



NORTHWESTERN NEWS

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COPING WITH COVID: FINDING HOPE

‘WE HAVE A CHANCE’

Battling delayed seasons because of the coronavirus pandemic, coaches at Northwestern are keeping athletes motivated and conditioned for playing sports again in the spring

By DAVID THORNTON
Student Reporter

With disappointment in the air for athletes, members of Northwestern’s coaching staff still have opportunities to continue coaching and allow teams to compete this year.

Northwestern’s coaches say they have maintained positive attitudes toward continuing the rest of their seasons, regardless of them being delayed.

Unlike most NCAA programs that have gone online and canceled competitions, Northwestern is still on campus and plans to play sports.

See COACHING, Page 2

FINDING HOPE

INSIDE THIS EDITION:
PAGES 6,7, and 8:
Student athletes discuss how they feel about their seasons being canceled — and how they’re finding opportunities to grow.

ONLINE:
For more coverage of Northwestern sports, visit <http://northwesternnews.rangerpulse.com/>.



Top: Members of the Northwestern women’s cross country team run laps around the university football field during a Sept. 15 practice (photo by Jara Reeder). Right: Members of the men’s basketball team shoot hoops in the university’s gym during a recent practice (photo by David Thornton). Bottom right: The women’s basketball team practices dribbling Sept. 8 (photo by Jara Reeder). Bottom left: Tyler Berryhill, a member of the men’s golf team, competes at a tournament in Arkansas in November 2019 (photo provided).

News

COACHING: Northwestern coaches say they'll continue to prepare their teams and players for future seasons

Continued from Page 1

Here is a look at how coaches are adapting to the reality of delayed athletic seasons.

SOCCER

"I wish we were playing this fall," said Alex Piekarski, the head woman's soccer coach. "But we are blessed to be here."

Piekarski and his players were aware of the possibility of soccer being delayed. They were disappointed when the news came, but they expected it, he said.

"I told my team just hours after I got the news," he said. "We had a team meeting that night, and it put a damper in our first meeting. We have some savvy and intelligent women on our team, and they saw the trends going on in other leagues."

Piekarski said his team will be able to play in the spring.

"We are preparing to play games in February and March, and our team is excited for it," he said.

The team's training sessions for the season are simple and short, and Piekarski said he is making sure they are fun.

"Our ladies are happy to be back doing soccer again," Piekarski said.

He said players will be doing a lot of physical testing, speed testing and skill testing. He hopes to see improvement from his players later in the year.

To start off Piekarski's first season at Northwestern, his most important goal is to see his players show real passion for the game, and to see that they are being the best they can be both on and off of the field.

It's "not a lot of competing against the opposition this year, but competing against ourselves," he said.

FOOTBALL

Kentrez Bell, the Northwestern football team's wide receiver coach, is the newest member of the football coaching staff. As a senior at Northwestern in 2019-2020, he played as the team's wide receiver.

For the football coaching staff, the past month has been "unpredictable," Bell said.

The delay of the football season put a pause on Bell's first experiences of being a coach.

"I was honestly torn by the decision on the season being pushed back because they canceled it a couple days before we were able to start practicing and getting things going," he said. "I was excited to see the game from the coach's viewpoint."

The news that the season had been delayed took a toll on team members, Bell said.

"To hear that they came back to school to not get to play ball – I



Northwestern volleyball players practice in the university gym in this photo taken in September.

know it's tough," Bell said.

Fortunately, Bell said, the season is not over. Coaches continue to meet with players two times a week to talk about football and read playbooks.

"We have weightlifting three times a week to keep their bodies in shape, and we allow time for the players to come run routes and throw," Bell said.

MEN'S BASKETBALL

"We have a chance to have a really fun season," said Vinay Patel, the head coach of the men's basketball team.

Aug. 14 was when Patel got the news of the season's delay. Regardless of the men's basketball season being delayed, Patel said he still has high expectations for his team. Patel said he knows he has a good group of players this year.

"Initially, they were disappointed," Patel said when asked about how his team took the news of the delayed season.

Patel said he made it clear to his team that this was the best way to ensure the team's eligibility for the season. He reassured his players they will play the same number of games they had scheduled prior to the changes.

"That information made them feel a lot better," Patel said.

