

The Best of Chenango County Winter Sports 2021-2022



THE EVENING
SUN

SECTION 1



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The Norwich Family YMCA has been an important part of our communities for 158 years. A diverse organization, providing many community programs and services to meet a wide variety of member and community needs.

One of the program areas that has supported hundreds of children annually is our Youth Sports programs. From ages three to twelve, we have become a feeder program for many of our area schools. The YMCA youth sports programs are played to help young athletes learn new skills, reinforce positive values, fair play, sportsmanship, teamwork, and having fun. Our philosophy puts the sport, the game, the activity, winning and losing, and the team all into perspective. We hope our sports programs build self-esteem, social skills, physical skills, while building relationships, developing responsibility, and creating a fun experience.

Swim lessons to Swim Team, Youth Basketball to Travel Basketball, T-ball to Developmental Baseball, Outdoor Soccer to Indoor Soccer, Indoor and Outdoor Youth Track, Karate, and Sports camps to Clinics. We have something for everyone. "We are where the local athletes get their start".

Our winter season was busy and full of excitement with many of our area teams and competitors achieving significant success. We enjoyed the sports updates, radio broadcasts, and pictures highlighting all of the successes. We are proud of our Chenango County Athletes and we enjoyed cheering for you this past season. Job well done.



**Norwich Family
YMCA**
www.norwichymca.com
68-70 North Broad Street
Norwich, New York 13815
607-336-9622 (Telephone)



Brady Smith

Norwich City School

Senior Wrestling

- 7th place in NYS Division II
- 41-10 with 28 pins in the two seasons with Norwich

"Just to get to the state tournament was an accomplishment for Brady. We thought he would do better than he did, but to place seventh was good to just get on the podium. In the last 15-17 years, Norwich has been fortunate enough to put someone on the podium. After transferring from Oxford his junior year, Brady made an immediate impact that was great for Norwich wrestling. If we didn't have him, we would have had a real bleak season. He was a shining star that will be missed," Bob Hagenbuch, Norwich Wrestling Coach.

**Congratulations
to all the
Student Athletes in
Chenango County!**



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Student Athletes on
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David Emerson

Bainbridge-Guilford Bobcats Basketball Boys' Basketball Division 1

- Midstate Athletic Conference Boys' Division I first team
- Scored a team-high 16 points in B/G win over Greene (Jan 2022)

"David definitely deserves to be a first team all-MAC member. He is a terrific young man who absolutely eats, sleeps, and drinks the game of basketball. Even in games when he scored under 10 points, he still found ways to help the team. I would look at the stat sheet at the end of games (where he scored under 10), and he would be the leading rebounder or have a number of assists." – Kevin Wehrli, Bainbridge-Guilford varsity basketball coach




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Brady Buttice

Senior

Bainbridge-Guilford

Bainbridge-Guilford/ Afton/Harpursville Bears

NYS Division II Wrestling

- Valedictorian
- Multi-sport athlete
- 160 pounds
- 6th at NYS Division II
- 27-6 in 2022
- 81-45 in HS career

"In eighth grade, I told Brady's father (former wrestler) that Brady better choose wrestling over basketball. Brady was a phenomenal wrestler but wrestling was more of a hobby for him than the other sports he played. His biggest challenge was his nerves. He got too nervous and that costed him matches that him and I both knew he should've won. But, in all honesty, if you had 10 Bradys on any high school team, you won't lose," Brandon MacNaught, Bainbridge-Guilford wrestling coach.

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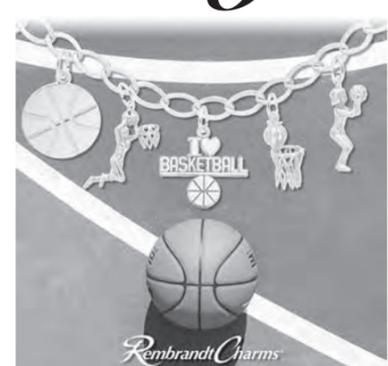
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Cassie Butler

