



Northwest Arts Center  
presents 2025 juried  
student art show  
Page 4



Wride runs away  
with second  
NSIC title  
Page 5



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RED & GREEN

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# Acceptance, new found community

By ARIANNA POLONIO  
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Kathleen Alvarez discovered she was hard of hearing after repeatedly failing hearing tests during physical evaluations

while playing basketball in her junior year in high school. After much thought of this overwhelming situation, she decided to get her hearing professionally checked. Little did she know this would take her down a new path in life.

“It was just chaotic in my mind,” said Alvarez. “You know, like the thought of ending up being judged and everything because of hearing loss, especially at such a young age.” She was always recommended to see an audiologist, and al-

though she was hesitant, after some time she ended up going. “I got over that and decided to get it checked out,” she said. Deep down, Alvarez suspected she might be hard of hearing, but actually being diagnosed with hearing loss was

nerve-wracking for her. “I remember finishing my hearing test, I was put into this box, very scary, and they just told me to press for what I could hear,” said Alvarez. “They told me my results and I just started

See FOUND — Page 3

## MINOT STATE UNIVERSITY STUDENT PROFILE

### Megan Swenson

Megan Swenson, a Minot State University sophomore majoring in business education, was born and raised in Minot, North Dakota. A 2023 graduate of Our Redeemer's Christian School, Swenson chose to stay local for her college education because of her affection for the city.

“I love the community in Minot,” she said. “I wanted to stay close to my family and receive an affordable, quality education.”

For Swenson, Minot State offered the balance of academic growth and proximity to her roots, providing a welcoming environment that encouraged personal and professional development.

The sense of community at Minot State is a highlight of campus life for Swenson. “There are so many opportunities to get involved and meet new people,” she said. Smaller class sizes have allowed her to build meaningful connections with professors and peers. “I love seeing familiar faces every day, just by walking to class,” Swenson added. This reflects the friendly atmosphere Minot State fosters, where students are part of a supportive network.

Initially an accounting



Saif Khan

Megan Swenson

See SWENSON — Page 3

## Becoming a voice for nature in wildlife conservation with Kirstin Nelson

By SONJA ANDERSEN  
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At Minot State University, junior biology major Kirstin Nelson is transforming her passion for nature into a future in wildlife conservation.

Originally, Nelson wanted to become a veterinarian, but over time, realized she preferred the outdoors to a clinic setting. She considered a career in wildlife veterinary medicine before discovering that conservation was her true calling.

“As soon as I decided to go into conservation, I never had any doubts,” she said.

MSU has played a crucial role in her journey, with engaging coursework and professors like Joseph Pettit and Mark Leuders guiding her toward real-world applications.

“The outdoor-focused classes really confirmed that this is where I'm meant to be,” Nelson said.

Assisting Pettit with research further expanded her experience and career opportunities.

“Being the only conservation student at MSU has definitely opened many opportunities for me in this field,” she said.

Over the past two sum-

mers, Nelson has gained invaluable field experience through internships in North Dakota. Her first role as an Aquatic Nuisance Species (ANS) inspector with the North Dakota Game and Fish Department involved preventing the spread of invasive species, such as zebra mussels. This hands-on work strengthened her public interaction skills and enforcement of conservation policies.

Her second internship at Ft. Stevenson State Park focused on forestry, where Nelson maintained trees, pruned, and managed an entire city orchard in Garrison.

“I was able to meet new people and gain a lot of great experience and knowledge,” she said.

Moving to a new town alone for her first internship was intimidating, but Nelson saw it as an opportunity for growth.

“Every day, I reminded myself that I was starting the career I had been working toward,” she said. “Stepping out of my comfort zone was a huge step and has definitely been worth it.”

Currently, Nelson is working on a research project analyzing bat activity in the Upper Souris National Wildlife Refuge.

See NELSON — Page 3

## MINOT STATE UNIVERSITY STUDENT PROFILE

### MSU student builds cargo net business with local roots

KAIF KHAN  
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Noah Schmidt, a Minot, North Dakota, native, is pursuing Entrepreneurial Studies at Minot State University, influenced by his family's background in small business. He said he grew up “surrounded by small business and entrepreneur-

ship,” which shaped his academic path at the university.

The Entrepreneurial Studies program at Minot State covers finance, human behavior, management, human resources, marketing, and specialized courses on starting and growing a business. Schmidt said he values the program's practical approach, stating, “I enjoy learning how all the pieces of a business

come together to make it successful.”

Before enrolling at Minot State, Schmidt attended the University of Tampa in Florida. During that time, he gained exposure to large-scale businesses. He returned to North Dakota and enrolled at Minot State, utilizing resources and mentorship at the Severson Entrepreneurial Academy, directed by Randy Conway.

See SCHMIDT — Page 3



Kaif Khan

Noah Schmidt poses with a Guardian Safety Net.



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Dear Readers,

Here in Minot, the spirit of community thrives. We see it in our neighbors helping neighbors, in our local businesses supporting our town, and in the vibrant energy of Minot State University. Soon, we have an incredible opportunity to amplify that spirit and directly empower the very heart of our university: its clubs, sports teams, and collegiate programs.

Mark your calendars for April 9, 2025 – MSU Giving Day. This isn’t just another date; it’s a chance to make a tangible difference in the lives of our students and the success of the programs they are passionate about.

For those unfamiliar, our university’s clubs, collegiate programs, and sports teams are more than just extracurricular activities. They are incubators of leadership, teamwork, and dedication. They provide invaluable opportunities for students to develop skills, build lasting friendships, and represent our university with pride. From the roar of the crowd at a Beavers hockey game to the hard work done by the mentors and staff involved with the ASTEP program, these groups enrich the campus experience and contribute significantly to the dynamic mosaic of MSU.

However, vital programs often rely on the generosity of our community to flourish. Equipment needs updating, travel expenses accrue, and opportunities for growth and development require financial backing. This is where MSU Giving Day steps in with an exciting incentive: for every dollar you donate to any area of campus, including your favorite clubs, programs, and sports teams, your gift will be matched by 50% up to \$1,000 per supported program.

Think about the impact you can have. A donation toward the baseball team could help them purchase new gear, giving them a competitive edge. A contribution to the A.U.G.I.T.E (Geology Club) could enable them to participate in a crucial geological dig, fostering innovation and problem-solving skills. Supporting the Red & Green could ensure their voices continue to be heard and their journalistic endeavors thrive.

The beauty of MSU Giving Day lies in its inclusivity. You can choose to support the program that resonates most deeply with you. Whether it’s the club that sparked your own passion during your time at MSU, the team you avidly cheer for, or a new initiative that captures your interest, your contribution will directly fuel their success.

The process is simple. On April 9, just visit give.MinotStateU.edu to learn more and make your gift. Imagine the collective power of our community coming together, each donation amplified by that incredible 50% match up to \$1,0000 per supported program. Together, we can provide our students with the resources they need to excel, to pursue their passions, and to make a lasting impact.

Don’t let this incredible opportunity pass by. Let’s show our Minot State University students and their dedicated clubs, programs, and sports teams the strength of our support. Let’s make April 9 a day of impactful giving, ensuring that these vital programs continue to thrive for years to come. Visit give.MinotStateU.edu and be a part of something truly special. Let’s unleash the power of collective support and make this MSU Giving Day a resounding success.

To learn more about Minot State University’s Giving Day, go to <https://give.minotstateu.edu/pages/save-the-date-48>.

Bob Patchen  
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Please feel free to contact me if you have a story idea, a club event, or any item that you’d like to see in the Red & Green.

UPCOMING Events

March 28

Badlands: Ephemeral Horizons by Michael Baum  
Northwest Arts Center: ‘Fair-weather’  
Northwest Arts Center: ‘Juried Student Art Show 2025’  
9:00am - 11:00am ‘Rise and Grind’ Summer, Fall 2025 registration  
10:00am - 11:00am Latter-day Saints  
12:00pm - 1:00pm Yoga

March 29

Badlands: Ephemeral Horizons by Michael Baum  
Gold Cup Piano Festival  
Northwest Arts Center: ‘Fair-weather’  
Northwest Arts Center: ‘Juried Student Art Show 2025’  
9:00am Football Spring Game  
11:30am Group X: Spin (Wellness Center Members Only)  
1:30pm Baseball vs SW Minnesota State (DH)

March 30

Badlands: Ephemeral Horizons by Michael Baum  
12:00pm Baseball vs SW Minnesota State (DH)  
3:00pm Brass Band of Minot Concert

March 31

Badlands: Ephemeral Horizons by Michael Baum  
12:00pm - 1:00pm Yoga  
6:30pm Group X: Spin (Wellness Center Members Only)  
7:00pm - 9:00pm MSU Life Event: Trivia Night

April 1

Badlands: Ephemeral Horizons by Michael Baum  
Northwest Arts Center: ‘Fair-weather’  
Northwest Arts Center: ‘Juried Student Art Show 2025’  
The FAFSA for the next academic year is available  
10:30am - 12:00pm Tuesday Soup  
12:00pm Softball vs Northern State (DH)  
1:30pm - 2:00pm Study Skills for Success  
7:00pm International Artists Series presents: Bachelors of Broadway  
7:00pm - 9:00pm MSU Lifelong Learning Institute: Open Studio Options

April 2

Badlands: Ephemeral Horizons by Michael Baum  
Northwest Arts Center: ‘Fair-weather’  
Northwest Arts Center: ‘Juried Student Art Show 2025’  
12:00pm - 1:00pm Yoga  
6:00pm - 7:00pm Writing Series Workshop: Advanced APA Documentation

April 3

Badlands: Ephemeral Horizons by Michael Baum  
Last day to withdraw from all classes and receive a 75% refund for second 8 week classes.  
Northwest Arts Center: ‘Fair-weather’  
Northwest Arts Center: ‘Juried Student Art Show 2025’  
3:30pm - 5:30pm Faculty Senate meeting  
6:30pm - 8:00pm Northwest Arts Center: ‘Fairweather’ public reception

tion  
7:00pm - 9:00pm MSU Lifelong Learning Institute: Open Studio Options

April 4

Badlands: Ephemeral Horizons by Michael Baum  
Northwest Arts Center: ‘Fair-weather’  
Northwest Arts Center: ‘Juried Student Art Show 2025’  
9:00am - 10:00am MSU Lifelong Learning Institute: Swing Dancing  
12:00pm - 1:00pm Yoga  
1:30pm Baseball vs MSU, Mankato  
6:00pm - 8:00pm MSU Lifelong Learning Institute: Family Tile Making Class

April 5

Badlands: Ephemeral Horizons by Michael Baum  
Northwest Arts Center: ‘Fair-weather’  
Northwest Arts Center: ‘Juried Student Art Show 2025’  
Region 8 Solo and Ensemble High School Music Competition  
1:30pm Baseball vs MSU, Mankato (DH)

April 6

Badlands: Ephemeral Horizons by Michael Baum  
12:00pm Baseball vs MSU, Mankato  
12:00pm Softball vs Augustana (DH)

April 7

Badlands: Ephemeral Horizons by Michael Baum  
10:00am - 12:00pm MSU Lifelong Learning Institute: Pickleball 101  
12:00pm - 1:00pm Yoga

April 8

Badlands: Ephemeral Horizons by Michael Baum  
Northwest Arts Center: ‘Fair-weather’  
Northwest Arts Center: ‘Juried Student Art Show 2025’  
8:00am - 9:00am MSU’s FAFSA priority deadline  
10:30am - 12:00pm Tuesday Soup  
7:00pm - 9:00pm MSU Life Event: Lego Night  
7:00pm - 9:00pm MSU Lifelong Learning Institute: Open Studio Options

April 9

Badlands: Ephemeral Horizons by Michael Baum  
Giving Day  
Northwest Arts Center: ‘Fair-weather’  
Northwest Arts Center: ‘Juried Student Art Show 2025’  
8:00am - 4:00pm New student registration  
10:00am - 12:00pm MSU Lifelong Learning Institute: Pickleball 101  
12:00pm - 1:00pm Yoga  
1:00pm Softball vs MSU Moorhead (DH)

April 10

Badlands: Ephemeral Horizons by Michael Baum  
Northwest Arts Center: ‘Fair-weather’  
Northwest Arts Center: ‘Juried Student Art Show 2025’  
7:00pm - 9:00pm MSU Lifelong Learning Institute: Open Studio Options  
7:00pm - 8:00pm SGA Meeting

April 11

Badlands: Ephemeral Horizons by Michael Baum  
Last day to drop 16 week class  
Northwest Arts Center: ‘Fair-weather’  
Northwest Arts Center: ‘Juried Student Art Show 2025’  
12:00pm - 1:00pm Yoga  
6:00pm - 8:00pm MSU Lifelong Learning Institute: Bead Bracelet Bonanza  
6:00pm - 8:00pm MSU Lifelong Learning Institute: Family Tile Making Class  
7:00pm Western Plains Opera presents: Oliver!