The team is practicing on the court together, doing things as safely as possible by wearing masks, practicing social distancing, and not using contact play until further notice. Players are using this time to "perfect the details of our offense and defense, and better our individual game," Patel said.

Patel said he would use one word to describe the past month for him and his program: proactive.

"I've challenged our staff to be proactive instead of reactive," he said. "Be ahead of problems and



Northwestern basketball players practice in the university gym.

make sure we are doing what's best for our kids.

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

"We received the news about the season being moved a couple of days before classes started when the girls were moving in," Tasha Diesselhorst, the head women's basketball coach, said. "I had a feeling this was a possibility, so I was not surprised."

With things changing daily during the pandemic, you have to prepare yourself mentally for just about anything, she said.

Diesselhorst said she made sure to tell her team about the news before they heard it on social media. That was important, she said.

"We told the team on a Zoom meeting, and they were very positive in dealing with the news," she said. "I am very proud of how this group has responded to the season being moved."

The women's basketball team comes in ready to work each day,

she said.

"You wouldn't know by watching them in workouts that their season is so far away," Diesselhorst said.

With this extra time, team members are just having fun and working on getting to know each other. They are excited to have the opportunity to be in the gym practicing, she said.

"This team has really impressed me thus far," she said. "Their energy and passion for the game shows every day. They are a great group of girls that I look forward to seeing improve as the year goes on."

TRACK AND FIELD/ CROSS COUNTRY

According to Jill Lancaster, the head cross country coach, members of the track and field team as well as the cross country teams were all asking one question: "What are we doing next?"

When the news came around to the team, Lancaster said she

appreciated how the Great American Conference and university officials handled the news.

"Looking out for our student athletes is superb," she said. "And our communication is excellent here."

Lancaster said she reminded her teams that this delay does not change their goals, though the training cycle will change.

"We are a youthful team, and in all honestly, these training cycles will pay off for them," Lancaster said. "We get better and better every year."

Lancaster said she sees this as a big benefit. At the same time, it takes some of the stress of competition off of the players so they may better themselves as athletes.

"Olympians train all year but compete two or three times, and that's for a reason: to expand their training cycle by accomplishing a lot more in training," Lancaster said.

Lancaster said she is looking forward to seeing personal growth from her athletes this year. Lancaster said she is also looking for maturity and growth in her players.

"You have a purpose," she said.

The opportunity to keep in-class education going is "pure joy," Lancaster said.

VOLLEYBALL

Days before school began was when Fredrick Aubuchon, the head volleyball coach, received the disappointing information: Volleyball was delayed until late September.

At first, he was highly concerned, and he questioned how practices would go.

"We had really good communication with our team very early," Aubuchon said.

Aubuchon said he tried to be as transparent as possible with his team.

"As more news came in, it was a lot less shocking to them because we prepared them," he said. "We never wanted them to be surprised."

Aubuchon said the pandemic is a "first" for everyone, so no one knows the correct way to conduct preseason and the season in general.

"As coaches, we all talk, but we all don't know the answers," he said. "We just hope. Our focus is to just take care of the day."

It's hard to do that when you see other universities playing, he said, but the athletic department trusts that officials are doing the right things to keep people safe.

Aubuchon said he is "reminding our team there is going to be a tomorrow, and there is going to be a season, just in the spring."

"So right now, let us focus on today," he said. "Our focus is being better at volleyball."

News

SUFFERING FOR SUFFRAGE

Constitution Day exhibit examines women’s impact on document

By **JORDAN GREEN**
News Editor

Members of Northwestern’s Social Sciences Department have set up a display in the J.W. Martin Library commemorating the ratification of the 19th Amendment.

Professors prepared the display in honor of Constitution Day, which public universities recognize annually on Sept. 17.

The display offers information about the ways in which the Women’s Suffrage Movement affected the nation’s history, said Dr. Eric Schmaltz, the chair of the social studies department.

The department is sponsoring the display in conjunction with the Endowed Institute for Citizenship Studies at Northwestern.

HISTORY OF WOMEN’S SUFFRAGE

Women weren’t always given the right to vote in the United States.

The 19th Amendment was officially ratified Aug. 26, 1920. Nearly 30 million women – approximately one-fourth of the nation’s population – were able to vote for the first time once the amendment was ratified, said Dr.