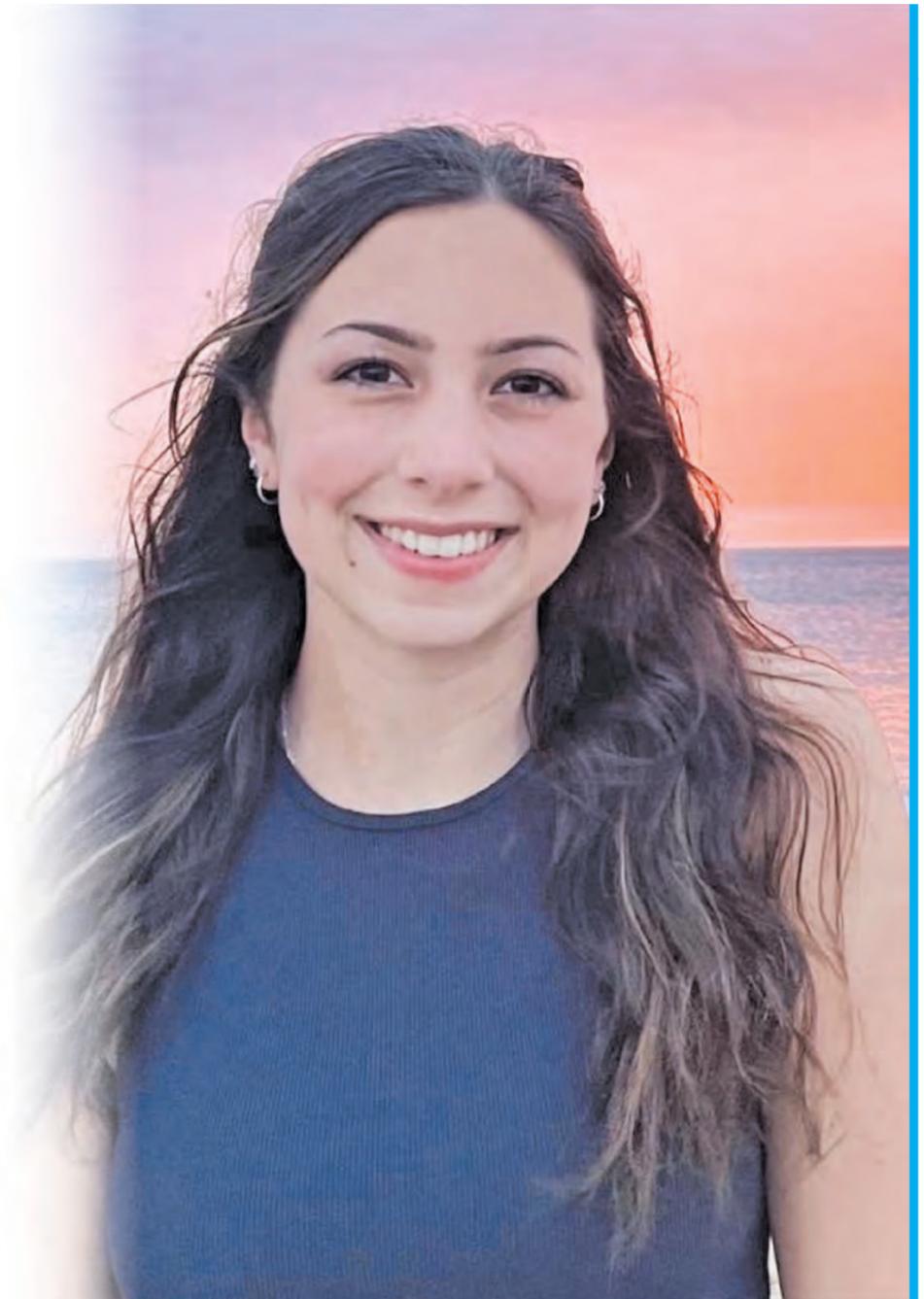
Junior

Greene Girls' Basketball

Trojan Basketball

- Midstate Athletic Conference Division II second team
- Junior point guard
- Averaged over six points per game;
- Scored a career-high 18 points (four three-pointers) in win vs Spencer-Van Etten in Section IV Class C Quarterfinals

"Cassie is an outstanding three point shooter and a good rebounder. She is very strong both inside and outside the paint-which is dependent on who we are playing. She really stepped up and played multiple positions when we needed it. Next year, I hope she will be an even greater threat every game."
 Dave Gorton, Greene Girls' Basketball Coach



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Celeste Baldwin

Junior

Bainbridge-Guilford

Bobcats Basketball

- Junior point guard
- Midstate Athletic Conference Girls Division I first team
- Lead the team with 15.7 points per game

"Celeste has been our catalyst for the last three years. She truly is a nice young lady that has high expectations and works really hard on and off the court. We will be a much more competitive team next year if the team will be able to elevate the way she plays." Bob Conway, Bainbridge-Guilford head coach.

