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‘This is the year we’re gonna do it if we’re gonna do it’

Brandon Valley 2014 boys’ golf team brings home program’s first – and only – state title

Jill Meier

Journal editor

In the 2014 boys’ golf season preview report, Scott Carroll, head coach of the Lynx, offered up a bold statement: “This is the year we’re gonna do it if we’re gonna do it.”

What Carroll meant by that is if a Brandon Valley boys golf team was ever going to win the program’s very first state title, this was the team that, for lack of a better phrase, “we’re gonna do it.”

“It was a team that I saw some potential in; they just kind of grinded,” Carroll remembers. “They loved golf and they loved playing it.”

And they had fun in the process, too.

“The one thing about that group is they just weren’t the most serious type,” Carroll reflects. “When things came at them – maybe as a negative – they would take that as a challenge and not get upset about it, but just push it off and then go on to the next hole. That kind of mentality in golf is huge, just to be able to – if you do make a mistake – forget about it and have that mindset, and then just go to the next hole. Sometimes people dwell on it, and it carries over to the next hole and the next hole and the next hole.”

Carroll’s bold statement was said for good reason. With four of its five returning players from Brandon Valley’s 2013 state runner-up team, the Lynx were certainly positioned to be in the driver’s seat against their Class AA opponents in 2014.

“It’s always nice to be under the radar a little bit, but the last four years we’ve placed pretty well, so I think teams will know that we’ll be pretty good,” Carroll said in the 2014 preview report.

A trio of seniors – Alex Hamner, Riley Duncanson and Greg Koehn – were charged with leading this team, and were backed by sophomore Zane Swenson, Taylor Fjerestad and junior Jackson Dziedzic. These six played for the Lynx in the state tournament.



Submitted photo

The 2014 Brandon Valley boys’ golf team won the program’s very first state title. Pictured are Assistant Coach Todd Geerdes, Zane Swenson, Greg Koehn, Riley Duncanson, Jackson Dziedzic, Tayjor Fjerestad and Head Coach Scott Carroll.

Carter Erickson, Thomas Siemonsma, Joel Kocer, Mitchell Gusso, Nathan Mutschelknaus, Lucas Schobert and Austin Swenson also represented the Lynx that season.

Carroll said this team had each other’s backs.

“When things were going good, they went good, and when things went south, they picked each other up. You had your bottom three guys and you had your top three or four, but if one of them struggled, you always had that. That was the year that we always had a guy that would play really good to take over that score that we needed, where a lot of times you just don’t get that. If your top three or four don’t shoot well, then you’re kind of in trouble,” he said.

The state tournament

At the start of the season, Carroll forecasted that Sioux Falls Lincoln would win the Metro Conference, and potentially be a contender for the state title. O’Gorman was on his radar, too.

“Those teams never really had down years. They were always just good with the number of kids that they got to pick from,” he said.

What Carroll didn’t factor into his forecast is how



Submitted photo

Riley Duncanson, Alex Hamner and Greg Koehn led the Lynx boys to the team title.

the 25 mph winds at the state tournament would factor into the team’s success.

“I was talking to (Assistant Coach Todd) Geerdes and some of the kids on a (group) text the other day. I think the weather definitely helped us a little bit. Some of these other teams they needed no wind, things like that, so it just made for a lot of people that were usually at the top to not play as good as they usually do,” Carroll said.

With strong winds that hovered around 25 mph, the greens at Cattail Cross-

ing were super-fast, forcing many of the golfers into three- and four-putt holes.

“There was a couple of kids, like (Sioux Falls Lincoln’s Tommy) Vining that were really, really good and would shoot under par all of the time. But that not-so-good weather evened the playing field. They had to kind of grind like everybody else, and I think that’s what gave us a legitimate shot is just the weather not being great,” he said. Vining was sixth at 150.

After the first day of the State AA high school

boy’s golf championships, the Lynx dug down deep on day two to pull off the feat. As a team, BV posted 303 in their opening rounds, and followed up with a 304 on day two. Combined, they finished 10 shots better than runner-up Sioux Falls Lincoln (617) and third-place Rapid City Stevens (619).