April 12

Badlands: Ephemeral Horizons by Michael Baum  
Northwest Arts Center: ‘Fair-weather’  
Northwest Arts Center: ‘Juried Student Art Show 2025’  
10:00am - 12:00pm Prospective student visit  
1:30pm Baseball vs Sioux Falls (DH)  
7:00pm Western Plains Opera presents: Oliver!

April 13

Badlands: Ephemeral Horizons by Michael Baum  
12:00pm Baseball vs Sioux Falls

April 14

Badlands: Ephemeral Horizons by Michael Baum  
10:00am - 12:00pm MSU Lifelong Learning Institute: Pickleball 101  
10:00am - 2:00pm Plant, learn, and take home microgreens  
12:00pm - 1:00pm Yoga  
3:30pm Promotion Committee information session  
4:00pm Tenure Committee meeting  
7:00pm - 9:00pm MSU Life Event: DIY Easter Baskets

April 15

Badlands: Ephemeral Horizons by Michael Baum  
Northwest Arts Center: ‘Fair-weather’  
Northwest Arts Center: ‘Juried Student Art Show 2025’  
8:00am Minot State FAFSA (Free Application Federal Student Aid) Priority Deadline  
8:30am - 10:30am Staff Senate  
10:30am - 12:00pm Tuesday Soup  
7:00pm - 9:00pm MSU Lifelong Learning Institute: Open Studio Options

April 16

Badlands: Ephemeral Horizons by Michael Baum  
Last day to withdraw from all classes and receive a 50% refund for second 8 week classes.  
Northwest Arts Center: ‘Fair-weather’  
Northwest Arts Center: ‘Juried Student Art Show 2025’  
10:00am - 12:00pm MSU Lifelong Learning Institute: Pickleball 101  
12:00pm - 1:00pm Yoga

April 17

Badlands: Ephemeral Horizons by Michael Baum  
Northwest Arts Center: ‘Fair-weather’  
Northwest Arts Center: ‘Juried Student Art Show 2025’  
3:30pm - 5:30pm Faculty Senate meeting

Minot State Student-Athletes W.A.D.L., Win All Day Long

By JACK JOHNSON  
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Max Bray and Olivia Karwin traveled far to play at Minot State. Bray came from Mesa, Arizona; Karwin from Gull Lake, Saskatchewan. Both stepped into unknown territory.

“Life has taught me things—I know what it takes to tread water,” Bray said. “I was thrown to the deep end, but so what? I know how to swim.”

Karwin’s small hometown has 700 people. Still, she embraced change. (separate your words from interview quotes)

“I’ve had the same friends since kindergarten,” she explained. “So, I was really nervous. It’s not the norm. I didn’t just do what everyone else did back home.”

Adjusting to Minot took time—but both athletes quickly found their footing.

Bray appreciates professors who genuinely care. Small classes—12 students per professor—make balancing sports and academics manageable.

“Teachers know you,” he said. “I walk into class, and they’re like, ‘How was practice?’ They ask how they can help. They know I’m a student-athlete. Chances are they’ve had someone before me go through it.”

Karwin found an immediate community through hockey. Initially shy, she now sees Minot differently.

“It’s probably the most interesting thing I’ve ever done,” she said. “I feel like I have 30 new best friends. We’re all experiencing it together.”

“It feels like home.”

Both student-athletes have busy schedules that are not easy. Bray outlined his demanding routine.

“Two hours in the morning, two-hour meeting later—about 25 or 26 hours a week,” he said. “It’s not a walk in the park, but I know it will pay off.”

Football structures his days and clears his mind, releasing frustration before calmly teaching elementary kids vowel sounds.

“It gets me motivated and starts my day off right. I lift big weights or push people out of the way,” Bray said with a laugh.

Karwin’s hockey schedule is equally intense. Game days consume her entire afternoon.

“We lift Mondays and Wednesdays. Weekdays, we’re at the rink from 1–4 p.m.,” she said. “Warming up two to three hours, a two-hour game, then cooling down. It’s a lot.”

Travel adds even more stress.

“We left Tuesday for a tournament in St. Louis, got back Sunday,” she said. “Missing classes is tough, but

teachers are accommodating.”

Both athletes find sports boost their academics despite these challenges. Bray relies on his coaches to push him academically, frequently recalling the team motto. Karwin feels energized academically because of sports. Sports give her perspective, too

“Coach getting on me, saying ‘you got to do better,’ gets me going so I can succeed in my classes,” he said. “WADL—Win. All. Day. Long.”

“I lift in the morning. I feel good, and I go to class ready to learn,” she said. “After practice, I feel good about myself. Sometimes I get caught up in a long day, but then I realize one bad day doesn’t define everything.”

Bray believes his athletic discipline prepares him for life.

“Lord willing, I’ll have a family and wife someday,” he said. “I can’t just take a day off because I’m tired.”

Both athletes know the challenges are worth it.

“Sports and school—it sounds like a lot, and it is,” Bray said. “But it’s so rewarding, and I’m so glad I’m doing it.”

“Yeah, it’s busy and hard,” Karwin agreed. “But I love it. Practicing, lifting, traveling—it’s what I love to do.”

Together, Bray and Karwin embody what Minot State athletics stand for: “Win. All. Day. Long.”



RED & GREEN

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# MSU women’s golf travel to Arizona in final round of tourney

LITCHFIELD PARK, Ariz. – The Minot State women’s golf team made a strong push in the final round of the tournament at the Wigwam Golf Club Blue Course, climbing five spots on the leaderboard to finish tied for 8th place. The Beavers matched their opening-round score, shooting a 49-over 329 for a two-day total of 98-over 658.

Leading the charge, Lauryn Keller posted a 9-over 79 in the final round, moving up the leaderboard to tie for 13th place with teammate Holly Knudsen, who carded an 11-over 81. Both players finished the tournament at 20-over 160.

Zoe Banack recorded a 13-over 83, while Taylor Cormier finished with a 16-over 86, placing both players in a tie for 48th place with a total of 29-over 169. Abigail Goettle rounded out the scoring for Minot State, shooting a 26-over 96 to close out the tournament at

47-over 187.

Playing as an individual, Meadow Roberts posted a 23-over 93 in the final round and finished the event with a total of 56-over 196.

Minot State showed significant improvement on the final day, climbing five spots in the team standings. Westminster claimed the team title, finishing at 78-over 648, while Anaka Lysne of Minnesota-Crookston won the individual championship with a 13-over 153.

The Beavers will look to carry this momentum into their next tournament, the NSIC Conference Preview, set for March 31st.

LITCHFIELD PARK, Ariz. – The Minot State women’s golf team wrapped up the first round at the par-70 Wigwam Golf Club Blue Course on Monday, facing a competitive field and looking to gain momentum heading into the final round.

As a team, the Beavers shot 49-over 329 and are currently in 13th place. Westminster is in first place after shooting 30-over 310, and leading the individual race is Kasey Reichard from Mesa Community College after shooting 4-over 74

Holly Knudsen led the way for the Beavers, carding a 9-over 79 to finish the day tied for 13th. Knudsen played steady throughout the day picking up key pars and one birdie.

Lauryn Keller follows scoring an 11-over 81 to finish the day tied for 26th, Taylor Cormier finished at 13-over 83 to land in 45th place, Zoe Banack scored 16-over 86 to place her at 57th, and Abigail Goettle rounded out the scoring for Minot State with a 21-over 91 and is in 66th place.

Competing as an individual, Meadow Roberts recorded a 33-over 103 in her opening round.

# Beavers senior guard, Mogen, earns All-NSIC second Team honors

It’s been a stellar senior season for Minot State guard Emma Mogen, one that didn’t go unnoticed by the rest of the NSIC.

After leading the Beavers in scoring, rebounding, assists, and steals this season, the 5-foot-8 guard from Watford City, North Dakota was voted to the All-NSIC 2nd Team by the league’s coaches on Thursday.

A four-year starter for the Beavers (10-20 overall), Mogen saved her best for her final season as she led Minot State in scoring at 12.4 points per game, in rebounds with 5.3 boards and per game, in assists with

69, and steals with 37. She finished the year with a career-best season in points with 371, rebounds with 160, and those 69 assists.

Along with single-season career highs, she added career-best games with 29 points at Winona State on February 15, and 15 rebounds at St. Cloud State on February 8.

The honor is the first for Mogen, who finished her career Wednesday in the Beavers’ 64-53 NSIC Tournament loss at St. Cloud State. She finished her time at Minot State with 763 career points, 406 rebounds, 173 assists, and 102 steals in 97 games.

# Minot State Athletics’ own student director and videographer Matt Bosch nominated for Emmy Award

It is easy to recognize and praise all of what happens on the court, field, ice, mat, and course when watching Minot State student-athletes compete.

However, there is much undisclosed activity that takes place behind the scenes to be gameday ready. Before the Beaver athletes take center stage, fans in attendance are treated to a pre-game hype video for each respective team on campus. It serves the purpose of intensifying energy in the crowd for the opening act of an athletic contest.

Those videos were filmed and edited by Matthew Bosch, a student director and videographer for Minot State University Athletics. This time around, he is up for a prestigious

award that very few get a chance to experience.

In his collaboration with the Minot State softball team, head coach Sal Rodriguez wanted a special tribute hype-style video to unveil their new Magic City jerseys to the public. The video project featured home-grown talent Isabelle and Ellington Anderson as the main subjects demonstrating what the jerseys look like in action. The video was filmed, directed, and edited all by Bosch himself before the team posted the reveal on all their social media platforms.

On March 10, Bosch was notified that his clip featuring the softball team’s jersey reveal is now a finalist under the “Promotional Video”

category at the 2025 Upper Midwest Emmy Awards. He is competing with finalists from two other NSIC institutions, including Minnesota State, Mankato and St. Cloud State. The awards ceremony is set to take place in Minneapolis, Minnesota at the Midwest Journalism Conference on April 11.