Congratulations

to all Winter Sports Athletes

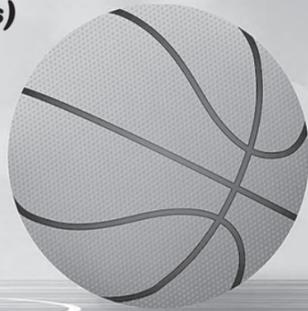
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Darren Florance

Sophomore

Bainbridge-Guilford/Afton/Harpursville Bears

State Wrestling Champion

- Unbeaten wrestling season
- Midstate Athletic Conference Champion
- Section IV Champion
- New York State Division II 102-pound state champion

“He did great this year, and he stayed focused,” B-G/Afton/Harpursville head coach Brandon MacNaught said, noting from day one, the goal was to win a state title. “He didn’t give up a point at the state tournament, and when you do that, it’s hard for you to lose. He gave up 10 points at the Windsor Tournament, but I bet he didn’t give up 10 points the rest of the year.”



Shakira Alexander

Senior

Norwich

Purple Tornado

Girls Indoor Track and Field

- 2nd place in shotput and weight throw at Section IV state qualifier
- First Norwich girls’ varsity athlete to qualify for states in the weight throw in program history.
- Broke her record weight throw with a performance of 35 feet and 1 inch

“It is your response to winning or losing that makes you a winner or a loser.”
 - Shakira Alexander





Dawson Robinson Freshman Norwich Purple Tornado Bowling

- Three year starter- only a Freshman
- STAC Bowling East- Central All-Conference
- Bowled his team-high 625 series with 193, 222 and 210 games in the STAC Tournament

“ Every coach would love to have a kid like Dawson. He is coachable, a good teammate, and overall good to have around,” said Art Rigas, Norwich Bowling coach. “He is our fifth bowler and our anchor bowler who doesn’t get rattled. When the game is on the line, it all comes down to the last bowler.

“ Dawson is the kid you want bowling fifth because he can handle pressure in head-to-head close matches,” Rigas said. “He was the best bowler on the team for only being a ninth grader. The future is great for Norwich Bowling.”

“ I started bowling when I was 5 years old on the kids league in Norwich and loved it. I started with bumpers but quickly didn’t need them,” said Dawson Robinson. “Eventually I was able to join the Norwich High School team and was put on the Varsity team in 7th grade. I got a nearly perfect game this season with 11 out of 12 strikes ending up with a 267. I also got my high series of a 715.”

“ I want to stick with bowling throughout high school and maybe beyond. I love the sport and will continue to improve. I hope to bowl with the pros one day.” -Dawson Robinson



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The Best of Chenango County Winter Sports 2021-2022



THE EVENING
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SECTION 2

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Saturday Large Cheese Pizza,
2 Dozen Wings and
1 Dozen Garlic Knots

Sunday Large Cheese Pizza,
2 Dozen Wings and
2-Liter Soda

~DINNER~

Monday Chicken Alfredo

Tuesday Chicken Siciliano or
Baked Ziti

Wednesday Chicken Livornese
Spaghetti with
Meatballs

Thursday Lasagna

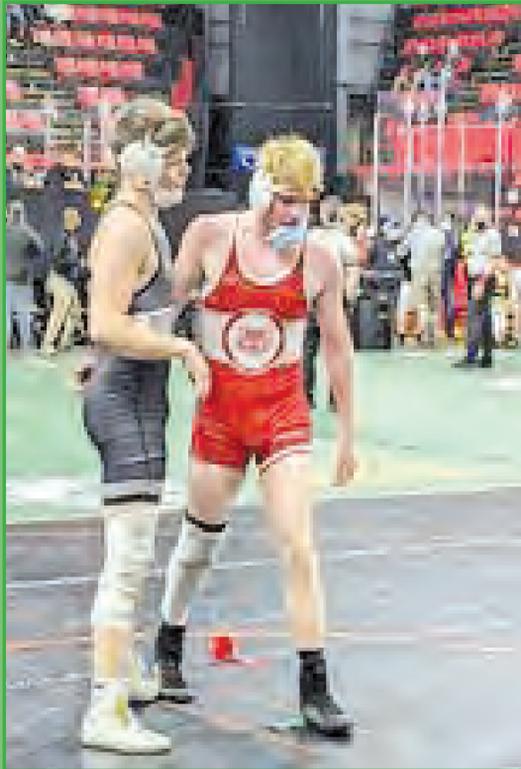
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Hunter Page