And to add icing to the cake, Hamner claimed the individual medalist honors with a two-day score of 144. Equally exciting was teammate Riley Duncanson’s 145 two-day tally,

which placed him in a tie for second place.

Koehn posted a 156 for 11th place. Rounding out BV’s scores were Fjerestad (166), Erickson (177) and Dziedzic (181).

The one-two finish by Hamner and Duncanson were the best individual finishes under Carroll’s 20 years at the helm.

“Those two were battling for one and two, which was crazy, and then obviously battling for the team title. I don’t think that happens quite often. More or less, you’ve got your individual guy, and then you have some other guys, but to have two guys that were battling each other for the individual crown, and then obviously us, as a team battling for the team title, it was kind of a mix of emotions. It was awesome for the team, but you wanted both kids to do well, so you just kind of had to let them go. At the end of the day, I don’t think either one of them would’ve been upset if they got second to the other one,” Carroll said. “In hindsight, I would think that they both were more excited about the team title than they were about the individual title. That just shows some the character of the kids that we’ve had at Brandon Valley.”

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Rasmussen plays role in trio of state football titles

Staff report

Casey Rasmussen
BVHS Class of 1991
Football

As a running back and linebacker on the football team, Casey earned three letters and helped lead the Lynx to three consecutive State Championships in 1988, 1989, and 1990. He was named All-Conference in 1989 and 1990, All-State in 1990, and *Argus Leader* Elite 45 in 1990. Casey was a part of a defense that allowed no more than 13 points in any one game during the season. He set school records for most tackles in a season with 147 during his senior year and 300 for his career.

After his career at Brandon Valley, Casey went on to become a four-year starter and letter winner at South Dakota State University as a cornerback and safety.

While with the Jackrabbits, he played as a true freshman, and was voted four times as the most valuable defensive player.

His favorite memories from his time at BVHS were being a part of and winning three straight state championships.



Photos reprinted from Brandon Valley Lynxonian yearbook

Casey Rasmussen (at left) played a role in helping the Lynx win three consecutive state championships. This is the team from his senior season. Pictured are, from left, Matt Jorgenson, Nick Andersen, Jeff Bly, Pel Kolb, Grant Peterson, Chris Simmons, Jason Agre, Scott Kindvall; row two: Steve Winkleman, Jude Goetzinger, Wade Shatter, Jereme Skiles, Mike Miss, Jeff Braa, Tom Gjoraas, Clint Heaton, Nathan Zoelle; row three: Mike Bosch, Chad Olson, Travis Stauffacher, Corby Serk, Chris Schultz, Corey Anderson, Cole Steele, Scott Klutman, Chad Ruter; row four: Chad Barrett, Chris Dannen, Mike Lembke, Spencer Risty, Kevin Keil, Randy Hartz, Mike Reisch, Brian Stamp, Jeff Weber; row five: Aaron Munkvold, Eric Jacobs, Tim Jorgenson, Travis dressen, Craig Persing, Chris Terveer, Casey Rasmussen; row six: Alvin Graue, Brad Rippentrop, Kelly Scholten, Thad Schultz, Sean Morrissey, Jason Klein, Dave Behan and Chris Jeschke. The Lynx's season record was 11-1.



2014 STATE BOYS GOLF TEAM cont. from page 1B

The team's ride drive home in the school-issued Suburban following their state title win was surely a memorable one.

"It was just a lot of joking, a lot of laughing, a lot of just reminiscing about the whole year, some things about golf, some things about what happened in practice, some things that happened in hotel rooms, some things that happened with each other, just goofing around, and that's what that team was all about. They were just different and special," Carroll said. "The guys were happy, excited – 'Hey, we finally did it.' It was kind of cool, the first time ever for Brandon Valley. We came close a couple times, but that's the only state championship that we've ever gotten."

The season

In following tradition, the team opened the season with their home event, the Lynx Invite. BV won the 10-team tournament, besting runner-up O'Gorman by 14 strokes. Duncanson was the medalist, firing a 4-under-par 67. The Lynx posted a team score of 284, followed by the Knights (298) and Yankton (304).

"It was a great start to the year," Carroll said. "We have a real solid team and if we get everyone playing up to their capabilities, our depth will take us a long way."

