27 games for a scoring average of 13.44 points per game for Bishop Garrigan. She connected on 135 of 296 shots from the floor for 45.6 percent.

The black-and-gold senior hit 56 of 163 attempts behind the three-point line for 34.4 percent and sank 37 of 43 charity shots for 86 percent.

Sacha pulled down a total of 53 rebounds and passed out 85 assists this season. She pocketed a total of 73 steals and rejected a pair of opponent's shot attempts.

In her 107 games played in wearing the Golden Bear uniform, Alesch scored 1,150 points for a career scoring average of 10.74 points per outing.

She was successful on 401 of 999 shots overall for 40.1 percent; splashed 217 of 637 shots behind the three-point arc for 34.8 percent and made 131 of 163 free throws for 80.3 percent.

Sacha hauled in 251 rebounds for an average of 2.34 boards per contest. The Bishop Garrigan guard dished out 309 assists in her career; registered a total of 224 thefts and blocked five shots.

Beating Forest City 51-40 on Feb. 3 at home to grab a share of the conference title was her most memorable basketball game while running out under the lights in this year's Class 1A state championship games is her most memorable basketball moment.

Steph Curry of the Golden State Warriors is her favorite NBA player and basketball taught me a lot of core values for my life are the biggest thing she learned from playing basketball.

Alesch is headed to Wartburg College in Waverly to continue her basketball career next year and would like to become a writer somewhere in the future when her basketball career is done.

### SACHA ALESCH PROFILE

**If you could visit any place in the world it would be:** The Bahamas

**Three people I would like to have dinner with:** My late grandfather, Michael Jordan, Kobe Bryant

**When I am not playing sports I am:** Singing

**It would surprise people that I am:** A really good card player

**When I get older I want to be a:** Writer

**My sports role model:** Steph Curry

**My everyday role model:** My parents

**I cannot go a day without:** Having a Rize drink

**Biggest superstition or something I do before**

All Area...see page A9