Junior Greene/Oxford Wrestling

- 172 pounds
- 8th at NYS Division II
- Won Sectional Tournament
- 31-11 season record

" Hunter has become a veteran wrestler for our program. He worked his way into a leadership role, taking a lot of kids under his wing and helping them understand what the expectations are. Hunter is doing offseason wrestling and hitting the weight room really hard. I'm looking for him to be a repeat champion, make states, and be much higher on the podium next year."
-Jesse Fendryk, Greene Wrestling Coach



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Ella Kelsey

Oxford Academy

Blackhawks Basketball

Girls' Basketball Division II

- -Midstate Athletic Conference Division II second team
- Averaged more than seven points per game

"Ella was a very important member of this year's team. She was our best on the ball defender who often was matched up with the other teams quickest player," said Oxford Head Basketball Coach Chris Palmer.



Congratulations To All Area Athletes!

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Ilias Wilson

Junior

Bainbridge-Guilford

Bobcats Basketball

- MAC Boys' Division I second team
- Recorded a team-high 10 rebounds and four assists vs Greene (Jan 2022)
- Scored a team-high 13 points in win vs Walton (Feb 2022)

"He is an exceptional athlete, incredibly quick with the basketball, and can really jump. When he is out on the fast break with numbers, he is very difficult to defend because if he doesn't score himself, he will pass the ball to an open teammate for an easy shot."

— Kevin Wehrli, Bainbridge-Guilford varsity basketball coach

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Jaiden Schrag

Sophomore

Unadilla Valley Storm

Girls Basketball

- MAC Division II second team
- Scored a team-high 13 points vs Bainbridge-Guilford (Jan 2022)
- Scored a team-high 11 points vs Oxford (Feb 2022)

“Jaiden is such an important component of the team. I never have to worry about getting the ball up the floor - she just handles it. She works incredibly hard, and has grown so much as a player since last year.”

- Brandi Whitbeck, Unadilla Valley varsity girls' basketball coach.”



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Kadence York

Junior

Unadilla Valley Storm

Girls Basketball

- MAC Division II first team
- Scored a team-high 20 points vs Oxford (Dec 2021)
- Scored a team-high 14 points vs Delhi (Jan 2022)

"Kadence is my utility player. She can play anywhere, and is always up for any challenge I throw at her. She's always looking for ways to get better and put the extra time in."

- Brandi Whitbeck, Unadilla Valley varsity girls' basketball coach

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Junior

Oxford Blackhawks

Girls Basketball

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- Midstate Athletic Conference leading scorer
- Over 1,000 career points

"Madalyn is the most prolific scorer we've had at Oxford Academy since Sarah Chrystie graduated in 2006. Her hard work and dedication have allowed her to succeed on the court, and has earned her a place among the top players in Section IV at any level."

- Chris Palmer, Oxford Girls' varsity basketball coach



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Milla Gonzalez

Senior

Oxford Academy

Blackhawks

Girls Indoor Track & Field

- Undefeated in Section IV
- Holds the indoor track school record in the 55 meter dash
- Member of the USA Track and Field Adirondack League

"Milla literally grew up on a track. She has been training as a sprinter since she was seven years old. It was nothing but track for her. She did not have a single close race, even against some of the bigger schools in Section IV. She aced it every time. She is an excellent coach and role model in every way a person can be."

- Shannon Gawronski, Oxford Track and Field coach



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The Best of Chenango County Winter Sports 2021-2022



THE EVENING
SUN

SECTION 3



Morgan Golliver
Evening Sun
Sports Editor

Best of Chenango County Winter Sports

After a two year pause on sports, we are delighted to bring back the Evening Sun's "Best of Chenango County's Winter Sports" to our sports fanatic readers.