Hamner fired a 69 to claim third, while Koehn and Fjerestad penciled 74s to tie for fifth.

"We are taking each match one at a time and trying to focus on the task at hand with the big pic-

ture of finishing well at state and ESD in the back of our heads," Carroll said in a 2014 *Brandon Valley Challenger* report, "but I was very pleased with how they started off."

In their first dual of the season, BV defeated Yankton by eight strokes, 299-307.

Hamner's 71 score earned him medalist honors, while Koehn fired a 73 for second and Duncanson tallied a 76 for fourth place.

"Alex has a lot of confidence going right now, which is great for us as a team," Carroll said.

The lowest finish for the Lynx came on Aug. 29 at the Huron Invitational, where BV placed fourth in the 15-team tourney. "We came into Huron playing really good golf and had very high expectations, but we didn't play as well as we would have liked," Carroll said.

On Sept. 2, they finished two strokes behind Lincoln, 145-147, and four better than third-place O'G.

"I believe this could be the best three teams in the state and it was a battle," Carroll said. "I was very happy with our score and was really excited to see someone outside our top four come up big."

That golfer was Erickson, who carded a 1-under-par 70 to place third behind Duncanson's second-place finish, also a 70.

Koehn, Duncanson and Fjerestad nabbed third through fifth place at the Sept. 8 dual against Sioux Falls Washington. Played at Willow Run, BV beat the Warriors on their home course,

154-158.

Koehn's nine-hole round topped off at 37, while Duncanson and Fjerestad posted scores of 38 and 39, respectively.

BV's showing at the Madison triangular on Sept. 9 was yet another dominating performance as a team. The Lynx registered a combined 331 score, overcoming Harrisburg (342) and the host Bulldogs (354.) Hamner led the charge, penciling a 74.

The team title came home with the Lynx from the Brookings Invite on Sept. 13, rallying behind their 313 total. Yankton was second in the 14-team tourney with a 322.

Despite the victory, Carroll said consistency remained key to their success.

"We have been playing good enough to win but as a whole team we haven't been playing as good as we would like. We are doing enough to win our duals and triangulars, but need to play better as we gear up for some big invites and our conference and state tournaments."

Mitchell claimed their home invitational win, defeating the Lynx by five strokes, 294-299.

"Anytime you shoot under 300 you figure you have a legitimate chance to win," Carroll said.

Koehn fired a 73, tying for sixth, and Hamner recorded a 74 tying for ninth.

Fjerestad found his "golf groove" at the invite, carding a 75 (tie for 12th), while Duncanson placed 22nd behind his 77 tally.

"Our goal is to get four scores of 75 or better. If we continue to

do that we will be at the top no matter what day it is," Carroll said. "I am very happy with the way the boys have played in the last two weeks."

Despite the five-stroke defeat, Carroll was optimistic as the team headed into the ESD and Metro conference meets and state.

"This is the time of year I want us to play consistent and well and we have done that in our last three invitationals. I look forward to seeing what happens at the ESD and Metro conference tournaments," he said.

Speaking of ESD, the Lynx marched to the title win once again after taking a year off. BV won ESD in both 2011 and 2012, and finished third in 2013. The Lynx posted a 302-team score, 18 strokes better than Mitchell and Pierre, who tied for second at 320.

"They all had one goal that day, and that was to take home the ESD championship, and that they did," Carroll said. "I was impressed how they battled, stayed consistent and made smart golf shots. They grew up on the golf course today and managed their game. I hope we can keep this momentum going as we head into the Metro Conference and state."

BV placed four in the top 10, including medalist, Hamner, who shot a 71. Koehn tied for second with a 76, while Fjerestad (77) and Duncanson (78) tied for fifth and eighth, respectively.

"Alex really deserved this," Carroll said in the 2014 report. "He has been playing well all year and had his sights on win-

ning this tournament. He played smart and kept within himself. He is a good player and today he showed that he can be right up there with the best of them."

Carroll also complimented the play of his teammates.

"Greg continues to be consistent and scores well for the Lynx, while Taylor and Riley rounded out our four all-conference players. To have four kids get all-conference, one individual champion and a team championship, I think the day was pretty complete."