Bosch has been an invaluable piece to the Minot State Athletics operation. He joined as a student worker in the 2023-24 season and has served as the director for most sports, including hockey, basketball, soccer, baseball, volleyball, and softball. He is also the videographer behind the hype videos to provide for the fan experience.

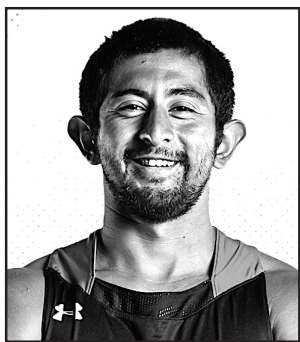
# Minot State Athletics sends condolences to family of Juan Gutierrez

MINOT, N.D. – Minot State’s Kevin Harmon, Vice President for Student Affairs and Intercollegiate Athletics released a statement today after learning that former Minot State student-athlete Juan Gutierrez passed away earlier this week.

“Minot State University and the Beaver Athletics family are deeply saddened to learn of the passing of Juan Gutierrez. Juan was a great human being and an excellent role model for other student-athletes. Our heartfelt condolences are extended to the Gutierrez family.”

A GoFundMe account has been set up to support the Gutierrez family. [https://www.gofundme.com/f/support-juan-gutierrez-iis-memorial-fund?lang=en\\_US&fbclid=IwY2xjawIwDIRleHRuA2FlbQ1xMQABHd-9Vgbb6i5FJB0ndIJZMf-YP\\_Lg9MO8Avar8eRQT-B7GNbuJk-2G2\\_nFGV0w\\_aem\\_a7FImIxvw2kN\\_Rn4A6Tb8Q](https://www.gofundme.com/f/support-juan-gutierrez-iis-memorial-fund?lang=en_US&fbclid=IwY2xjawIwDIRleHRuA2FlbQ1xMQABHd-9Vgbb6i5FJB0ndIJZMf-YP_Lg9MO8Avar8eRQT-B7GNbuJk-2G2_nFGV0w_aem_a7FImIxvw2kN_Rn4A6Tb8Q)

Juan joined the Beaver



Juan Gutierrez

cross country and track and field program in the fall of 2020 and competed for three seasons at Minot State. He finished in the top 100 at the 2022 NSIC Cross County Championships and in the Top 10 seven times in track and field at the NSIC Indoor and Outdoor Championships, five times in relays and twice in individual events.

Gutierrez medaled as the lead-off runner for the Beavers’ 4x400 relay team at the 2022 NSIC Outdoor Championships as Minot State’s team finished 3rd in 3 minutes, 20.59 seconds.

## Found

Continued from Page 1

crying ‘cause I was like, well I knew this was going to be.

“I don’t think I mentally prepared myself.”

Not too long after she was fitted with hearing aids.

“That was the best day of my life,” she said. “Because I heard birds chirping, I heard everything I missed out on.

“I was diagnosed with bilateral sensorineural hearing loss.”

Regardless, it took her a little while to get comfortable with them.

“I never wore them my senior year of high school,” she said. “I didn’t start using them until I came to college, it was like a fresh start for me.”

Alvarez is a junior at Minot State with a majoring in psychology and a concentration in deaf studies. She is also the current president of the Sign On Club which brings people together to learn American Sign Language (ASL), connect with the deaf community through monthly gatherings, and organize fun activities on campus while advocating for Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing individuals.

When she was diagnosed back in 2021, she

felt out of place. She became self-conscious when she wore her hearing aids and would keep her hair down to cover them. For the past three years, Alvarez has learned to embrace her hearing loss.

“I accepted it, it’s part of who I am,” she said.

Alvarez is no longer afraid to show her hearing aids and proudly wears her hair up. She goes to speech therapy at Minot State’s Communication Disorders Clinic, where she works on auditory, comprehension, and certain sounds to improve her communication skills.

“Coming to Minot was such a life-changing experience because I felt like

home, like I was part of my community,” Alvarez said.

Learning that she was hard of hearing sparked her interest in communicating with the hard of hearing and deaf community. She did not want them to feel out of place either. It reminded her she wasn’t alone.

“I think ASL is such an important language to learn,” she said.

“I didn’t grow up learning ASL, and I wish I did.”

## Swenson

Continued from Page 1

major, Swenson reconsidered her path after professors repeatedly asked about her career goals. “I realized my end goal was to teach accounting,” she said. This realization led her to switch to business education, aligning with her lifelong passion for teaching. Mentors and professors encouraged her and helped her plan her future. “They helped me connect with the right people,” Swenson said. “I had some great conversations and felt like business education would be a great fit for me.”

Swenson’s inspiration comes from personal experience, crediting her high school business teacher and her current Minot State professors for their guidance. “My professors are very knowledgeable, and I have always felt strongly supported by them,” she said. Their guidance has deepened her appreciation for the business world. “I love learning about all the aspects of the business world, and I want to educate the youth on it,” she explained. Seeing high school as a “vulnerable and impressionable time,” Swenson aspires to be a relatable and positive influence for students. “I want to make a positive impact and be a light,” she said.

Outside of academics, Swenson enjoys pickleball, walks, puzzles, and spending time with friends and family. On campus, she is involved in MSU Life, CRU, and the Entrepreneurship Club. “It’s a great way to stay active and meet people,” she said. She also enjoys playing volleyball with friends.

Reflecting on her time at Minot State, Swenson advises new students to “become a part of something,” whether it’s joining a club, playing intramurals, or attending events regularly. During her freshman year, she committed to weekly routines like attending CRU, small group, volleyball, and spin classes. “I think being intentional, making a commitment, and showing up to these made all the difference in my experience,” she said. Consistency, she believes, builds relationships and confidence. “You have to be willing to put yourself out there,” she added.

Swenson exemplifies a hardworking, outgoing, and friendly student. Her busy experience at Minot State University, filled with events, intramurals, and classwork, is a typical part of college life. These experiences build confidence, the ability to collaborate, and lifelong relationships that can contribute to professional growth.

## Nelson

Continued from Page 1

which is helping her develop critical research skills for her future in conservation. She aspires to work in Glacier National Park, surrounded by breathtaking landscapes and diverse wildlife, though she remains open to opportunities wherever conservation is needed.

For students considering a similar

path, Nelson emphasizes the importance of internships and connections.

“Internships get your foot in the door and provide hands-on experience for whatever you’re going into,” she said.

Whether planting trees, studying bats, or protecting ecosystems, Nelson is committed to making a lasting impact.

“Nature is important to humans; it’s in our DNA,” she said. “It could all be gone if there aren’t more voices for it.”

## Schmidt

Continued from Page 1

Schmidt has launched Guardian Safety Nets, a company focused on the automotive industry. Identifying an opportunity in the cargo net market, the company has developed seven cargo securement products for vehicles and trailers. These products are designed to enhance safety and help businesses limit liability.

Schmidt credits his father and Conway

for their guidance. His father advised him on the importance of being willing to fail as an entrepreneur.

Following graduation, Schmidt plans to work full-time on his business. His strategy for the next few years includes maximizing growth and increasing brand recognition for Guardian Safety Nets across North America. His goals include expanding the product line and building B2B partnerships, with potential future expansion into other safety products.

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Submitted Photo  
Standing from left to right, students **Jersey Johnson, Luke Curren, Marissa Beck, Nate Olson, Kyleigh Wiltse, Jack Johnson, Shaylie Holen, Alec Wolf, Cambry Ankenbauer, Kyle Sandy, Tessa Galvin, Nate Olson, and Emma Taylor**; **Jan Reprnow**, adviser.

# Minot State FBLA shines at State Leadership Conference

By **VERONICA COREY**  
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The North Dakota Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) — Collegiate State Leadership Conference (SLC) was held in Mandan on March 23-24. Thirteen members of the Minot State Chapter networked with business professionals, participated in leadership workshops, and competed in various competitive events. Collegiate chapters from North and South Dakota participated.

Minot State, again, earned the Dorothy L. Travis Outstanding Chapter award, which is a sweepstakes award for the best chapter participation and achievement in events at the SLC.

Minot State received the Largest Local Chapter Membership award with 16 active members. They also received the Largest Percentage of Retention of Chapter Membership with a 25% retention rate from last year. Jan Reprnow, chapter adviser, was named the North Dakota Outstanding Local Chapter Adviser.

Alec Wolf and Emma Taylor, 2024-2025 North Dakota officer team vice presidents, assisted with the planning and delivery of the conference. Wolf, Taylor, and Mason Lemar were named 2024-2025 Who's Who recipients. Wolf was elected as 2025-



Submitted Photo  
Standing from left to right, **Jan Reprnow**, adviser; students **Cambry Ankenbauer, Alec Wolf, Jersey Johnson, Kyle Sandy, Marissa Beck, Nate Olson, Emma Taylor, Jack Johnson, Kyleigh Wiltse, Connor Radtke, Shaylie Holen, Luke Curren, and Tessa Galvin**.

2026 ND FBLA — Collegiate President.  
All members earned the right to advance to the National FBLA — Collegiate conference, which will be held in Dallas, Texas, from May 31 to June 2.

### Individual event winners

Business Communication, third place, Nate Olson  
Computer Applications, second place, Luke Curren  
Foundations of Accounting, first place, Connor Radtke; fifth place, Kyleigh Wiltse  
Foundations of Communications, second place, Tessa Galvin; third place, Shaylie Holen  
Foundations of Economics, second place, Nate

Olson  
Foundations of Entrepreneurship, first place, Luke Curren; second place, Jersey Johnson  
Foundations of Finance, first place, Nate Olson; third place, Connor Radtke  
Foundations of Hospitality Management, first place, Marissa Beck  
Foundations of Management, second place, Marissa Beck  
Foundations of Marketing, third place, Jersey Johnson  
Foundations of Selling, first place, Jack Johnson  
Foundations of Technology, first place, Luke Curren  
Impromptu Speaking, first place, Cambry Ankenbauer; second place, Tessa Galvin  
Job Interview, first

place, Jack Johnson  
Organizational Behavior and Leadership, fifth place, Kyle Sandy  
Public Speaking, first place, Jack Johnson  
Sports Management and Marketing, fourth place, Shaylie Holen  
**Team event winners:**  
Accounting Case Competition, first place, Cambry Ankenbauer, Connor Radtke, Emma Taylor  
Business Presentation, first place, Jersey Johnson, Kyle Sandy, Alec Wolf  
Emerging Business Issues, second place, Marissa Beck, Kyle Sandy; third place, Shaylie Holen, Kyleigh Wiltse  
Hospitality Management Case Competition, first place, Tessa Galvin and Alec Wolf

# Minot State Hosts AGT CEO for Entrepreneurship Talk

By **SAIF KHAN**  
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Murad Al Katib, president and CEO of AGT Food and Ingredients Inc., spoke at Minot State University on March 25, sharing his journey of building a company and offering lessons for aspiring entrepreneurs. His presentation was open to students, faculty, and the community.

Al Katib founded AGT in 2001, growing it from a small startup into a billion-dollar global enterprise that processes pulses into ingredients and packaged foods through a vertical supply chain. AGT has had a presence in North Dakota for nearly 20 years, including a decade in Minot.