From high school court to track, from mat to pool, or even the bowling alley, these athletes were very eager to get back to play, even if masks were required.

Each athlete and team in this section fought through challenges of adversity and health to achieve their honor and accomplish league, conference, divisional, sectional, regional, or a NYS title.

With the continued success of Chenango County's high school sports, there are several pages dedicated with full color photos of athletes and teams with words of wisdom on their accomplishments this season.

As the title reads "Best of Chenango County Winter Sports" is not dedicated to every team or athlete. The athletes and teams featured represent winning a title or achieving a milestone in their elective sport.

This section is not to take away the efforts of every athlete who worked countless hours of dedicated work who may not be included. We applaud each and every team and athlete for their efforts this season.

Instead, we intend to highlight the individuals and teams who accomplished a championship level success.

If we missed an athlete or team that achieved a title or milestone, we want to hear about it. At the Evening Sun, we always appreciate the positive feedback from our readers and look for ways to improve for the future.

Thank you to everyone from the Editorial staff of the Evening Sun to the student-athletes and their coaches who helped us put this special section together.

Now, sit back, relax, and join us in celebrating this year's Best of Chenango County Winter Sports.

Morgan Golliver- Evening Sun Sports Editor
mgolliver@evesun.com or sports@evesun.com



Greene Girls Basketball

Midstate Athletic Conference

Girls' Basketball Division II:

Trojan First Team

Olivia Kennedy,

- Senior
- Lead the team in steals with an average of seven per game

"Olivia is an all star in every sport. She is intense and physically gifted. She played the top of our 2-3 zone defensively and takes away half the court when she's on the floor," Dave Gorton, Greene Girls' Basketball coach



Payton Yahner

- Junior
- Lead the team with 5.5 assists per game

"Payton has a great understanding of the game and gets everyone involve. She made all good decisions with the ball this year and rarely turned the ball over," Dave Gorton, Greene Girls' Basketball coach



Abby Yahner

- Freshman
- Returned for her second season

"Abby improved from last year's short season. She's a very excellent team player with rebounding and deflecting passes She is starting to show what she could be and next year we think she will be a good scorer for us." Dave Gorton, Greene Girls' Basketball Coach

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Greene Trojans Girls Basketball

- MAC Division II Champions
- 16-5 record

Roster:

Emma Rice, Olivia Kennedy, Adriana Romano, Cassie Butler, Abby Yahner, Payton Yahner, Natalie Scofield, Claire Flanagan, Paige Estabrook, Lyla Biefeldt, Molly Cornell, Cali Knapp.

"They were as unselfish a group as we've had in a long time. We had different leaders in scoring, leading in rebounds, leading in assists, and they all played good defense. That's a credit to them; they did everything well together."

-Dave Gorton, Greene varsity girls' basketball coach



Sports Are My Life

By Morgan Golliver

Growing up, I didn't know how much sports would mean to me.

From the first moment watching Syracuse basketball with my dad on television as a child, to now as a sports editor for the Evening Sun, sports is everything to me.

It is a way of life, a way to relax after a hard day's work, unless you are dedicated like I am to work in the field,, to a phenomenon that you can't take your mind off of. For me, I would get so pumped up from watching my favorite sports team win that I would cry tears of happiness for being so dedicated. But then, I would be so sad when any of my favorite teams would lose.

In 2015, the New York Mets went to the World Series and I was the happiest girl in the world cheering from my freshman college dorm room. But, I was heartbroken after they lost to the Kansas City Royals, but proud of them.

In addition to my happiness for my favorite sports teams, I created a social media brand for myself dedicated to my love of sports called Sports Are My Life. I realized I was posting too much content on my personal Facebook timeline that I needed to only share with sports fans. I have a Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram account for my sports content outside of work.

On Twitter, I would live tweet watching the Mets and tweeting every time they scored or made a big play. On Instagram, I would find or take a photo of the final score of the game or the player that had a big impact on the

game and write in a game recap. This content would also get shared onto my Facebook page.

Sports also means so much to small communities like Chenango County.

Just seeing something written about you or a photo of your team has a major impact on your life, your family, friends, and even the coach or athletic department.

I cheered for Norwich High School and loved the amount of people that would come out and support the football team on Friday nights and the student section during basketball games was amazing.

