

# SPORTS

## STATE WRESTLING

continued from 10A



Spencer coach Dave Doebel embraces junior Temi Otaniyi after elimination at the IHSAA State Wrestling Championships in Des Moines on Thursday. (Photo by CJ Eilers)

was a significant accomplishment because the junior only came back from a football injury after winter break, only to suffer a torn meniscus about a week into his season.

"I'm extremely grateful that I was able to make it to the state tournament despite my knee injury," Otaniyi said. "I owe a huge thank you to all of the trainers, coaches and doctors that were able to help me through districts."

The junior was also grateful to have Beehler there at state to walk him through the day, keeping his mind focused. He'd been inside the arena for AAU wrestling, but admitted the atmosphere at state was bigger.

Wednesday's Class 3A compe-

dition was also bigger than any tournament he'd faced this season. Otaniyi opened the tournament against Burlington's Adrian Perez-Hall. The match lasted a period as Perez-Hall won by 19-2 tech fall, sending Otaniyi to the consolation bracket.

"Everybody is elite, and there is very little room for error," Otaniyi said. "This motivates me for next season because now I know what needs to happen this offseason."

Otaniyi faced Indianola's Eli Cox later that day and came out with a takedown half through the first period. Cox escaped and proceeded to score three takedowns over three periods before pinning Otaniyi in four minutes and 41 seconds.

During the match, Otaniyi's knee popped out and Doebel was quickly over to pop it back into place. This wasn't the first time something like this has happened. Doctors gave him the okay to wrestle, but requested he mitigate his practice. Otaniyi managed to go 20-11 this season and make it down to state for the first time.

"He was told he could surgically have it taken care of now, or wait until the season was over," Doebel said. "Temi has seen very little live wrestling in practice all season, maybe a week or two of hard practice. He fell behind there for no fault of his own. But he still made it down to state. That is a pretty big accomplishment that speaks vol-

umes to how hard that kid works."

Spencer wrestling struggled with illness, injuries and open weights all season long, giving up between three to five weights all season long. Despite the adversity, the Tigers placed second behind Estherville Lincoln Central by half a point in the Lakes Conference Tournament last month and won 11 duals.

"I'm just super proud of my team," Doebel said. "I think adversity is a big word for this season, but I think we were able to step up every time and move forward. Our district was loaded, but we still got two great guys through it. It speaks volumes about our work ethic."

## IOWA LAKES SPORTS

### LAKERS DOMINATE ON FIRST DAY OF SEASON

The Iowa Lakes Community College softball team earned two wins to open up their season. They first took down Northland Community and Technical College 13-2 in five innings. They then continued with a 14-0 five-inning win over Anoka Ramsey Community College. The Lakers are 2-0 to begin the season.

### BEAT NCTC, 13-2

The Lakers delivered an offensive showcase in a dominant win over Northland softball, erupting early and never looking back in a commanding 13-2 victory.

The Lakers wasted no time setting the tone in the top of the first inning. Kaitlyn DuChateau reached second on a Pioneer's error. Addison Wheeler ignited the offense with a run-scoring double to put the Lakers on the board. Macy Pickett and Karlee Akers continued the extra-base barrage with back-to-back doubles, while Marrissa Miller capped the inning with another RBI double. By the end of the opening frame, the Lakers had built a 4-0 advantage behind a relentless string of gap shots.

The power surge continued in the second inning. After Charli Abernathy laced a double to center, DuChateau launched a two-run home run to left field, extending the lead to 6-0.

In the third, Katie Kvigne led off with a double. She then stole third before Kenzie Enter drew a walk. Northland then attempted to make a play on Enter stealing second, which allowed Kvigne to scamper home. DuChateau then struck again — this time blasting a two-run homer to center to make it 9-0.

Meanwhile, Pickett was sharp in the circle early, striking out five through the first three innings and limiting Northland's opportunities. Northland's best early chance came in the first inning with a single, who was then caught stealing by catcher Akers.

Iowa Lakes broke the game open in the fourth inning. Gracie Knobloch from Hartley singled and Pickett doubled to put runners at second and third. Akers was then hit by a pitch to load up the bases. Miller then hit a sacrifice fly to center, scoring Knobloch and advancing the other two runners. Enter followed with an infield single to give the Lakers an 11-0 lead going into the bottom of the fourth.

Northland responded in the bottom half of the fourth when they connected on a two-run home run to center, trimming the deficit to 11-2. However, the momentum was short-lived. Morgan Fine from Spirit Lake shut the door, recording a strikeout and keeping Northland from mounting any further comeback.

In the fifth, the Lakers added insurance runs. Cassidy Elkins ripped a two-run single to right field, scoring Wheeler (walk) and Taylor Bergman (single). Britney Hageman also contributed a single as the Lakers extended the lead to 13-2.

Macy Pickett picked up the win, allowing no runs on one hit and one walk, while striking out five in three innings. Morgan Fine threw the final two innings, allowing two runs on one hit and two walks, while striking out two. Kaitlyn DuChateau led the offense, going 2-3 with three runs scored and four runs batted in. Gracie Knobloch and Macy Pickett each had a multihit game, while Cassidy Elkins produced two runs batted in.