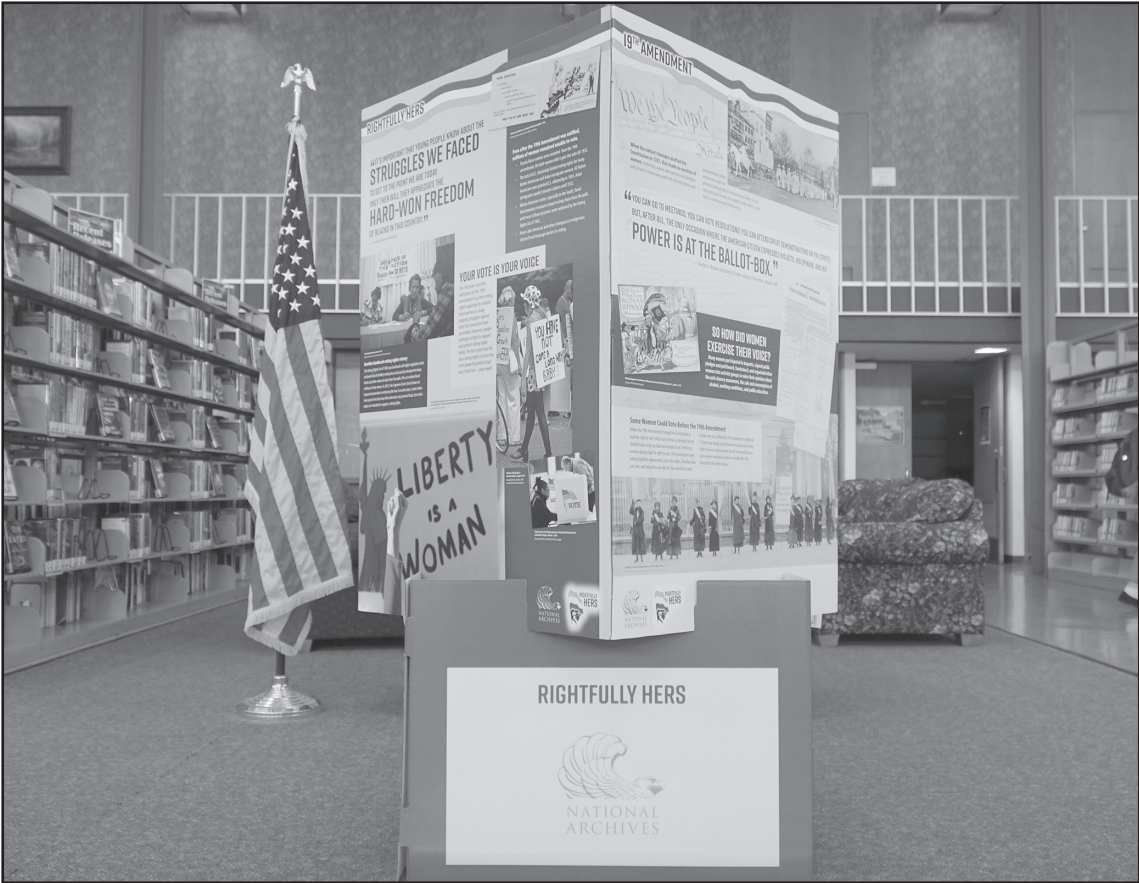


Photo by Jordan Green

An exhibit in the Northwestern library is shown in this Wednesday photo. Northwestern professors have set up an exhibit commemorating the signing of the U.S. Constitution and the Women’s Suffrage Movement.

Jana Brown, a professor of history.

In some western states, women had the right to vote before the

amendment was passed.

After the United States gave women the right to vote, other nations around the world followed

suit, she said.

With 2020 being an election year, it’s important for registered voters to understand how the right

to vote has changed throughout history, Schmaltz said.

Brown obtained the display after reading that the National Archives were giving away educational materials for the anniversary of the ratification.

She jumped on the opportunity to secure a display for Northwestern, she said.

“The National Archives sent out a notice in March or April and said they had some displays to give away,” she said. “I said, ‘This is great.’”

In previous years, the university has celebrated Constitution Day by hosting guest speakers who discuss the history of the document.

The university couldn’t host speakers this year because of the coronavirus pandemic, though Schmaltz said he hopes to have speakers return to campus for future celebrations of Constitution Day.