Al Katib's expertise extends beyond AGT Foods. He is a strategic thinker in agri-food and finance and serves on the Industry Strategy Council of the Government of Canada. He also chairs the Advisory Board for Canada's trade minister. His board memberships include the Asia Pacific Foundation of Canada, the Plant Based Foods Association of Canada, and the Saudi Arabia Milling Company. A graduate of the Rottman Institute of



Submitted Photo  
Minot State students attend a talk with **Murad Al Katib** on March 25 on the campus of Minot State University.

Corporate Directors ICD course, Al Katib advocates for sustainable agriculture and social change.

Also present at the event were Clint Severson and Conni Ahart, founders of the Severson Entrepreneurship Academy. Severson, a 1973 Minot State alumnus

and former CEO of Abaxis, and Ahart, whose \$1 million gift launched the program, continue to support it. Their ongoing commitment has expanded the academy into a full bachelor's degree program with internships and a modern learning space, providing

significant opportunities for Minot State students.  
During his speech, Al Katib addressed critical issues such as food security and inflation, encouraging students to view entrepreneurship as a catalyst for innovation and inclusion. He advocated for the involvement of women, youth, and First Nations in business startups, blending business acumen with a vision for a better future. The talk resonated as a call to action for many, particularly students interested in starting their own businesses.  
Stephan Tao, a finance major who attended the event, said he learned about how businesses operate and what it takes to be a CEO at a major company. Many other students also found the event valuable, gaining firsthand insight into the mindset of a CEO.  
Al Katib's visit highlights Minot State's commitment to preparing students for future challenges and opportunities. Severson and Ahart, who regularly return to campus to share their experiences, also provide significant support to Minot State students. Their academy has become a cornerstone of the university, continuing to develop the next generation of leaders.

# April 15 – FAFSA Priority deadline for Minot State

The 2025-2026 FAFSA, Free Application for Federal Student Aid is available at studentaid.gov. The FAFSA is a free application that must be completed each academic year and is used to determine what federal aid you are eligible to receive. The 2025-2026 FAFSA is for the fall 2025, spring 2026 and summer 2026 semesters.  
To complete the application, you will need your StudentAid.gov username and password, your 2023 income tax information, current balances of your assets and investments, records of child support received, your contributor information and the MSU School Code: 002994. Your assets include current balances of cash, savings and checking accounts. Net worth is your investments in stocks and bonds, your businesses and farms. A contributor refers to anyone (you, your spouse, biological parents or adoptive parents or your parent's spouse) who is required to provide information on the FAFSA form.

A contributor is invited to the students FAFSA by email. You will need the contributor's first and last name, social security number, date of birth and email address. Consent and approval are needed to electronically import 2023 federal tax information into your FAFSA. To maximize your financial aid eligibility, please submit your FAFSA by April 8 to meet the MSU April 15th priority deadline. FAFSA's filed after April 15 will still be accepted but your eligibility may be limited to the Federal Pell Grant and Federal Student Loans. If you have any questions, please contact the MSU Financial Aid Office at 701-858-3375. We are available from 8-4:30 pm, Monday – Friday, to assist you with any financial aid questions. Our office is located on the second floor of the MSU Administrative building, and an appointment is not needed.



Red and Green Photo  
A view of the student art show installation at the Northwest Arts Center's Walter Piehl Gallery.

# Northwest Arts Center presents 2025 juried student art show

By **VERONICA COREY**  
Specialist I  
Communication and Marketing  
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The Northwest Arts Center proudly presents new work by Minot State University Students. The Annual Juried Student Art Show opens with a public reception on March 27, and is on view until April 24, 2025.

The exhibition has been an annual campus tradition since the 1970s and is key to preparing students for a professional gallery experience. Students gain valuable skills in preparing their artworks and will see the results firsthand in the Northwest Arts Center's Walter Piehl Gallery.

The opportunity provides students across all disciplines and majors the ability to showcase their skill, creativity, and dedication. Students can submit work in any medium, and entries this year span painting, drawing, photography, ceramics, sculpture, mixed media collage, and more. presentation of their hard work and resulting skills.

"This will be the first exhibition since students have been back in the Art Department," says Northwest Arts Center Director Greg Vettel, referencing the recent Hartnett Hall renovation. "We're excited to see student artwork created in our new space for the first time."

The competition invites area and regional artists, educators, and other art professionals to serve as jurors each year. This year the Northwest Arts Center is excited to welcome Rachel Alfaro, local museum professional and MSU Alumna. Alfaro is the Executive Director of the Taube Museum of Art in Minot, ND. She currently serves on the board of the Minot Area Council on the Arts and

is the Board President of the North Dakota Art Gallery Association. Originally from Florida, Alfaro has called North Dakota home since 2012 and has a B.F.A in Traditional Arts from Minot State University. She is a mixed-media textile artist, arts advocate, and mother of two.  
A public reception and online viewing will be held on Thursday, March 27 from 6:30-8:00 p.m. Scheduled is a juror's talk with Alfaro and awards presentation at 7:00 pm. The reception can be attended either in person or online from the Northwest Arts Center's Facebook Live.  
The exhibitions are available for viewing Tuesday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Saturday 1-5 p.m. It is closed on holidays. The Walter Piehl Gallery is located on the lower level of the Gordon B. Olson Library at Minot State University, with its own entrance on the south side of the library. The exhibition and related events are free and open to the public.  
The Northwest Arts Center and programming is supported in part by a grant from the North Dakota Council on the Arts, which receives funding from the state legislature and the National Endowment for the Arts.  
The Northwest Arts Center is a non-profit arts center operating on the campus of Minot State University. The Center houses the Walter Piehl Gallery, a public reception area, and climate-controlled collections storage and display for Minot State University's Permanent Art Collection and Native American Collections. Over the years the Center has enriched the artistic life of northwest North Dakota with year-round art exhibitions, a performing arts series, a public lecture series, and numerous workshops and artists-in-residence activities.



# Wride runs away with second NSIC title

MANKATO, Minn. – Last winter, as a fantastic freshman, Bailey Wride made a splash at her first-ever NSIC Championship meet by winning the title in the women’s 600 meters.

Now a sensational sophomore, Wride is champion once again, this time racing to the women’s 1,000-meter title at the NSIC Indoor Track and Field Championships, which concluded Saturday and was hosted by Minnesota State, Mankato.

Entering the weekend championship meet with the top time in the event this season, Wride moved into the finals with the fourth-best qualifying time in Friday’s preliminaries, a time of 3 minutes, 0.88 seconds.

In Saturday’s finals, Wride raced to the win in a new Minot State record time of 2:55.63, finishing just ahead of Northern State’s Summer Carlson who clocked a time of 2:55.87.

Wride’s teammate, Sidra Sadowsky, finished 4th in the event in 3:01.19 for the Beavers who racked up an impressive 15 team points in that one event.



SPX Photo

Minot State’s **Bailey Wride** races to the NSIC title in the 1,000 meters Saturday at the NSIC Indoor Track and Field Championships in a school-record time of 2:55.63.

The 1,000 meters Beavers as Peyton Tuhy 2:32.37, scoring 4 team points for the Minot State men’s team. Those 4 points were all the Beaver men’s team mustered at the highly

competitive NSIC Championships as the Minot State men were 11th in the team standings. Host Minnesota State, Mankato won the men’s team title with 206.5 points.

On the women’s side, the Beavers finished 10th with 18 points. The Minnesota State, Mankato women also claimed the team title with 254.5 points.

Bailey Wride figured into all the Beaver women’s team points as she and Sadowsky teamed with Afton Wride and Emily Mattern on Friday to help the Minot State women’s distance medley relay team earn 2 team points with a 7th-place finish in 12:19.27. Bailey Wride teamed with Mattern, Summer Krebsbach, and Camryn Adams in the women’s 4x400 relay, which was 8th in 4:01.92, scoring 1 team point.

The NSIC Championships wrapped up the indoor season for the Minot State track and field team, which now gets a few weeks off to prepare for the outdoor season that begins in Arizona with the Beavers competing at the Willie Williams Classic, March 21-22.



Emily Light



Haleigh Lematta



Pua Beebe



Skye Shelmerdine

## Quartet of Minot State women wrestlers named Scholar All-Americans

While the third-year Minot State women’s wrestling team enjoyed another successful season on the mats that saw the Beavers qualify for the national tournament for a third straight year, the Beavers also excelled as student-athletes.

Competing hard on the mats, and working hard in the classroom, four Minot State women’s wrestlers earned special honors from the National Wrestling Coaches Association (NWCA) on Thursday as Pua Beebe, Haleigh Lematta, Emily Light, and Skye Shelmerdine each received the 2025 NCAA Women’s Scholar All-American Award.

To be eligible for the honor, a

wrestler must have competed in at least 15 varsity matches and maintain a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.5, be a national qualifier with a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.25, or place in the top eight at nationals and maintain a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.0.

The Beavers’ Beebe, a freshman Nursing major from Honolulu, Hawaii, Light, a sophomore Biology major from Fargo, North Dakota, and Shelmerdine, a sophomore Entrepreneurship major from Kalispell, Montana, each earned the honor as they competed in at least 15 matches this season while maintaining a cumulative GPA of 3.5, or

higher.

As for Lematta, a junior Composite Science Education major from Fessenden, North Dakota, she qualified for the NCWWC National Tournament for the second straight year where she finished 1-2 in the 145-pound weight class, while maintaining at least a 3.25 GPA, or higher, to earn the Scholar All-American Award.

Beebe, Lematta, Light, and Shelmerdine become the first four Minot State women’s wrestlers named NCAA Women’s Scholar All-American Award winners in the program’s three-year history.

## MEN’S HOCKEY

### No. 6 Adrian 4, No. 1 Minot State 0

ST. LOUIS, Mo. – The team the Beavers beat for title No. 3 put an end to Minot State’s current quest for a 4th ACHA National Championship.

The sixth-ranked Adrian Bulldogs erupted for three goals in the middle period Monday night, skating away with a 4-0 win over top-ranked Minot State in the semifinals of ACHA National Tournament.

Reigning national champion Adrian now plays No. 2-ranked UNLV for the title Tuesday night, while the Beavers see their season end two wins short of their goal: A fourth ACHA National Championship.

Adrian goalie Noah Decottingnies was the star of the night as he turned aside chance after chance for Minot State, which doubled-up shots on goal through the first half of the game, but it was Hunter Allen who broke the scoreless tie with 7 minutes, 45 seconds left in the middle stanza, netting what proved to be the game-winner.

Adrian rode the momentum of that first goal for a quick surge as Cash Regan made it 2-0 3:19 later, then Cameron Armstrong put the Bulldogs up 3-0 with 24 seconds left in period No. 2.

Adrian added one more goal 6 minutes into the third period to ice the win, a victory backstopped by Decottingnies who made 43 saves in the shutout.

Jake Anthony turned aside 22 shots in goal for Minot State, which beat Adrian 1-0 in the 2022-23 national championship game, the last head-to-head meeting between the two teams.

### No. 1 Minot State 4, No. 17 Purdue Northwest 1

ST. LOUIS, Mo. – An forget-

table opening night at the ACHA National Tournament for the No. 1-ranked Minot State men’s hockey team ended happily one day later.

Hitting the ice Friday night for their first game at nationals against No. 17 Purdue Northwest, the Beavers grabbed a 1-0 lead in the first period before a tornado warning postponed play until Saturday afternoon.