Coming off their ESD title, the Lynx were second behind Sioux Falls Lincoln. The Patriots put up a 295-team score, followed by runner-up BV's 313 and third-place O'G's 318.

Three of BV's top four players secured All-Metro honors. Duncanson tied for third with a 76, Koehn tied for sixth with a 78, and Fjerestad tied for eighth with a 79.

"If you looked at those six guys, never in the world would you have ever thought they could have won a state title. They just were happy, go lucky kids. They didn't practice every single second of the day. They didn't pour every minute into golf. They just were kids who loved the sport, and they played it and they happen to have some really good years. Honestly, I think just by them being the people that they were is what made them so good and so special," Carroll said.

Congratulations to Associate Jackson Dziedzic!



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The red-headed kid with a big presence

Castle was a force as BV lineman, thrower

Jill Meier
Journal editor

There's an iconic newspaper photo of Will Castle hoisting a teammate, running back Michael Bellmore, high into the air following a Lynx touchdown.

Castle well remembers the picture-worthy moment.

The photo is clearly symbolic of the team player that Castle, a three-year starter on both the defensive and offensive lines was for the Brandon Valley Lynx. The three-year letter winner helped lead the Lynx to the 2006 Eastern South Dakota Football Conference Championship.

"I remember that we beat Pierre my senior year, that first game of the year," Castle recalls. "(The lift) it kind of just happened. It wasn't like it was choreographed like end zone dances nowadays that you see on TV. I still remember that we locked eyes and he jumped up and I grabbed him and put him up in the air. Then it was on the front page of the Argus the next day, so it was kind of cool."

Football, however, wasn't Castle's only sport in which he made his "paw" print in. As a thrower for BV's track and field team, he was a four-year varsity letter winner, amassing a slew of points in both discus and shot put. His technique, combined with strength, rewarded him with three trips to the state meet from his sophomore through senior seasons. He capped off his prep track and field career with a seventh-place finish in the discus and a sixth-place finish in the shot put.

Castle said his dad told him he needed to pick either baseball or track. He opted for the latter, following in his brother, Luke Castle's footsteps in the sport.

"I was just always around it. I went to all of his meets, and so I did it in middle school and was somewhat successful and had a good experience with Coach Henn. He was probably the most joking around coach I've ever had my life, but he taught us how to throw and made practice enjoyable, and then just a bunch of my friends did track, so I figured I might as well, — and you get out, you get out of school early," he said.

As a thrower, following Henn's retirement Castle was coached by Chuck Plummer for a season and then Jeff Trout, who became his neighbor when his family moved across the street from the Trout



Reprinted from Brandon Valley Lynxian yearbook
Will Castle lifts teammate Michael Bellmore high into the air following a touchdown. The photo was taken by *Argus Leader* photographer Cory Myers and was featured on the front page of Saturday's edition.

family.

"We got to be pretty good friends," Castle remembers. "He was a good throwing coach back in the day and made this enjoyable, so it wasn't like it was torture going to track. It was basically an hour to just have fun and throw the shot and stay active."

It was because of his personal experience in high school sports and connection to his coaches that Castle went on to earn a teaching degree and coaching credentials from South Dakota State.

"I told someone this the other day, that I can't name a coach I did not like or a coach that I didn't get along with," he said.

Filling dual roles on BV's front line, Castle's effort gained him All-Conference, All-State and Elite 45 honors for both his junior and senior football seasons, 2006 and 2007. As a senior captain, his leadership is reflected in the numbers he put up as a defensive lineman: 31 solo tackles, 16 assisted tackles, and nine tackles for loss.

He was equally a beast on the offensive side of the ball, where he anchored a line that amassed 1,844 rushing yards, 1,190 yards passing, 316 total points and average 28.7 points per game.

"I just think of this big, giant, red-head in the eighth grade painting a little kitten portrait or a flag portrait," Bisbee recalled.

While the memory brings a smile to Bisbee, what the offensive line coach came to realize is that Castle would help him become a better coach.

"I remember something he said to me, just kind of an inspirational thing to me as a player just talking to his coach: 'You know, you don't have to be so angry,'" Bisbee shares. "I just had a great coaching experience with him. As a sophomore, he started for us and was just a very, very talented kid that did everything right. He was just a tremendous leader in that way, and a kid that you knew was going to be really successful in high school and college."