The exhibit, which is now a part of the university’s permanent collection, may be viewed in the J.W. Martin Library during normal operating hours.

COVID ON CAMPUS

Northwestern reports 14 COVID-19 cases

By **JORDAN GREEN**
News Editor

Northwestern Oklahoma State University has 14 active student cases of the coronavirus, a decrease of one case compared to Sept. 11, university officials said.

The university had 15 active cases Sept. 4, officials said.

In a recent email to students, University President Janet Cunningham said the total number of positive COVID-19 cases among Northwestern students includes cases at all of the university’s campuses in Alva, Enid, and Woodward.

Officials did not identify the students who tested positive for the virus. No university employees have tested positive for the virus, officials said.

Officials first reported on Aug. 28 the number of students who have COVID-19. At the time, six students had tested positive for it.

University officials will report the number of active COVID-19 cases each Friday on the university’s website, Cunningham said. To see the number of cases on all cam-

puses, visit <https://www.nwosu.edu/coronavirus/active-covid-19-cases-nwosu>.

As of press time Wednesday, the City of Alva had 27 cases of the virus, though no new cases have been reported since Sept. 9. Twenty-two of the people who tested positive for the virus have recovered, leaving five active cases in the city. No one in the city has died from the virus, officials said.

Woods County had 33 positive COVID-19 cases as of press time. No new cases have been reported since Sept. 9. Twenty-seven people have recovered from the virus, leaving six positive cases in the county.

No one in the county has died from the virus, officials said.

The State of Oklahoma had 71,314 cases of the virus as of press time, data from the Oklahoma State Health Department shows. Of those cases, 10,409 are active. Statewide, 59,993 people have recovered from the virus, and 912 people have died from it.

The U.S. has more than 6.5 million cases of the virus. More than 194,000 Americans have died from it, and more than 2.4 million have recovered from it.

Jobs will remain vacant

By **LOGAN MERIWETHER**
Student reporter

Three Northwestern professors have left their jobs since the summer of 2019, and their positions will remain vacant.

The English, social sciences and science departments all have vacant positions because teachers have left. Teachers in those departments say they have heavier workloads in order to keep up with the amount of students in their classes.

Dr. Kathryn Lane, an associate professor of English, said having those positions filled would help to lighten the load.

The English department is down one faculty member: professor Jennifer Page. Page left in 2019, and Victoria Hendricks temporarily replaced her. But Hendricks could not stay long because she was having a baby. Page’s position remains unfilled.

Dr. Richmond Adams left the university during the summer of this year, and he was replaced by Dr. Matthew Lambert.

Lane and other members of the English department started a job search to fill Page’s position, and they received several job applications, she said. But the plug had to be pulled on the hiring process because of budgeting issues.

Lane said she plans to reevaluate the situation this year to see

if the department still needs to fill the position. She said it will ultimately be left up to administrators, but she and the other faculty members in the English Department are arguing that it needs to be filled.

“The reality is that it limits the classes we can offer,” she said, “and it means that composition classes have to be more full.”

Lane said she likes to give a lot of feedback to her students to help improve their writing.

Her classes are full, with 24 students each. It makes it hard for her to give the students one-on-one attention. It takes her several hours each night, she said, to get everything graded, and to give students feedback.

Dr. Bo Hannaford and other university administrators look at the budget each year to determine

where to adjust funding. With a 3.95% reduction in Northwestern’s state appropriations and lower enrollment because of the coronavirus pandemic, they did not feel like it was necessary for the time being to refill those positions.

Administrators looked at data and saw a higher number of students taking concurrent classes in those departments and felt it would be a good way to save money by not filling the vacant positions at this time.

Hannaford plans to look over the budget closely and monitor the number of students enrolling in the next school year. He said he hopes to make a proposal to President Janet Cunningham and Vice President for Administration Dr. David Pecha to fill those positions.

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‘LESS STRESSED’



GRACIE RIDDLE
WOMEN’S VOLLEYBALL

Gracie Riddle is a redshirt freshman on the volleyball team. She plays right side. She is a health and sports science major.

Q: How does it feel to have your season canceled?
A: Having our season canceled makes me feel honestly really bored, but also a little less stressed. I am a freshman, and I definitely wasn’t prepared or experienced enough for the season if it were to have happened this fall. Having more time to learn and bond more with my teammates makes me feel more excited for what is to come.