Back on the ice about 19 hours after the first intermission began, the Beavers (37-4-1 overall) played unfazed by the day-long delay as Minot State skated to a 4-1 win and into a Sunday quarterfinal matchup against an opponent yet to be determined.

Minot State will play the winner of Saturday night’s late game between No. 9 Drury and No. 8 Utah. Puck-drop for the Beavers’ quarterfinal game Sunday night is scheduled for 8 p.m.

Christian Kadolph scored off an assist from Slade Stanick with 5 minutes, 14 seconds left in the first period, giving the Beavers the 1-0 lead after the first period, then the tornado warning put action on hold.

When both teams returned to the ice Saturday afternoon, it took Minot State just 1:15 to pad its lead as Colby Joseph scored off assists from Walker Jerome and Logan Cyca, which proved to be the game-winner.

Brett Tataryn stretched the lead to 3-0, finishing off assists from Austin Clyne and Stanick midway through the session before the Pride got on the board with a power-play goal with 6:14 left on the third.

Purdue Northwest would not get any closer, though, as Minot State’s Josh Pederson iced the win midway through the third period, finishing off the third assist of the night by Stanick.

Jake Anthony made 25 saves in goal in the win for the Beavers.

### Minot State 2, Jamestown 1

BLOOMINGTON, Ill. – Joey Moffatt scored 1:10 into overtime to give the Minot State Beavers a 2-1 victory over the University of Jamestown Jimmies in the championship game of the MCH Conference Tournament on Sunday, Feb. 23. Moffatt was named the tournament MVP. The Beavers trailed 1-0 after the first period but tied the game on Colby Joseph’s goal with just under three minutes left in regulation. Minot State won the MCH title in its first year in the conference.

### Minot State 10, Illinois State 2

BLOOMINGTON, Ill. – Colby Joseph scored four goals to lead the Minot State Beavers to a 10-2 victory over the Illinois State Redbirds on Saturday, Feb. 22, in the semifinals of the MCH Conference Tournament. The Beavers will face the University of Jamestown in the championship game on Sunday. Minot State led 2-1 after the first period and 8-1 after the second. Sheldin Howard, Trenton Curtis, Matthew Yakubowski, Reid Arnold, Joey Moffatt, and Payton Jerome also scored for the Beavers.

### Minot State 4, Iowa State 1

BLOOMINGTON, Ill. – William Dyke made 22 saves, and the Minot State Beavers defeated the Iowa State Cyclones 4-1 on Friday, Feb. 21, to advance to the semifinals of the MCH Conference Tournament. Trenton Curtis, Matthew Yakubowski, Walker Jerome, and Reid Arnold scored for the Beavers, who improved to 34-2-3. Dyke improved his record to 13-0-1 with the win. The Beavers will face the University of Jamestown in the semifinals on Saturday.

## MEN’S GOLF

### Minot State Sits Seventh After Opening Round at NSIC Preview

BLUE SPRINGS, Mo. – The Minot State men’s golf team wrapped up the first day of the NSIC Conference Preview in strong position, sitting seventh out of 18 teams after posting a team score of 5-over 293 on Monday at Adams Pointe Golf Club.

Leading the way for the Beavers were Jace Carlisle and Chase Gedak, who each carded an even-par 72 to finish the day tied for 18th overall.

Zach Hendrickson turned in a solid round of 2-over 74 and is currently tied for 40th, while Max Karnik shot a 3-over 75 and is tied for 53rd. Darien Herlick rounded out the team score with an 83, sitting in 108th place at 10-over.

Competing as an individual, Winston Grayson matched Karnik’s 3-over 75 and is also tied for 53rd.

Winona State currently leads the team standings with an impressive 4-under 284, while Thomas Gutzmer of Concordia-St. Paul leads the individual field after firing a 5-under 67.

The Beavers look to climb the leaderboard during Tuesday’s final round.

### Minot State men finish 12th at spring-opening tournament

GOODYEAR, Ariz. – Playing as an individual, Minot State senior Max Karnik made a strong second-day charge with an even-par round, climbing into the Top 20 to finish tied for 16th at the Maverick Desert Classic.

Karnik finished at 2-over 146 (74-72), leading the scores for the Beavers, though his total didn’t factor in Minot State’s team score.

The Minot State men’s golf team finished 12th as the Beavers shot a team total of 31-over 607 (293-314).

While Karnik had the top finish for the Minot State men, Chase Gedak led the way in the Beavers’ team-counting scores as he tied for 24th at 4-over 148 (71-77), and Jace Carlisle was next, tying for 37th at 7-over 151 (72-79).

Zach Hendrickson and Darien Herlick were next for the Beavers as they tied for 52nd with matching 36-hole scores of 10-over 154, and Winston Grayson rounded out the team scores as he finished 78th at 25-over 169 (81-88). Hendrickson shot back-to-back rounds of 77 while Herlick carded a 73 and an 81.

Also in the field and playing as individuals for Minot State were Gage Olson and Cameron Schwab who finished 79th and 80th, respectively. Olson shot 27-over 171 (88-83) and Schwab shot 30-over 174 (84-90).

The Concordia, St. Paul men claimed the team title with a one-shot victory over Rockhurst as the Golden Bears finished at 7-over 583 (292-291) as a team.

Bemidji State’s Brogan Paschal was the individual tournament champion, claiming medalist honors by four shots with a two-day total of 6-under 138 (71-67).

**Minot State men’s golf opens spring strong, 4 shots off tournament lead**

GOODYEAR, Ariz. – The Minot State men’s golf team finds itself in the race for first place in the spring-opening Maverick Desert Classic after shooting a team-total of 5-over 293 on Monday.

The Beavers sit in a three-way tie for sixth with tournament host Minnesota State, Mankato, and Benedictine-Mesa, but all three teams are just four shots back of tournament leading Augustana, which fired a 1-over 289 on Monday at the Palm Valley Golf Club.

The final round of the tournament tees off Tuesday.

Leading the way for the Beavers on the first day of the spring season was senior Chase Gedak who is tied for seventh individual with a 1-under 71 total for the first 18 holes.

Teammate Jace Carlisle, a graduate student, is one shot behind him in 12th at even-par 72, while freshman Darien Herlick shot a 1-over 73 on Monday and is tied for 19th for the Beavers.

Eric Klutke from Benedictine-Mesa leads the individual standings by one shot after a 4-under 68. Emmet Hansen of Augustana sits in second place at 3-under 69.

While the trio of Gedak, Carlisle, and Herlick set the tone for the Beavers’ team score, Zach Hendrickson helped out by shooting a 5-over 77 and is tied for 55th, and Winston Grayson added a 9-over 81 and is tied for 72nd.

Playing as individuals and not figuring into the Minot State men’s team score were Max Karnik, Cameron Schwab, and Gage Olson. Karnik is tied for 24th after a 2-over 74 on Monday while Schwab is 80th at 12-over 84 and Olson is 81st at 16-over 88.



# MSU Baseball hits road to start season

## Wayne State (NE) 22, Minot State 6

WAYNE, Neb. – Oscar Pegg homered and drove in a run, and Grant Gabbert doubled and drove in a run, but the Minot State Beavers were defeated by the Wayne State Wildcats 22-6 on Sunday.

Wyatt Toth (1-3) took the loss on the mound. Jake Orthner also drove in two runs for Minot State. Connor Hunt drove in four runs for Wayne State, and Josh Kilzer pitched five innings for the Wildcats.

## Minot State 7, Wayne State (NE) 5

WAYNE, Neb. – Colton Bagshaw had three hits and an RBI, and Noah Madas drove in two runs as the Minot State Beavers defeated the Wayne State Wildcats 7-5 on Sunday.

Anthony Disantis (2-0) earned the win, pitching five innings. Ian Bauer pitched a scoreless inning in relief. Seugjun Song doubled for Minot State. Kaden Young tripled and drove in a run for Wayne State. Kadyan Van Hill pitched two shutout innings for the Wildcats.

## Wayne State (NE) 8, Minot State 3

WAYNE, Neb. – Grant Gabbert homered and drove in a run, but the Minot State Beavers fell to the Wayne State Wildcats 8-3 in an NSIC game on Saturday, March 22.

Colton Bagshaw took the loss on the mound. Griffin Shearon pitched three innings of relief for the Beavers. Chase Douglas homered and drove in three runs for Wayne State.

## Minot State 8, Wayne State 7

WAYNE, Neb. – Michael Williamson homered, doubled, and drove in three runs as the Minot State Beavers rallied to defeat the Wayne State Wildcats 8-7 on Saturday, March 22.

Oscar Pegg also doubled and drove in a run for the Beavers. Conner Meldrim earned the win in relief, and Ayden Sauerbrei earned the save. Kaden Young homered and drove in three runs for Wayne State.

## Winona State 8, Minot State 0

TUCSON, Ariz. – The Minot State Beavers were shut out by the Winona State Warriors 8-0 in the first game of an NSIC doubleheader on Sunday, March 16.

The Beavers managed only six hits and could not score. Winona State scored six runs in the third inning and two in the fourth.

## Minot State 16, Winona State 5

TUCSON, Ariz. – Oscar Pegg hit two home runs and drove in two runs, and Noah Madas drove in six as the Minot State Beavers

defeated the Winona State Warriors 16-5 in seven innings in the second game of an NSIC doubleheader on Sunday, March 16.

Brent Riddle went 5-for-8 on the day, and Oscar Pegg was 6-for-8 in the doubleheader. Michael Williams drove in two runs, and Jake Orthner had three RBIs for the Beavers, who scored three runs in the first inning and led 7-1 after the second. Wyatt Toth earned the win, pitching five innings.

## Minot State 14, Winona State 9

TUCSON, Ariz. – Brent Riddle homered and drove in two runs, and Michael Williamson homered and drove in three as the Minot State Beavers defeated the Winona State Warriors 14-9 on Friday, March 14, in a neutral-site NSIC doubleheader.

Javier Gutierrez also homered and drove in two runs for the Beavers, who scored two runs in the second, four in the third, four in the fourth, and three in the fifth. Colton Bagshaw earned the win, and Hayden Bode pitched a scoreless inning in relief. Every Minot State starter reached base safely. Adam Wall drove in two runs for Winona State.

## Minot State 16, Winona State 8

TUCSON, Ariz. – Brent Riddle homered and doubled, and Oscar Pegg drove in four runs as the Minot State Beavers defeated the Winona State Warriors 16-8 to complete a doubleheader sweep on Friday, March 14.

Minot State scored five runs in the second inning and six in the fifth. Michael Williamson had three hits and three RBIs, and Oscar Pegg also had three hits. Ian Bauer earned the win in relief, and Noah Balandran earned the save with 3 2/3 scoreless innings of relief.

## Minot State 11, Northern State 0, 7 innings

TUCSON, Ariz. – Grant Gabbert had three hits, including a triple, as the Minot State Beavers defeated the Northern State Wolves 11-0 in seven innings on Wednesday, March 12, at the Tucson Invitational.

Anthony Disantis earned the win, pitching five scoreless innings. Noah Balandran and Alex Engel also pitched scoreless innings for the Beavers. Oscar Pegg added a double and three RBIs, and Noah Madas drove in two runs for Minot State. The Beavers scored four runs in the first inning and four more in the second.

## Southwest Minnesota State 4, Minot State 3, 8 innings

TUCSON, Ariz. – Grant Gabbert drove in two runs, but the

Minot State Beavers fell to Southwest Minnesota State 4-3 in eight innings on Wednesday, March 12, at the Tucson Invitational.