### BEAT ARCC, 14-0

The Lakers delivered another dominant performance, overpowering Anoka-Ramsey Community College 14-0 behind explosive of-

fense and lights-out pitching.

The Lakers wasted no time in the top of the first inning. After DuChateau reached on a walk and advanced on a passed ball, Wheeler ripped a triple down the right-field line to plate the game's first run. Knobloch followed with a run-scoring double to left. Pickett then walked and stole second before Akers and Kvigne each delivered RBI singles. By the end of the inning, the Lakers had surged to a 4-0 lead.

In the circle, Kvigne was sharp from the start. She struck out the side in the first inning, setting the tone for a dominant outing. Through three innings, she racked up five strikeouts and limited Anoka-Ramsey to minimal contact, backed by clean defensive plays from Wheeler and Pickett on the infield.

The offense started in the second with another Pickett walk. She then showcased her speed, advancing to third on two passed balls. Akers then drove in another run with a single to center.

In the third, Morgan Kolodzienski led off with a walk. Kenzie Enter then executed a sacrifice bunt to advance Kolodzienski to second. Abernathy and DuChateau laced back-to-back doubles to spark a Laker rally. Wheeler added another RBI groundout, and Knobloch capped the inning with a run-scoring single to extend the lead to 8-0.

The fourth inning broke the game wide open. Abernathy blasted a two-run triple to left field, scoring Kvigne (single) and Enter (walk). Wheeler followed with a two-run double to center, pushing the advantage to 12-0. The Lakers' aggressive approach at the plate forced defensive miscues and kept runners moving.

Defensively, the Lakers were flawless. In the bottom of the fourth, they turned a smooth double play — DuChateau to Enter to Pickett — to erase a baserunner and maintain momentum.

The fifth inning added the finishing touches. Maren Davis led off a single, before a defensive miscue off the bat of Elkins put runners and first and second. Kolodzienski singled and a second Golden Ram error allowed both baserunners to score.

Knobloch entered in relief and was dominant, striking out three consecutive batters — including a dropped third strike putout at first — to seal the shutout.

Katie Kvigne picked up her first win of her career, throwing four innings. She allowed no runs on one hit and striking out six. Gracie Knobloch threw one inning, striking out all three batters she faced. Charli Abernathy led the Lakers, going 2-2 with two runs scored and two runs batted in. Addison Wheeler, Gracie Knobloch, Karlee Akers and Katie Kvigne each added two hits in the game.

### LAKERS BATTLE TROJANS IN TIGHT LOSS

Iowa Lakes Community College fell to 12th-ranked North Iowa Area Community College 64-53 in Estherville on Wednesday, Feb. 18. Baakir Christian led the Lakers with 18 points and seven rebounds. Zoey Wooten added 12 points, while Makyia Kenney pulled down six rebounds.

The game was tightly contested throughout. Iowa Lakes trailed by one after the first quarter, held a 1-point lead at halftime, and the score was tied heading into the fourth.

Foul trouble caught up with the Lakers in the final period, and the Trojans took advantage by pulling away late. NIACC outscored Iowa Lakes 23-10 in the fourth quarter to secure the win.

Iowa Lakes is now 15-5 in conference play and 19-8 overall. The Lakers final regular-season home game will be Wednesday, Feb. 25, at 5:30 p.m. against Central Community College.

## SPORTS BRIEF

### NHL'S RETURN TO THE OLYMPICS LIVES UP TO THE HYPE AND SETS THE STAGE FOR 2028 WORLD CUP OF HOCKEY

MILAN (AP) — The long wait for the best hockey players in the world taking the ice in an international tournament lived up to the hype. Four of the seven games in the knockout round at the Milan Cortina Olympics went to overtime, including the U.S. beating Canada in a fast-paced, back-and-forth final for the gold medal. The sport earned the spotlight it got in the NHL's return to the Games following a dozen-year drought. "This is as good as it gets," U.S. forward Vincent Trocheck said. "They've got to keep doing it." That's the plan. The league, union and International Ice Hockey Federation have an agreement to participate in 2030 in the French Alps, pending finalizing a deal with the International Olympic Committee. But the next chance for best-on-best country versus country competition is not that far away: The World Cup of Hockey is set for February 2028.

## LEGAL

### OFFICIAL NOTICE

**City of Spencer, Iowa**  
A RESOLUTION PROPOSING THE PLANS, SPECIFICATIONS, FORM OF CONTRACT, AND ESTIMATED TOTAL COST FOR A PUBLIC IMPROVEMENT PROJECT DESCRIBED AS A SPLASH PAD AT RIVERVIEW PARK; SCHEDULING A PUBLIC HEARING; AND DIRECTING THE PUBLICATION OF NOTICE.