Q: What is it like to practice for games you may not play for months, if you ever get to play them at all?
A: As of right now, we are taking things slow, running through our defense and offense plays and taking things one practice at a time and not going so fast. I believe, personally, this is giving our veterans and my fellow freshmen time to remember and learn plays.

Q: What do you do to stay motivated during practices?
A: Currently, I am a redshirt freshman, which means that, normally, I won’t get playing time, and I wouldn’t get to do everything the other players get to do. But since season isn’t for a while, us freshman have been a little more involved. Most people would see a redshirt next to their name as a bad sign and take things easy in practice, but I don’t. I watch my teammates when I am on the sidelines and I remind myself that, if I work hard enough, I can be at that level, and my teammates help me, too. When I get frustrated, they remind me that I am new, but that I am doing a good job and I will get there. It just takes time.

Q: How has the loss of your season affected your class and work schedule?
A: It has been rough. I have a lot of free time right now, which is sometimes good, but I also have a lot more time to miss my family. If we were in season, my schedule would be packed, and I wouldn’t have as much time to miss them. I got my first job ever only because now I have a lot of free time. That doesn’t mean coach doesn’t keep us busy. I still have an hour and a half of study hall every day. Right now just feels like the end of senior year all over again.

Q: How have your coaches responded to the cancellation of your season?
A: Coach Aubuchan and Coach Cunningham, of course, are upset about season being canceled, but they’re doing their part to keep a defined schedule. They plan on us still playing in the spring and are focused on building a strong team this year between the freshman and veterans. They try every day to keep us motivated and have our eyes set on winning a championship this year.

— Interview by Ovell Patterson, student reporter

Disappointing. Boring. Rough. At the same time, optimistic. Less stressed. Enthusiastic.

For Northwestern’s student athletes, the news that their athletic seasons had been canceled was upsetting. For some, their last chances of running for the 50-yard line or making the winning basket are gone. They feel hurt. They feel abandoned.

But no matter how tough the situation is, Rangers are all doing one thing. They’re all

FINDING HOPE

‘HAVING HOPE’



MYA JOHNSON
WOMEN’S BASKETBALL

Mya Johnson, a redshirt junior health and sports science major, plays center on the women’s basketball team.

Q: How does it feel to have your season canceled?
A: It’s pretty disappointing. I was very excited about the season and how far I believe we could go.
Q: What is it like to practice for games you may not play for months, if you ever get to play them at all?
A: It’s like you said. We may or may not play, so there is some type of hope or chance that we may play, and just having hope of actually playing this year makes me really push and practice because I want to be in the best shape possible for the season we may have.

Q: What do you do to stay motivated during practices?
A: Again, like I said, the fact that it is still up in the air that we may have a season is all the motivation that I need.
Q: How has the loss of your season affected your class and work schedule?
A: Really hasn’t affected my classes or my work schedule because my coaches make sure that practices doesn’t interfere with our classes and with the school in general. Coach [Dieselhorst] looks at all of our schedules, and she picks a time slot everybody is free, and that’s when we practice.
Q: How have your coaches responded to the cancellation of your season?

A: I feel like you found it pretty well again. Like I said in a previous statement, there still might be a season, so she’s kind of clinging onto the hope of us still playing. It is still approaching the season. ... So we still have practices, start conditioning. We still have all weight, but she does make pre-caution since we are still in a pandemic.

— Interview by Jara Reeder, photo editor

‘GET BETTER’



PARRISH HEWITT
MEN’S BASKETBALL

Parrish Hewitt, a junior health and sports science major, is a guard on the men’s basketball team.

Q: How does it feel to have your season canceled?
A: I wish it never did, but it doesn’t feel good. But all we can do is get better and do really good when we get our chance to play again.
Q: What is it like to practice for games you may not play for months, if you ever get to play them at all?
A: It sucks because we do all this hard work with no reward of being able to play, but I’m just happy that we get to be back in the gym.
Q: What do you do to stay motivated during practice?
A: Just getting better and being able to at least practice because nobody thought we would even be able to practice.
Q: How has the loss of your season affected your class and work schedule?
A: It hasn’t changed much yet because were not officially in basketball season yet, but it probably will when we get to the season.