Unlike today's BV Lynx teams, Castle was called to play both sides of the ball. Bisbee said that's a tough job.

"When we were playing the smaller schools, you can get away with it, but once you start playing schools that go one way, you don't get away with it anymore, and that's why it was tough to compete against the Roosevelts and the Lincolns and Washingtons," Bisbee said.

No matter if he was on defense or offense, one position he always played was that of "team captain."

"Will is a very, very physical football player.



Reprinted from Brandon Valley Lynxian yearbook
Will Castle competed in track and field as a thrower for the Lynx.

He practiced incredibly hard and technique was important to him. I think it was lead by example on the field, and when big, strong kids do cool things, kids follow," Bisbee said. "He wasn't arrogant, he wasn't cocky, but he was definitely confident."

From Brandon Valley, Castle went on to play football at South Dakota State, where he became a fixture for the Jackrabbits' offensive line, and earned a starting position for three years. His senior season was rewarded with Missouri Valley All-Conference recognition at the Center position.

Bisbee said State was the right place for Castle to continue his football career.

"But he had to work hard to get in there," Bisbee said. "It wasn't like, here's a ton of money and go play for us. For Will, it was, 'Come walk in and we'll see what happens.' He definitely earned his money."

Brother Luke was his inspiration

When Castle signed up for his first year of PeeWee football, he make it by one pound.

"I wasn't a ringer. I didn't have to wear the red stripe on my helmet, and then the next three years I did," he remembers.

But it wasn't PeeWee football where he first learned how to compete.

"I had an older brother who was three years older me, who showed me a lot of just, like work ethic, how to play football, he threw as well, so I give a lot of credit to Luke for just maybe toughening me up, installing a mindset attitude that if you work hard and be more physical than other people, you're going to have some success," he said. "I remember getting beat up in the driveway, whether we were playing basketball or tackle football, and then it would quickly get to a point where dad would have come break it up. So, I learned a lot from him and in middle school as a lineman, I was always a good-sized kid, and then high school just got in the weight room and I kind of blossomed there."

In his role as a coach, Castle instills the importance of the weight room.

"Everywhere I've been coaching I just stress that the weight room is probably one of the most important things for a football player or any athlete in general. Those are some of the best times in high school, just living with your buddies after school and trying to get stronger

and challenging each other, pushing each other. I think that's when Brandon Valley football took a turn with Jack VanLear. We were .500 my sophomore year, and the next year, we made it to the semis and lost to the state champion. Then my senior year we lost in the second round to the eventual state champion. Then they had Austin (Sumner) and they broke into the semis again and lost," he said.

Once a Lynx, always a Lynx

Although Castle's career has brought him to Watertown, where he teaches middle school health and physical education, coaches eighth-grade basketball, and works with throwers and football players, he'll always be a Lynx at heart. His memories of game nights, support from the fans, classmates, and especially his family, are his most treasured memories of that time.

"Growing up back in the day, Friday night games were everything. When I was little, we lived two blocks away from the high school, so we'd walk to the games. I can name Jon Montoya, Alan Pudwill, PJ Hiller, all those guys who I looked up to as an elementary and middle school kid," he said. "The community was — and still is — so supportive of every sporting event there. I also remember going to basketball games and having to get there at 4:30 to watch Mike Miller play against Austin Hansen, so I think there's just been a lot of fortunate, pretty athletic kids come along and mixed with a good core group of coaches that kind of made something special. It's just been amazing how long they can sustain all the success they've had."

Today, Bisbee considers Castle as a friend. Their career paths — teaching and coaching — and outside interests keep them connected.

"He's very similar to me. Will's a guy that is good around kids and he loves the game," he said. "As a player, Will had a tremendous impact on me because he worked so hard, and now, I call him a close friend of mine, so that's pretty cool."

The BV and Watertown offensive line coaches are also both Hall of Fame inductees.

"A couple years ago, I got inducted in the Pierre Hall of Fame, and I thought to myself, 'What did I do on this line?' I didn't

continued on page 6B



Congratulations Coach!