Minot State took a 3-0 lead in the second inning, but Southwest Minnesota State rallied for the win. Grant Gabbert had two hits and two RBIs for the Beavers. Michael Williamson also had two hits. Jake Seibert took the loss on the mound. Ian Bauer pitched two scoreless innings in relief. Henry Hammrich homered for Southwest Minnesota State.

## Minot State 10, Winona State 9

TUCSON, Ariz. – The Minot State baseball team scored early and often, then held strong to topple Winona State 10-9 in a non-conference contest in Arizona on Tuesday.

Oscar Pegg was a one-man wrecking crew for the Beavers (6-4 overall, 2-2 NSIC) as he went 2-for-5 with a double, a home run, and 5 RBIs in the victory. Minot State got things rolling in the top of the first as Connor Hill singled and scored, Pegg plated two with a double, then Javier Gutierrez made it 4-0 with an RBI single before the Warriors (6-2, 4-0) even grabbed a bat.

Winona State got two runs back in the bottom half of the inning, but the Beavers went back to work in the third and fourth innings, padding the lead.

Shane Kary and Michael Williamson each singled home a run and Seungjun Song added an RBI groundout in the top of the third, then Pegg blasted a 3-run home run in the top of the fourth for a 10-2 Minot State lead.

Then it was hang-on time as the Warriors got three back in their half of the fourth, two more in the sixth, and closed to 10-9 down in the eighth before Minot State shut down the comeback to score the win.

Brent Riddle added three hits in the victory, while Madas and Williamson each had a pair of base knocks for the Beavers.

Devin Marton (2-0) earned the win for Minot State, pitching a scoreless fifth inning and striking out two, and Conner Meldrim pitched a perfect ninth, striking out two to earn his first save of the season.

## Concordia-Saint Paul 10, Minot State 6

TUCSON, Ariz. – Despite all nine starters reaching base, the Minot State Beavers fell to the Concordia-Saint Paul Golden Bears 10-6 in the second game of a doubleheader on Sunday, March 9, at the Tucson Invitational.

Oscar Pegg had two hits and two RBIs, and Brent Riddle added a double and an RBI for the Beavers. Connor Hill also had two hits. Wyatt Toth took the loss on the mound. Ayden Sauerbrei pitched three scoreless innings

in relief. Charlie Harms drove in two runs for Concordia-Saint Paul.

## Concordia-Saint Paul 8, Minot State 2

TUCSON, Ariz. - Brent Riddle had three hits, but the Minot State Beavers fell to the Concordia-Saint Paul Golden Bears 8-2 on Sunday, March 9, at the Tucson Invitational.

Shane Kary had two hits and an RBI, and Oscar Pegg added two hits and an RBI for the Beavers. Connor Hill took the loss on the mound. Anthony Disantis pitched two scoreless innings in relief. Kal Brohmer had four hits and an RBI for Concordia-Saint Paul.

## Minot State 5, Concordia-Saint Paul 4

TUCSON, Ariz. - The Minot State Beavers rallied for a 5-4 walk-off victory over the Concordia-Saint Paul Golden Bears in 10 innings on Saturday, March 8, at the Tucson Invitational.

Michael Williamson's RBI single tied the game in the eighth inning, and Seungjun Song's walk-off walk scored Colton Bagshaw in the 10th. Conner Meldrim earned the win in relief. Jake Seibert pitched three solid innings for the Beavers. Will Husemann homered and drove in two runs for Concordia-Saint Paul.

## Minot State 17, Concordia-Saint Paul 10

TUCSON, Ariz. - Shane Kary had four hits and three RBIs, and Brent Riddle drove in four runs, including a home run and a double, as the Minot State Beavers defeated the Concordia-Saint Paul Golden Bears 17-10 on Saturday, March 8, at the Tucson Invitational.

Michael Williamson added two doubles and three RBIs for the Beavers, who scored 10 runs in the third inning. Colton Bagshaw earned the win, and Conner Meldrim pitched a scoreless inning in relief. Every Minot State starter reached base safely. Bennett McCollow homered and drove in three runs for Concordia-Saint Paul.

## Minot State 17, Bethany Lutheran 7, 7 innings

TUCSON, Ariz.– Connor Hill had five hits and three RBIs, and Gunnar Kozlowitz drove in five runs, including a home run and a double, as the Minot State Beavers defeated the Bethany Lutheran Vikings 17-7 in seven innings on Wednesday, March 5, at the Tucson Invitational.

The Beavers racked up 23 hits in the game. Devin Marton earned the win in relief, pitching a scoreless inning. Anthony Disantis also pitched two scoreless innings. Shane Kary added

three hits and two RBIs for Minot State. The Beavers scored in six different innings and invoked the 10-run rule with a run in the seventh.

## Gustavus Adolphus 6, Minot State 5

TUCSON, Ariz. – Connor Hill drove in three runs, but the Minot State Beavers fell to the Gustavus Adolphus Gusties 6-5 on Tuesday, March 4, at the Tucson Invitational.

Shane Kary homered for the Beavers, who scored four runs in the seventh inning and one in the ninth. Wyatt Toth took the loss on the mound. Conner Meldrim pitched three scoreless innings in relief. Brady Schmitz drove in two runs for Gustavus Adolphus.

## Mount Marty 2, Minot State 1

TUCSON, Ariz. – Connor Hill struck out 13 in seven scoreless innings, but the Minot State Beavers fell to the Mount Marty Lancers 2-1 in a walk-off loss on Sunday, March 2 at the Tucson Invitational.

Gunnar Kozlowitz had two hits and an RBI for the Beavers, who took a 1-0 lead in the third inning. Gage Eastlick took the loss in relief. Palmer Jacobs pitched a complete game for Mount Marty. Jackson Noem had three hits and an RBI for the Lancers.

## Minot State 9, La Sierra 6

TUCSON, Ariz. – The Minot State Beavers defeated the La Sierra Golden Eagles 9-6 on Sunday, March 2, at the Tucson Invitational. Every Minot State starter reached base safely. Jacob Thompson earned the win, pitching five innings and allowing three runs. Noah Balandran earned the save with two scoreless innings. Grant Gabbert and Connor Hill each had three hits. Gabbert drove in three runs, and Hill had two doubles and an RBI. The Beavers scored four runs in the fifth inning to extend their lead.

## Minot State 18, Mount Marty 17

TUCSON, Ariz. – Brent Riddle had four hits and two RBIs, and Noah Madas drove in six runs, including a three-run homer, as the Minot State Beavers defeated the Mount Marty Lancers 18-17 in the season opener on Saturday March 1 at the Tucson Invitational. Ian Bauer earned the win in relief for Minot State, pitching 1.2 innings and allowing one run. Gunnar Kozlowitz added two hits, including a double, and three RBIs for the Beavers. Minot State scored five runs in the first inning and took the lead for good on Madas' homer in the seventh. Colton Bagshaw struck out seven for the Beavers. Minot State outit Mount Marty 17-13.

# Jake Swirple sixth in nation, earns second NCAA All-American honor

INDIANAPOLIS, Ind. – The memorable run for Minot State senior Jake Swirple came to an end with All-American honors and a sixth-place finish at the NCAA Division II Wrestling Championships on Saturday.

After back-to-back victories on Friday to advance to the national semifinals in the 285-pound weight class – becoming the first-ever Minot State wrestler to reach the NCAA national semifinals – Swirple finished his time at nationals with three straight setbacks on Saturday.

Battling for his shot at the national title, Swirple lost a 6-0 decision to No. 2-ranked Ryan Herman in the semifinals to start his final day of competition.

Knocked into the consolation bracket semifinal, the Minot State senior battled into overtime with No. 4-ranked Dorian Crosby from Gannon before a takedown in sudden-victory OT by Crosby led to a 4-1 loss for Swirple.

In the fifth-place match, Swirple battled unranked Freddie Retter from Kutztown. Retter



Jake Swirple

started his run at nationals with an upset win over No. 1-ranked Crew Howard from Nebraska-Kearney.

Retter won the fifth-place match by a 12-1 major decision, leaving Swirple in sixth place and with his second NCAA All-American honor in men's wrestling. Swirple also was an NCAA All-American following the 2022-23 season when he finished eighth at nationals. His sixth-place finish matches the all-time best NCAA National Tournament finish in Minot State history, equaling a sixth-place finish by Mitchell Full at the 2017-18 NCAA National Tournament.

# Minot State's Jake Swirple wins NCAA Super Region V title

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. - Minot State's Jake Swirple is heading back to the NCAA National Tournament, this time as a Super Region champion.

The Beavers senior, who advanced to the 2022-23 national tournament and earned All-American honors, is making a return trip to nationals after beating Luke Tweeton of Mary by a 9-3 decision in the 285-pound championship match Saturday at the NCAA Super Region V Tournament hosted by Augustana.

Swirple, ranked No. 9 in the nation by the NWCA at heavyweight, becomes the Beavers' second Super Region champion, joining Mitchell Full who also won the heavyweight title at the Super Region 3 Tournament in February 2018. Swirple advances to the NCAA National Tournament held March 13-14 in Indianapolis, Indiana.

While Swirple claimed the heavyweight crown, four other Beavers finished on the podium, but none earned a trip to nationals.

Seniors Wayne Joint and Cannon Potts both finished fifth at 133 and 197, respectively, while fellow senior Brendan Barnes was sixth at 165 pounds.

Those podium finishes helped the Beavers place 8th with 41.5 team points, tying with Northern State. No. 1 ranked St. Cloud State won the team title with 133.5 points.

Swirple's run to the title began with 1-0 decision win over Northern State's Nathan Schauer in the quarterfinals, then he added a 4-1 win by decision over Max Balow of Augustana in the semifinals, earning him a return trip to nationals.

With business unfinished, the Beavers' big man dominated in the championship match, rolling to a 9-3 decision over No. 8-ranked Tweeton for the title. Coming close to joining Swirple in a trip to nationals was Barnes at 165 pounds as he cruised to a 7-2 win by decision over Payton Handevitd of Augustana in the quarterfinals, then battled even with No. 7-ranked Dajun Johnson of Wisconsin Parkside through seven minutes of action in the semifinals.

Tied 1-1 at the end of regulation, as each wrestler came up with an escape, Johnson won in a sudden-victory overtime period with a takedown 26 seconds into the extra session.

Back-to-back setbacks in the consolation bracket left Barnes sixth after the near miss at nationals.

As for Joint and Potts, both lost in the quarterfinals then battled to give themselves a shot in the consolation bracket before each settled for fifth-place finishes.

After an opening 11-0 major decision win for Joint over Chase Hanson

from Southwest Minnesota State, the Beaver senior was knocked into the consolation bracket where he beat Clay Gates of Northern State by an 8-4 decision, then Owen Hansen of Augustana by a 5-3 decision.

Competing for a spot in the third-place match and a shot at nationals, Reece Barnhardt from Mary ended up with a 12-1 major-decision win that sent Joint into the fifth-place match, instead, where he prevailed with a 4-2 decision win over Matthew Chi from Wisconsin Parkside.

As for Potts, he opened the tournament with a quarterfinal loss then battled back with a 1-0 win by decision over Tyson Lien of Northern State and a win by pin in 22 seconds of Kody Marschner from Southwest Minnesota State.