Q: How have your coaches responded to the cancellation of your season?
A: Really positive even though they want us to play, but they’re being safe and letting us do as much work as they can.

— Interview by Ethan Everson, student reporter

‘AN OPPORTUNITY’



BRILEY YUNKER
WOMEN’S CROSS COUNTRY

Briley Yunker, a sophomore pre-med biology major, is a member of the women’s cross country team.

Q: How does it feel to have your season canceled?
A: It’s really disappointing because I, along with a lot of my other teammates, was really looking forward to the season. But also, you have to look on the bright side and think of it as an opportunity to continue to grow in our sport and continue to improve ourselves.
Q: What is it like to practice for games you may not play for months, if you ever get to play them at all?
A: Again, it’s really disappointing. But at the same time, you’re like, eventually, we’re going to have a season. It might not be this year. It might be next year. I think about athletics as a way to improve yourself and your character, not just your physical aspect. I think we should all just enjoy the time with our teammates and think of it as an opportunity to improve ourselves and live a healthy lifestyle.
Q: What do you do to stay motivated during practices?
A: I rely a lot on my teammates, and I know we all “draw” from each other for energy and enthusiasm, and so I think we all just try to have a good time.

Q: How has the loss of your season affected your class and work schedule?
A: It really hasn’t impacted it much besides the fact that we’re not doing our competitions on the weekend. Again, on the brighter side, it gives us more of an opportunity to focus on school, so that’s nice
Q: How have your coaches responded to the cancellation of your season?
A: Coach Binkley and Coach Lancaster have been really optimistic and positive about it. They just try to keep our spirits up and look towards our eventual competition.

— Interview by Kaylea Brown, student reporter

‘TOGETHERNESS’



KAITLYN MORPHY
WOMEN’S SOCCER

Kaitlyn Morphy, a sophomore health and sports science major, plays defense on the women’s soccer team.

Q: How does it feel to have your season canceled?
A: It’s disappointing, but I feel it’s a good thing as well. We get time to prepare. There are a lot of new girls on the team who have not played with us yet, so it is kind of better for us to prepare for the season that we potentially will have in the spring. We could “gel together” as a team. Once we start playing in the spring, we have already practiced together and bonded together because it takes time to get that togetherness.

Q: What is it like to practice for games you may not play for months, if you ever get to play them at all?
A: It does suck that I potentially don’t know if I will play or not in the spring. I still like playing soccer. It is nice to get your foot on the ball, especially going in the weight room. It keeps us busy even though it feels like we are not working towards something, but you are. In the end, it will benefit you.

Q: What do you do to stay motivated during practices?
A: Being around my teammates. They are all so supportive in motivating me to want to get better. Obviously, just me being myself, I always want to get better. The team is really supportive with that. I feel like the girls are just very supportive with the extra “push” each day. I live really far because I am from Canada. I can’t even go home until Christmas. I am here for the long haul. I am here for a purpose. I’m here to do soccer and get a degree. It is nice to have your team who makes it feel like a big family, especially during this time.

Q: How has the loss of your season affected your class and work schedule?
A: I thought it would not affect my class schedule, but it has. Lately, with soccer, obviously, we are busy, but we are not as busy. Just like me being really busy makes me feel more successful in a way. I get more stuff done whenever I have soccer. It really helps with school, and lately, we are busy with soccer, and right now, it is not as busy.

Q: How have your coaches responded to the cancellation of your season?
A: I think they responded really well. I feel like they are doing whatever it takes. Even though we aren’t doing contact, we are doing technical and tactical. They are still making our practices efficient where they benefit in the long run. Little things that our coaches do with COVID guidelines is good, such as social distancing and masks.

— Interview by Dacoda McDowell-Wahpekeche, student reporter

For additional interviews,
see Page 8

Feature

FINDING HOPE, CONTINUED

‘MORE TIME’



QUINLAN GANTHER
FOOTBALL

Quinlan Ganther, a freshman health and sports science major, is a member of the Northwestern football team. He plays quarterback.

Q: How does it feel to have your season canceled?

A: I’m kind of disappointed because, coming in the summer and everybody working out, it was only a couple of freshmen that came, and then the whole summer doing all this working out, then everybody moved in. Right after my parents left, everybody gets an email talking about how the season is canceled, so then we had a team meeting about it. Everything just got pushed back.