From the gridiron to the classroom, you are making a hall-of-fame impact in the lives of your students and players!



‘She was a really intelligent player’

Koehn focused on giving her best effort in Lynx athletics

Jill Meier
Journal editor

Mark Stadem describes Allison (Koehn) Guthmiller as a “chameleon” on the basketball court.

“She was a really intelligent player and she was amazing, because she had the ability to understand exactly what the team needed at that time, and would be able to change her role to it. In kind of a way, she was a little bit of a chameleon. She would just do whatever was needed, and she was that smart and that intelligent where she could do it,” he said of the 2013 BVHS grad.

The Lady Lynx head coach also recalls her ability to defend, and said they assigned her as a “huge matchup problem for teams.”

“If they wanted to try to guard her with a big we would just step her out in the perimeter and let her face them up and spread out a little bit and say, ‘all right, try to handle her.’ And if they put a girl her size or smaller on her, we would step their big out,” Stadem said of the strategy. “We had girls that could shoot the three and draw their big out of the lane and we would isolate Allie down in the post against a guard. With her physical strength — she was originally a post player when she came to us through middle school — she would just physically dominate that girl in the post, so we could kind of use her that way. She was also one of our best screeners, because she was so strong and so smart. She knew where to set them, when to set them. She did it all.”

Guthmiller said she took pride in being matched up against the opposing team’s best players.

“The thought and strategy behind it was you’ve got to free up Heidi (Hoff) a little bit to give her some gas. She was really the creator and the offense initiator on that end, and that takes a lot of energy and effort to do. Jesse (Peterson Kriech) guarded a lot of the best players if they were more point guard type material, but between the two of us we really tried to take some of that load off of Heidi as the creator on the offense side to give her a breather on the other end,” she said. “I just always was proud of myself if I could keep somebody under 11, 13, points. I think that carried me well throughout my career and helped me get recruited just because I was focused on both ends of the floor.”

Guthmiller’s effort on the basketball court landed her at Augustana University, where she helped the Vikings earn conference championships, tournament titles and earned a berth in the NCAA Division II’s Sweet 16.

That was a dream come true for Guthmiller.

“I was absolutely floored to be able to get recruited by Augustana, and knowing that I was going to have a small school environment and community, and being able to know family and friends would come and watch me play — and they did — I lived my dream,” said the 2025 BV Hall of Fame inductee.

She played varsity ball for three years under the guide of Coach Stadem. The now wife and mother of three girls was just a high school sophomore in 2011 when the Lady Lynx won the program’s



Submitted photos

Allison (Koehn) Guthmiller was a three-sport athlete at Brandon Valley, where she competed in volleyball, basketball and track and field. “Bring the Pain Koehn” was her tag line.

very first state championship, and she garnered All-Tournament Team recognition.

Recently, as she sorted through newspaper clippings and other memorabilia, Guthmiller was reminded that the Lady Lynx were considered the “underdog team” at the state tournament.

“At 5-10, Heidi (Hoff) was our tallest player, and she was the number two guard or point guard, if Kasey (Presler) or Carissa (Ethreim) weren’t bringing the ball up the floor, and Andrea Hanson, all of 5-9, but an incredibly gritty and hustle player, and tough as nails. She was down there at the post fighting all of these other players that are over six feet tall all year long. We were just such an underdog team, but that state championship year got so much momentum towards the end of the season, and that team was so close knit and played off of each other. We knew that we were going to get the ball to whoever was hot that night. Everybody was happy for each other when they played well, and Stadem always preached ‘Know your role, play your role,’ and that team really bought into that, and I think that’s what made us really successful.”

The Lady Lynx returned to the state tournament in 2012, this time coming away with a fourth-place finish. Once again, she garnered All-Tournament Team recognition.

In all total, Guthmiller was a three-year letter winner, was honored three times as an ESD All-Conference selection, was named captain both her junior and senior years, and earned a spot of All-State team her senior year. Following her senior season, she was a nominee for the Miss Basketball Award for South Dakota. She joined an elite group of BV basketball players — Lindsey Schneiderman, Heidi Hoff, Trinity Law and Danica Kocer — who were also past nominees.