Fighting for his spot in the third-place match and a shot at nationals, Potts lost a 5-4 decision to Mary's Matt Kaylor and had to settle for fifth place with an 8-5 win by decision over Geoffrey Freeman from Upper Iowa.

While those four Beaver seniors placed at the Super Region V Tournament, Ethan Wonsler added one more victory for Minot State in the 149-pound bracket as he won by pin in 4:17 over Beau Daily of Minnesota State Moorhead in a consolation match.

# Jake Swirple selected by Alabama Beavers of IFA

Minot State senior offensive lineman and two-time NCAA All-American wrestler Jake Swirple is getting his shot to compete at the next level.

Swirple heard his named called during the International Football Alliance's inaugural 2025 Draft on Saturday by the Alabama Beavers and will

be heading to Huntsville, Alabama to join the Beavers as the IFA kicks off its inaugural season in May.

The six team professional league will play an eight-game season with the Alabama Beavers hosting the Tampa Bay Tornadoes on May 31 in week 1. The season concludes July 26.

Other teams include the Dallas Pioneros and San Antonio Caballeros, both in Texas, the Chihuahua Rebellion in Mexico, and the Ohio Valley Ironmen in West Virginia.

And the new league also has a seventh team already scheduled to begin play in 2026, the Arkansas Storm.



# Beavers land former UND head man Chris Logan to lead women’s soccer

One of the Beavers’ most successful programs in NCAA history looks to be in good hands moving forward.

Minot State’s Vice President for Student Affairs and Intercollegiate Athletics, Kevin Harmon, is pleased to introduce former University of North Dakota soccer coach Chris Logan, as the fourth head coach in the history of the Minot State women’s soccer program.

“I am excited to bring Coach Logan to Minot State University,” Harmon said. “Chris was impressive throughout the search process, and he is someone who can lead our program to even more success at the conference and national levels. We believe we can be a program that can compete for a national championship, and Chris possesses the skill-set to help us achieve our program goals.

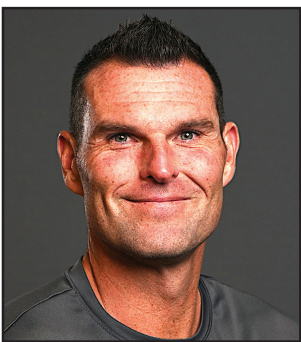
“Mr. Logan also will be an excellent fit culturally within our department. He treats others with respect and is a true professional. I can’t wait to see him working with our student-athletes!”

Logan begins his duties with the Beaver women’s soccer program on Monday.

“I’m really excited to be taking over the program,” Logan said after accepting the position Wednesday. “It’s a program with a rich tradition of success, and there certainly are some huge footsteps to fill, but I’m excited to continue that success.”

Minot State’s program began in the fall of 2010 and has compiled a 154-92-38 all-time record that includes trips to the NCAA Division II National Tournament in 2013, 2015, 2016, and 2018, along with winning the NSIC regular season championship in 2016 and the NSIC Tournament championship in 2012.

Logan has enjoyed plenty of success, spending the past nine seasons as an NCAA Division I coach, including the last eight seasons as the head women’s soccer coach at the University of North



Chris Logan

Dakota where he compiled a 49-68-24 record, the most career wins by a head coach in Fighting Hawks’ history.

Taking over the program in 2017, Logan was named Big Sky Coach of the Year as North Dakota went from just two wins the season before to a 6-8-4 record.

Joining the Summit League the following season, Logan guided his team to a 9-6-2 mark in 2018, and a 10-8-1 record in 2019. The 10-win season is the third-most single-season wins in program history.

During his time at North Dakota, Logan also coached All-American Katie Moller (2017, 2018) and Academic All-American Olivia Swenson (2018).

Prior to taking over the Fighting Hawks program, Logan spent the 2016 season as the head coach at NCAA Division I Northern Iowa, leading the Panthers to an 8-8-3 record.

Key to that success has been Logan’s ability to adapt his team’s style of play to fit the talents of his players on the field, a factor that will dictate the style the Beavers play in the future.

“I think a lot of this depends on the makeup of the team and the personalities you have,” Logan said when asked what style of play fans can expect from Minot State. “Throughout my career I’ve been blessed to coach a variety of teams that have had different strengths.

“How do we maximize the strengths we have?” Minot State’s new coach added. “It’s going to be dictated by the attributes that we have.”

One thing Minot State

fans can expect, though, is for the Beavers to continue to be a stalwart on defense led by a former All-American goalkeeper himself as Logan’s collegiate coaching career began at Notre Dame College (Ohio) where he was the goalkeeper coach from 2003-06. He then spent a season as goalkeeper coach at Lake Erie College (Ohio) before serving as an assistant for both the men’s and women’s soccer teams at Slippery Rock (Pa.) from 2007-11, including spending time as interim men’s head coach.

Logan also spent the 2011 season as the top assistant for the women’s program at the University of Pittsburgh, then spent four seasons at North Dakota State, the final three as the associate head coach for the Bison women.

A native of Stoke-on-Trent, England, Logan played from 2002-06 at Notre Dame College where he was an All-American goalkeeper for the Falcons who won three conference championships and advanced to the NAIA Elite Eight in 2005. He earned his bachelor’s degree in English Language and Literature from Notre Dame in 2006 and his master’s degree in English Language and Literature from Slippery Rock in 2009.

Logan moves to Minot with his wife, Courtney, who is originally from Williston, and their 5-year-old son, Allister.

And while the Beavers’ new coach settles in with his family during the coming weeks, he also will address the immediate goals he faces taking over a Minot State team that’s advanced to the NSIC Tournament title game twice in the last three seasons.

“I think there has been a strong tradition at Minot with soccer and I think we want to continue that tradition and keep building on it,” Logan said.

“And we want to be the best version of ourselves that we can be; I think that’s going to be the goal for the program.”

# Minot State’s Caleb Van De Griend named to NABC All-District Team

Already named to one All-District all-star team for his play this past season, Minot State’s junior forward Caleb Van De Griend was named to the coaches’ 2024-25 NABC Division II Central All-District 1st Team on Monday.

The 6-foot-8 forward from Bridgetown, Australia set single-season school records for points with 752 and rebounds with 470 this season as he helped lead Minot State to a program-record 26 wins, and helped lead the Beavers to a first-ever NCAA National Tournament berth.

A four-time NSIC Player of the Week, he also set a single-game record with 22 rebounds against Winona State on January 3, and he leads the nation in rebounds per game (13.1 rpg), is 4th in field-goal percentage (70.83), and was 2nd in the NSIC in points per game (20.9).

Van De Griend was named to the All-NSIC 1st Team at the start of this month, and to the D2CCA Central All-Region 1st Team two weeks ago.

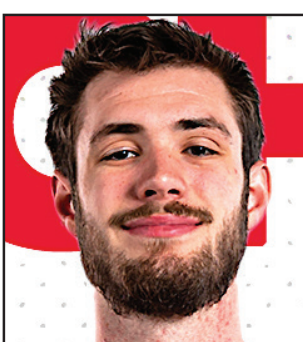
## Beavers forward Caleb Van De Griend on Bevo Francis Top 25 Watch List

Minot State junior forward Caleb Van De Griend continues to lead the way for the Minot State men’s basketball team and continues to be recognized as one of the best players in all non-NCAA Division I college basketball.

Van De Griend moved into an elite group as he was named to the “Bevo” Francis Award Top 25 Watch List on Saturday.

The Bevo Francis Award is presented annually to the player who has had the finest overall season within Small College Basketball – teams playing at the NCAA Division II, Division III, NAIA, USCAA, and NCAA levels.

Award criteria used to determine the award winner include season statistics and individual achievements, awards, personal character, and team achievements. Given to only one player each year, the award is in essence the



Caleb Van De Griend

MVP of all small college basketball.

The Finalists for the award will be announced on April 5, and the Bevo Francis Award itself will be presented on April 7.

Van De Griend set single-season school records for points with 724, and counting, and rebounds with 458, and counting, this season as he helped lead Minot State to a program-record 26 wins, and counting, and helped lead the Beavers to a first-ever NCAA National Tournament berth.

A four-time NSIC Player of the Week, he also set a single-game record with 22 rebounds against Winona State on January 3, and he leads the nation in rebounds per game (13.1 rpg) and is 4th in field-goal percentage (70.53), and was 2nd in the NSIC in points per game (20.7).

## MSU’s Caleb Van De Griend earns 1st Team All-NSIC honors

After a record-breaking season that earned him Player of the Week honors four times this winter, Minot State forward Caleb Van De Griend has been named an All-NSIC performer.

Van De Griend, a 6-foot-8 junior from Bridgetown, Australia, was voted to the All-NSIC 1st Team on Thursday by the league’s coaches.

The honor is the first for Van De Griend who led the Beavers averaging 20.6 points and 13.0 rebounds per game and who had 26 double-doubles during the regular season and the opening NSIC playoff game.

Van De Griend also led the NSIC in rebounds per game (13.0), in field-goal percentage shooting 71.6 percent (255-of-356), and was second in the league in

scoring average (20.6) in 32 games to date.

The Beavers’ 6-8 forward also broke the Minot State single-season scoring record with 659 points, and counting, the single-season rebounding record with 417, and counting, and set a single-game record with 22 rebounds in a triple-overtime win over Winona State on January 3.

Having picked up an 81-56 home win over Sioux Falls to open the NSIC Tournament on Wednesday night, Van De Griend and the Beavers (24-8 overall) are back in action in the NSIC Tournament on Saturday, March 1, at 4:30 p.m. as Minot State battles NSIC regular-season co-champion Concordia, St. Paul (21-7) at the Sanford Pentagon in Sioux Falls, S.D. in the quarterfinals.

## Minot State’s Caleb Van De Griend earns D2CCA All-Region honors

Junior forward Caleb Van De Griend helped lead the way on a season to remember for the Minot State men’s basketball team, and the honors for his play continue to roll in.

Already named 1st Team All-NSIC, the 6-foot-8 forward from Bridgetown, Australia was named to the D2CCA Central Region All-Region 1st Team today for the first time in his collegiate career. Van De Griend now becomes eligible for D2CCA All-American honors.

Van De Griend set single-season school records for points with 724, and counting, and rebounds with 458, and counting, this season as he helped lead Minot State to a program-record 26 wins, and counting, and helped lead the Beavers to a first-ever NCAA National Tournament berth.

A four-time NSIC Player of the Week, he also set a single-game record with 22 rebounds against Winona State on January 3, and he leads the nation in rebounds per game (13.1 rpg) and is 4th in field-goal percentage (70.53), and was 2nd in the NSIC in points per game (20.7).

# MEN’S BASKETBALL

## Minot State Men’s Basketball seasons ends in NCAA Division II tournament

### NCAA Division II Results:

### Concordia-St. Paul 83, Minot State 71

TOPEKA, Kan. – Caleb Van De Griend had a double-double with 28 points and 12 rebounds, but the Minot State Beavers fell to the Concordia-St. Paul Golden Bears 83-71 at Lee Arena on Saturday, March 15.

Jalen Cook scored 12 points, and Ayoub Berthe added 13 points for the Beavers, who finished their season with a 26-10 record. Minot State had 5 blocks in the game.

### Minnesota State-Moorhead 78, Minot State 66

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. – Caleb Van De Griend recorded a double-double with 24 points and 10 rebounds, but the Minot State Beavers fell to the Minnesota State-Moorhead Dragons 78-66 in the NSIC Championship game on Tuesday, March 4, at the Sanford Pentagon.