Q: What is it like to practice for games you may not play for months, if you ever get to play them at all?

A: I’m not going to say it’s pointless, because I’m a freshman, so I’m really practicing for long-term, for next year and the year after. It’s really a learning experience because now I get a lot more time to get the playbook down, and to really get my “feel” of it. In a regular season, you come to fall camp, and right after that, you’re in season, so us freshmen, we’ve got a lot more time to get everything into us.

Q: What do you do to stay motivated during practices?

A: I think about the reason why I’m here. The doubts and the people saying I wouldn’t have gone D2, and my friends and family who have supported me throughout this whole journey. It keeps my head up and keeps me going.

Q: How has the loss of your season affected your class and work schedule?

A: It really hasn’t affected anything. The coaches do a pretty good job at having our schedules set. Monday, Wednesday, Friday, we lift, and then Tuesday, Thursday we have position meetings, so it’s nothing crazy.

Q: How have your coaches responded to the cancellation of your season?

A: They’ve really been just trying to keep everybody in Alva because he knows everybody is like, “What are we going to do?” “Are we going to leave?” or “Should I leave?” Everybody is just questioning everything.

— Interview by Kaylea Brown, student reporter

‘NOT BAD’



ASHTON TUCK
WOMEN’S GOLF

Ashton Tuck, a sophomore chemistry major, is a member of the Northwestern golf team.

Q: How does it feel to have your season canceled?

A: It’s really disappointing to have our season be canceled, but our coaches have done such a great job getting us to stay positive about it. We are just thankful for every day that we get to spend in-person, on-campus. We know how hard the decision was to make, and we know it was made with all of the athletes’ best interests at heart.

Q: What is it like to practice for tournaments you may not play for months, if you ever get to play them at all?

A: It’s not bad at all. I’m doing something I love a lot. Golf has been one of my greatest loves for a long time, and my routine doesn’t feel complete without it. Whether or not we get to play, we’re all still working our hardest and improving in hopes that we will get to play.

Q: What do you do to stay motivated during practices?

A: The thing I do to stay motivated is think of my parents and everything they sacrifice to allow me to get to play this sport that I love and all the countless hours they’ve spent at tournaments, driving me to lessons, sitting with me on the range, and being my biggest supporters. I just want to make them proud because I am beyond thankful for the opportunities they’ve given me.

Q: How has the loss of your season affected your class and work schedule?

A: It hasn’t affected it that much. Golf is an individual sport, and we are all free to go out and practice as much as we want, so we all spend quite a bit of time practicing on our own. Everyone is still working really hard despite the circumstances.

Q: How have your coaches responded to the cancellation of your season?

A: My coaches have been the reason that all of us have been able to stay positive about this situation. They remind us all the time how lucky we are to be able to be on campus and have the opportunities we have. They’re incredibly supportive, not only in golf, but outside of that, too. And they support us all as people, not just as players. ... They haven’t been negative about the situation once when it’s most definitely a lot easier to complain, than it is to find the bright side.

— Interview by Destiny Gardner, student reporter

‘POSITIVE’



TIMOTHY JACOBSON
MEN’S CROSS COUNTRY

Timothy Jacobson, a sophomore instrumental education major, is a member of the men’s cross country team.

Q: How does it feel to have your season canceled?

A: It’s not our favorite thing, but since we know we are having a season in the spring, we are just preparing for that.

Q: What is it like to practice for games you may not play for months, if you ever get to play them at all?

A: Using our time to practice and get to know each other. Building the team chemistry.

Q: What do you do to stay motivated during practices?

A: We give each other encouragement. If we know someone is down, we can encourage them.

Q: How has the loss of your season affected your class and work schedule?

A: Without the season in the fall, it gives me a lot more free time on the weekends to hang out with friends, practice band and study.