Also, I would love getting a cutout of my cheer team's picture from my Grandpa Howie and collecting those for my scrapbook. My cheer team loved the effort of Frank Speziale, the Evening Sun photographer, on capturing our photos to put in the paper the next day. From our Christmas basketball games wearing red and green to senior night, I have many cutouts and memories to look back on.

Sometimes having little picture cutouts saved from a game to look back on really makes you sit down one day and think back at the good times surrounded by your team. Those are memories you never want to forget.

I can't wait until my two year old son gets older, so I can introduce him to the best things in life; sports and raise him in this great community where sports are fundamental and meaningful to a lot of people.



Norwich Purple Tornado Girls Basketball Section IV Class B Champions

- STAC Division Champion
- Section IV Class B Champion

"In our final game, General Brown was a very good team that didn't allow us to do much of what we did versus other teams. But, as a team, we finished strong. We have four seniors leaving that will be very difficult to replace that were very committed to the program. We will be a very young team next year with only one senior. But, there are a lot of girls that will contribute and we will still be a talented team."

-Josh Bennett, Norwich Girls' Varsity Basketball Coach

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Unadilla Valley Storm Girls Bowling Team



- 48-0 season
- MAC Champion
- State Qualifier

“Being only our fifth season as a program, this was one of our most successful seasons yet. The kids put in a lot of time and hard work and it showed. I’m very proud of what we have accomplished thus far and look forward to next year.”

-Matt Bleyle, Unadilla Valley Bowling Coach

Congratulations
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Norwich Purple Tornado Boys Basketball First Team STAC Division All-stars

Keegan Franklin
Senior

"He pounded the glass for us, and was our main weapon inside the paint. Most teams tried to double him in the paint the entire year."

- Tom Collier, Norwich varsity basketball coach

Torin Lawrence
Senior

"Torin was a tough matchup for most teams because of his quickness. He was a great weapon for us on the defensive end, and he locked down the opposing scoring guard when we needed to stop him from scoring."

- Tom Collier, Norwich varsity basketball coach

Steven Dowdall
Freshman

"Steven developed as the year went on. The second half of the year he started, and he was our third option on offense after Keegan and Torin. Just a freshman, he works extremely hard on basketball, and he will be the team's go-to guy next season."

- Tom Collier, Norwich varsity basketball coach

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Norwich Purple Tornado Girls Basketball Seniors

Margaret Doughter

- BCANY Section IV Class B Player of the Year
- BCANY Section IV First Team Selection
- STAC East/Central All Conference Team
- NYSPHSAA Scholar Athlete

Emily Evans

- BCANY Section IV First Team Selection
- STAC East/Central All Conference Team
- NYSPHSAA Scholar Athlete

Mackenzie Hess

- STAC East/Central All Conference Team
- NYSPHSAA Scholar Athlete

Maddy Morris

- STAC East All Division Team



Margaret Doughter



Emily Evans



Mackenzie Hess



Maddy Morris

“These four seniors have been with the program for so long. They met our stability and style that we like to play tremendously with running up tempo, trapping, and overall being all good shooters. They were very committed and were a perfect example of kids that put in the time, especially in the offseason when we asked them to, and allowed us to sustain the success we have.”

-Josh Bennett, Norwich Girls' Varsity Basketball Coach

Stephen Kman Senior Norwich Purple Tornado Swimming & Diving

- STAC Swimming- East Division All-Star
- Voted Most Valuable Player on the NHS swim team for his first and final year
- Recorded a personal best with a team in 200 Free Relay- sixth place and time of 1:43.74 (Feb 2022)

“Stephen swam when he was young, but he became a runner until he joined us the last year. He didn't have the fastest time, but achieved the 2nd fastest time, which earned him the all-star recognition. He also beat out three swimmers for the most valuable on the team. But, I wish we had him for all four years.”

-Kevin Diefenbacher, Norwich Boys' Swim Coach



Zach Smith

Sophomore

Unadilla Valley Storm Basketball

- MAC Division I second team
- Scored a team-high 17 points vs Cooperstown (Jan 2022)
- Scored 12 points vs Afton (Feb 2022)

“Zach did an outstanding job this year being the point guard and leader on the floor. A very unselfish player with great individual skill and understanding of the game. I look forward to next season as he develops and becomes more of a team leader and scorer.” -- Matt Osborne, Unadilla Valley boys’ basketball coach



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