Sam West added 6 points and 7 rebounds, and Jaxon Gunville scored 11 points for the Beavers, who finished as runner-up. Minot State led by as many as 12 points in the first half but trailed 35-34 at halftime. The Dragons pulled away in the second half.

### NCAA BID ACHIEVED. Beavers advance to national tournament

TOPEKA, Kan. – It’s been a record-breaking season to remember for the Minot State men’s basketball team, and it’s not over yet.

Sunday night, the Beavers heard their name called for the first time ever during the NCAA Division II men’s basketball selection show and will be playing in the NCAA National Tournament on Saturday, March 15, in Kansas.

“I couldn’t be more excited for the men in our program,” Minot State head coach Matt Murken said. “They have worked extremely hard for this opportunity.

“This was one of the goals at the start of the season,” Murken added. “We have a few more that we still need to check off.”

Minot State (26-9 overall) earned the No. 4 seed in the Central Region and will play a familiar foe in NSIC rival Concordia, St. Paul (21-8). The Golden Bears also will be making their NCAA National Tournament debut.

The winner advances to the Central Region semifinals on Sunday, March 16, to face the winner of the Washburn Ichabods (26-3) versus the Harding Bison (22-9). The Ichabods are the No. 1 seed in the region and tournament host. Harding is the No. 8 seed.

The Central Region title game is slated for Tuesday, March 18. Game times and ticket information are yet to be released for the Central Region Tournament.

Other Saturday quarterfinal

match-ups include the No. 2 seed Minnesota State Moorhead (23-8) taking on No. 7 seed Hays State (22-9), and No. 3 seed Winona State (21-10) taking on No. 6 seed Southwest Minnesota State (21-8).

The Beavers set a program record with 26 wins this season, which included starting the season 17-0, also a program record. Minot State achieved an all-time high national ranking of No. 4 in the NABC Top 25 poll, and set single-season team records for points (2,824), rebounds (1,281), and 3-pointers (320) made this season, as well.

Minot State last advanced to nationals in 2008 when the Beavers qualified for the NAIA Division II men’s national tournament in Branson, Missouri.

## NSIC Tourney

### Minot State 72, Minnesota State 70

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. – Caleb Van De Griend had 24 points and 18 rebounds as the Minot State Beavers defeated the Minnesota State Mavericks 72-70 on Monday, Feb. 27, to advance to the NSIC Championship game for the first time in program history. Ayoub Berthe added 11 points and four assists for the Beavers, who improved to 26-8. Sam West chipped in 14 points and seven rebounds for Minot State. The Beavers led 38-36 at halftime and held off a late rally by the Mavericks.

### Minot State 94, Concordia St. Paul 85

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) – Ayoub Berthe scored 23 points, and Caleb Van De Griend had a double-double with 17 points and 13 rebounds as the Minot State Beavers defeated the Concordia-Saint Paul Golden Bears 94-85 on Saturday, March 15. Jaxon Gunville added 15 points for the Beavers, who improved to 25-8. Minot State shot 50 percent from 3-point range and committed only six turnovers. The Beavers led 47-34 at halftime and maintained their lead throughout the second half.

### Minot State 81, Sioux Falls 59

Caleb Van De Griend had 25 points and 15 rebounds to lead the Minot State Beavers to an 81-56 victory over the Sioux Falls Cougars in the first round of the NSIC tournament on Wednesday, Feb. 26. Sam West added 17 points, eight rebounds, and five assists for the Beavers, who improved to 24-8 on the season. Jalen Cook chipped in 16 points for Minot State. The Beavers led 46-25 at halftime and cruised to the win. “It felt amazing,” Van De Griend said of the atmosphere at the MSU Dome. “Especially with the student section, all the guys getting up and it felt amazing. The atmosphere and every time you hit a shot, there are thousands of people cheering. Every time you do something good, it really motivates you and gets us all going when you hear that crowd.”

## End of Regular Season

### Wayne State 80

Jaxon Gunville scored a career-high 31 points and tied a school record with 10 3-pointers as the Minot State Beavers defeated the Wayne State Wildcats 84-80 on Saturday, Feb. 22. Caleb Van De Griend added 19 points and 13 rebounds for the Beavers, who finished the regular season with a 23-8 overall record and a 14-8 mark in the NSIC. Ayoub Berthe chipped in 15 points for Minot State. The Beavers led by 14 points at halftime but had to hold off a late rally by the Wildcats. “We have just been a battle-tested team all year,” Gunville said. “We have had a lot of games especially at home that we have finished off late where things maybe were not going quite our way at the end...we had a lot of guys make huge plays down the stretch.” Van De Griend set a new school record for single-season scoring with 634 points.

### Minot State 82, Augustana 78

Caleb Van De Griend had 23 points and 10 rebounds as the Minot State Beavers defeated the Augustana Vikings 82-78 on Thursday, Feb. 20. Ayoub Berthe added 19 points for the Beavers, who improved to 22-8 overall and 13-8 in the NSIC. Jaxon Gunville chipped in 16 points for Minot State. The Beavers trailed 35-32 at halftime but outscored the Vikings 50-43 in the second half. Minot State made 11 3-pointers and had 14 assists while committing only five turnovers. The Beavers set new school records for 3-pointers made, rebounds, assists, and points in a season.





Minot State goalie **Jillian Ackerman**, shown here against Maryville, has been named ACHA All-Athletic 1st Team goalie.

# MSU’s Jillian Ackerman named ACHA All-Athletic 1st Team goalie

The talents of freshman goalie Jillian Ackerman came as no surprise to the Beaver women’s hockey team this season.

The rest of the ACHA quickly found out how good the Minot native was, as well, and today the league honored Ackerman’s play in net for Minot State as Ackerman was named to the ACHA Division I All-Athletic women’s hockey 1st Team at goalie.

The honor is the first for the Minot State freshman and Minot High School product who last week was named to the All-WMCH 1st Team at goalie, to the WMCH All-Rookie 1st Team at goalie, and the WMCH All-Tournament 1st Team at goalie.

Ackerman led the ACHA among goalies with 10-or-more games played with a 96.4 save percentage and was No. 2 in the ACHA with her 1.04 goals against average in 15 games. The phenomenal freshman also tied for third in the ACHA with 5 shutouts and was 10th in the ACHA in wins with her 11-2-0 record.

Her 96.4 save percentage currently ranks No. 1 all-time for a single season and her 1.04 GAA currently ranks No. 3 all-time for a single season in Minot State history.

Minot State’s goalie becomes the 11th ACHA “All-American” in team history and the first since Jordan Kulbida was named to the 1st Team after the 2022-23 season.

Ackerman and the rest of the Beavers (24-9-1 overall) are back in action in two weeks as they begin their quest for the ACHA National Championship in St. Louis, Missouri on Tuesday, March 18, playing Midland in pool play at nationals. The Beavers then face off against Indiana Tech on Wednesday, March 19, to wrap up pool play. The pool winner advancing to the semifinals on Thursday, March 20.

Joining Ackerman on the ACHA All-Athletic 1st Team were defensemen Emma Gerwitz from Maryville and Aria Groot from McKendree, and forwards Tess McKerrow from Adrian, Loki Antonio from Lindenwood, and Haley Beckett from Maryville.

Named to the ACHA All-Athletic 2nd Team were goalie Kenna Borso from Michigan-Dearborn, defensemen Mia Galassini from Michigan State and Allison Shaw from Adrian, and forwards Zosia Adamek from Liberty, Mia Fiscelli from Colorado, and Cadence Pero from Michigan-Dearborn.



# MSU volleyball lands three local star players

Minot State head volleyball coach Alex Courtney didn’t have to go far to find star talent to help bolster the Beavers lineup.

Making sure to the top local players stay in Minot, Coach Courtney is pleased to announce that Zoe Zarr from Minot High School, Maya Vibeto from Our Redeemer’s, and Azjiah Trader from South Prairie all have signed to play for the Beavers starting in the fall of 2025.

Zarr and Vibeto join the Beavers as sophomores, transferring from Bismarck State College after playing their freshman season with the Mystics, and Trader as a true freshman.

“I’m very excited about signing this trio,” Minot State’s coach said. “Not only are they talented and competitive players, but they are local athletes who grew up in this community and can truly call the Dome ‘home court’.

“They’ll join Sydney Upton on the roster, who is a Bishop Ryan graduate: It’s awesome to have that kind of representation of Minot on our team,” Courtney added. “There will be a lot of hometown fans in the Dome next season supporting these ladies and Beaver volleyball.”

Along with being local stars, both Zarr and Vibeto bring collegiate volleyball experience with them to the Minot State court as Zarr, a 5-foot-8 outside hitter, is a 2024 Minot High graduate who played in 24 matches this past fall at Bismarck State College where she recorded 48 kills, 157 digs, and 6 blocks.

At Minot High, Zarr led the Majettes in kills per match, kill percentage, was second in digs per match, and third in blocks per match as she earned All-WDA honors, Academic All-Conference honors, the Offensive Leader award, and was a KMOT Player of the Week.

Playing club volleyball, she was selected for the North Country Region 20U team that qualified for the National Tournament and placed 3rd, and was named to the National All-Tournament Team.

“Zoe is such a well-rounded, coachable player,” Courtney said. “She is committed to getting better every day and wants to help her team succeed every rally. She’s a selfless competitor, genuinely positive personality, and natural leader. She’s the kind of player I want to coach and the kind of teammate I

want in our locker room.”

Vibeto, also a 2024 graduate, was a teammate of Zarr with the Region XIII Champion Mystics. The 5-4 libero led BSC in digs with 597 in 29 matches while adding 8 kills, 78 assists, and 21 service aces. She set a school record averaging 5.74 digs per set and earned All-Mon-Dak, All-Region XIII, and NJCAA 2nd Team All-American honors as a freshman at Bismarck State.

At Our Redeemer’s, Vibeto was named 1st All-State, to the All-District and All-Region teams, was nominated for Senior Athlete of the Year, a member of the National Honors Society, and the Class of 2024 Salutatorian.

“Maya is a high-level athlete and a high-quality leader,” Courtney said. “Her defensive reads and passing are so good, and I’ve heard great things about her as a teammate. Her accomplishments this past season at BSC speak for themselves. It’s an exciting day when you can add an All-American libero to your defense. I’m really looking forward to coaching her and watching her elevate our defense the next three years.”

Trader, a 5-9 middle blocker and right-side hitter from South Prairie, is a 4-time All-District selection, a 3-time All-Region selection, and a two-time 1st Team All-State selection. Also a two-time KMOT Athlete of the Week, Trader was named State Senior Athlete of the Year, Region Senior Athlete of the Year, District Senior Athlete of the Year, and Team MVP for the District Champion and Class B state runner-up champion Royals.

Trader, as a junior, also was a named to the North Country Region 20U volleyball team that qualified for nationals and finished 3rd.

“Azjiah has incredible athleticism and is a top prospect coming out of this 2025 North Dakota high school class,” Minot State’s coach said. “She can play anywhere on the court and excel, offensively and defensively. Her vertical is insane, her fundamentals are so solid, and I’ve seen first-hand that she’s a great teammate. She had a historic senior volleyball season with South Prairie and is a highly decorated player. I believe she will transition to the collegiate game seamlessly and play a big role for us in the coming years.”

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