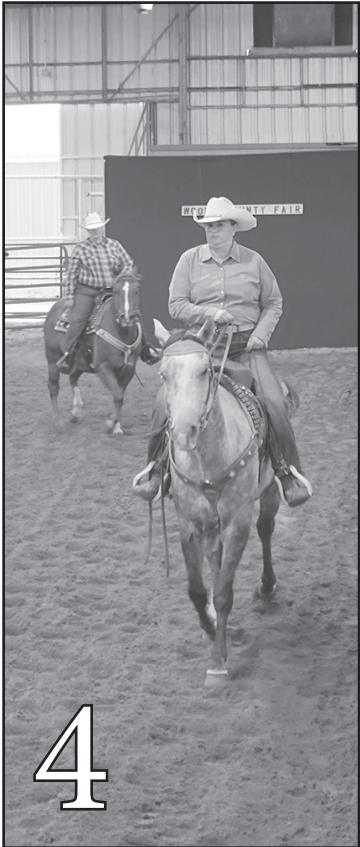
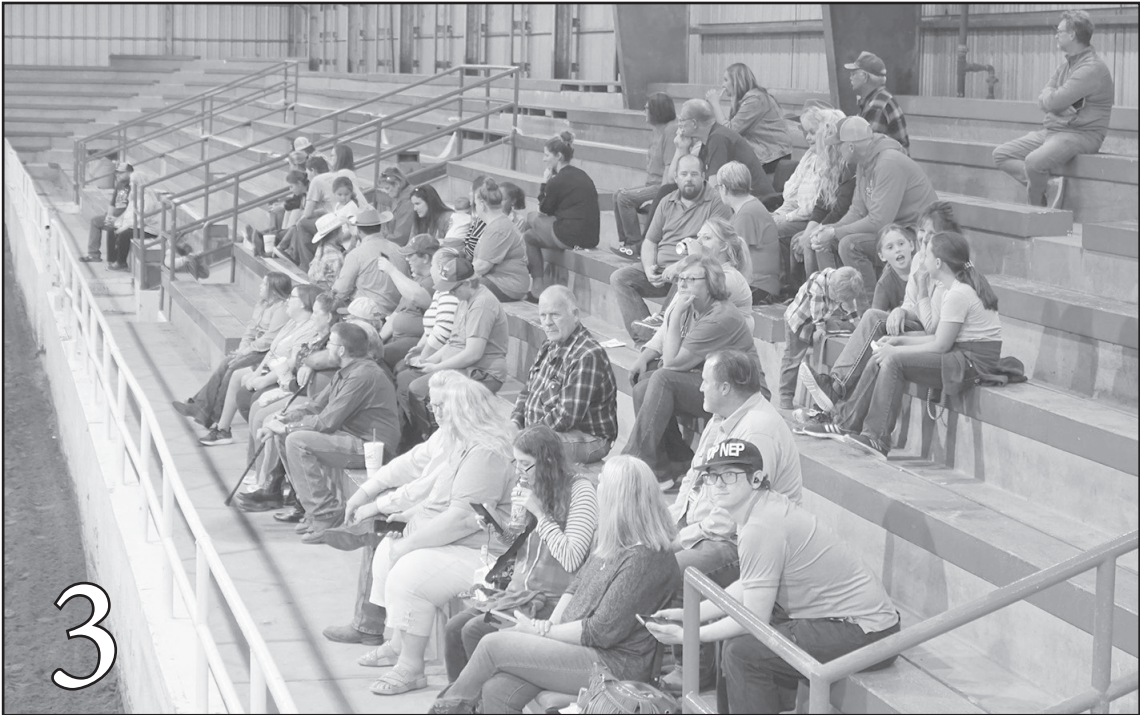
Q: How have your coaches responded to the cancellation of your season?

A: The coaches have been as positive as can be, encouraging us to be ready for spring and to use this time to stay on top of classes.

— Interview by Trinity St. Andrews, student reporter

News

SHOWING OFF



Contestants in the Woods County Fair’s annual horse show exhibited their horses Friday in the livestock barn at the fairgrounds. Because of the coronavirus pandemic, the fair was a shortened, one day-event.

1. Contestants prepare to back their horses up at the request of the judge as part of the walk-trot competition.

2. Bentley Tomberlin placed fourth in the walk-trot competition.

3. Spectators watch contestants in the horse show.

4. Cindy Tomberlin, foreground, rides her horse around the arena with Jennifer Greve, background.

5. Hillary Hurst placed first in the walk-trot category, followed by Cindy Tomberlin in second place and Jennifer Greve in third.

Photos by Jordan Green



Have you forgotten?



Alva firefighters on Friday displayed a large American flag on a ladder truck in front of the fire department in memory of those who died in the Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist attacks in New York.