TO THE RESIDENTS AND CITIZENS OF SPENCER, IOWA:

You are hereby notified that the Spencer City Council has proposed a public improvement project described as a splash pad located at Riverview Park, 612 4th St. SE, Spencer, Iowa. The proposed plan, specifications, form of contract and estimated total cost for the project are avail-

able for review at the office of the City Clerk.

The Spencer City Council will hold a public hearing on the proposed plan, specifications, form of contract and estimated total cost for the public improvement project at 6:30 p.m. on Monday, March 2, 2026, in the Council Chambers of the Spencer City Hall, 101 West 5th Street, Spencer, Iowa. All interested persons are encouraged to attend this hearing and to offer comments in support of, or in opposition to, the aforesaid improvements. This notice is published at the direction of the Spencer City Council.

/s/ Mary Beth Breidinger, Spencer City Clerk #059

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## LEGAL

### NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

#### Regional Transit Authority - RIDES

Notice is hereby given that a public hearing will be held by the Regional Transit Authority (RTA) dba RIDES at its headquarters, 522 10th Ave East, Spencer, IA, at 10:30 a.m. on March 19, 2026. The purpose of this hearing is to discuss an application from the RTA to the Iowa Department of Transportation for financial assistance as follows:

RTA will request approximately \$545,818.00 of State Transit Assistance funds and approximately \$683,616.00 of Federal Transit Assistance funds for fiscal year 2027.

These projects will not have a significant detrimental environmental effect on the area, and no persons or businesses will be displaced by these activities. The projects are in conformance with the Statewide Transit Improvement Program (STIP).

Any interested person or agency is invited

to attend this hearing and speak for or against this application for funding. Written comments will be accepted at 522 10th Ave East, PO Box 1240, Spencer, IA 51301 through Tuesday, March 17, 2026, at 12:00 pm. For additional information you may call Hugh D. Lively, Executive Director, at 712-580-7920 during RTA office hours 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.

The Regional Transit Authority Public Hearing Meetings are open to all individuals regardless of disability. Any person with a disability requiring reasonable accommodations to participate in this meeting should contact the RTA Office at (800) 358-5037 at least five business days prior to the meeting. #062

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## LEGAL

### THE IOWA DISTRICT COURT FOR CLAY COUNTY

CASE NO. ESPR015048

### NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT OF ADMINISTRATOR AND NOTICE TO CREDITORS

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF MATTHEW RYAN STARKSON, Deceased

To All Persons Interested in the Estate of Matthew Ryan Starkson, Deceased, who died on or about December 25, 2025:

You are hereby notified that on February 4, 2026, the undersigned was appointed administrator of the estate.

Notice is hereby given that all persons indebted to the estate are requested to make immediate payment to the undersigned, and creditors having claims against the estate shall file them with the clerk of the above named district court, as provided by law, duly authenticated, for allowance, and unless so

filed by the later to occur four months from the date of the second publication of this notice or one month from the date of the mailing of this notice (unless otherwise allowed or paid) a claim is thereafter forever barred.

Dated on February 11, 2026.

Beth Starkson  
Administrator of the Estate  
320 Railway St.  
Rossie, IA 51357

Michael L. Sandy, AT0012779  
Attorney for the Administrator  
Sandy Law Firm, P.C.  
304 18th Street, PO Box 445  
Spirit Lake, IA 51360

Date of second publication: 2/24/26 #053

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## LEGAL

### THE IOWA DISTRICT COURT FOR CLAY COUNTY

PROBATE NO. ESPRO15047

### NOTICE OF PROBATE OF WILL, OF APPOINTMENT OF EXECUTOR, AND NOTICE TO CREDITORS

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF LARRY R. KNUDSEN, Deceased

To All Persons Interested in the Estate of Larry R. Knudsen, Deceased, who died on or about November 7, 2025:

You are hereby notified that on February 2, 2026, the Last Will and Testament of Larry R. Knudsen, deceased, bearing date of March 2, 2009, was admitted to probate in the above-named court and that Marlene F. Knudsen was appointed Executor of the estate.

Any action to set aside the will must be brought in the district court of said county within the later to occur of four months from the date of the second publication of this notice or one month from the date of mailing of this notice to all heirs of the decedent and devisees under the will whose identities are reasonably ascertainable, or thereafter be forever barred.

Date of second publication: 2/24/26 #051

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Notice is further given that all persons indebted to the estate are requested to make immediate payment to the undersigned, and creditors having claims against the estate shall file them with the clerk of the above-named district court, as provided by law, duly authenticated, for allowance, and unless so

filed by the later to occur of four months from the date of the second publication of this notice or one month from the date of mailing of this notice (unless otherwise allowed or paid) a claim is thereafter forever barred.

Dated February 3, 2026

Marlene F. Knudsen, Executor of Estate  
2730 385th Street, Dickens, IA 51333

Lisa M. Steffen, ICIS#: 0010862  
Attorney for Executor  
Cornwall, Avery, Bjornstad and Scott  
407 Grand Ave., P.O. Box 999  
Spencer, IA 51301

Date of second publication: 2/24/26 #051

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