“I just think of her senior season getting that nomination and you didn’t have the stellar season that you had the prior two years,” Stadem said. “There were a lot of times when she was playing for us, and I would walk out and say ‘God, I’m glad Allie plays for us.’”



Submitted photos

Allison (Koehn) Guthmiller played varsity basketball for three seasons. The Lady Lynx won the Class AA State title her sophomore year.

Of the three sports Guthmiller played at Brandon Valley, basketball, without question, was her first love.

“I absolutely fell in love when I was in second grade. My dad was my YMCA basketball coach, and I think I wrote that in a couple spots, as I was just looking at some old relics of mine. That’s when I really fell in love for the game. I always have loved the team sport aspect of basketball, and so it’s always been a favorite of mine, and I was just really fortunate to be able to continue that through college. It’s just a gift that I have of those memories and the people that basketball brought into my life,” she shares.

While her sophomore season was capped off with a state title, Brandon Valley lost in the state semifinals her junior year and they didn’t qualify in her senior season.

“We had too many injuries,” Stadem said. “But she was an All-Stater playing on that team. We

had lost our point guard to ACL injury, and then we had other girls that were sick and injured.”

Once again, Stadem relied on Guthmiller’s “chameleon” abilities.

“We had to move Allie to where she was handling the ball for us, so she was playing on the point for us that year. That’s how versatile she was. It was a tough year, but she was like, ‘Whatever I can do to help us, I’ll do it,’” he said.

Guthmiller was also a three-year letter winner in volleyball, and was named captain in both her junior and senior seasons. She capped off her prep career with ESD All-Conference Team recognition.

Guthmiller’s sophomore season was Coach Lindsey (Schneiderman) Smith’s first year. She said Smith and her fleet of assistants — Coty McGuire, Missy Johnson, Misti Becker and Marette Grage — began building the program for success. Although the team’s

win-loss record didn’t reflect that in her first varsity year, Guthmiller said this team possessed “raw talent.”

“As time progressed, it was really focusing on how to finish games and work cohesively, because volleyball is a team sport, but yet it’s quite individual in the fact that you have to have someone pass well, set well before that ball comes to you to do something with it, where basketball you can have someone really skilled, like Heidi, take a ball and just get it down the court and put it in the basket,” she said. “I know my volleyball years were a little bit of a rebuilding, but they were still a lot of fun, and we had a lot of success and things to be proud of.”

One memory that has stayed with her the tunnel the student section made from the locker room all the way into the gym.

“We had lost our first five matches, and then we finally won one at home and we ran through it,” she said. “It was a little embarrassing, but also really fun to win and have a fun after-game environment with the team.”

Guthmiller played both front and back row for the Lynx, and was a power hitter on the left side.

“I could jump a little bit more than I can now,” she said light-heartedly. “I think I have always had a strong arm. It supported me well with track in discus and shot put, but also with hitting. It’s the transition lead up to the ball, and I just always felt like I have that power, so I was able to play at the net and kind of do my best to support blocking.”

She largely left the blocking up to teammates Robin Moss, Amanda Nelson, Hoff, Sam Batzler and Val Peltier.

“They were the ones getting the blocks, and I was kind of the finisher on the other end. Where I feel like I really did help the team a lot was I had a fair amount of digs and just tried to play really scrappy,” Guthmiller said.

She well remembers the words of Coach Smith: ‘I’m going to play the players that are putting 100 percent out every night and they are not letting balls fall on the floor in front of them.’

“That’s something I’ve always clung to was, ‘I’m not going to let these balls drop if they are anywhere in my vicinity. I always tried to hustle and felt like that’s what really kept me on the floor most nights,’” she said.

As a captain, Guthmiller said she tried to be a vocal leader, especially when the wins weren’t as plentiful.

“We experienced a lot of adversity, tough nights, and I think part of being a captain is just trying to keep the morale high and help other players believe in themselves and believe in comebacks and just working through momentum swing,” she said.

Guthmiller’s athletic abilities carried over into the spring track and field season. As a four-year varsity letter winner, she was the 2010 ESD Conference Champion in both discus and shot put as a freshman. She continued her conference domination in discus, winning the ESD Conference titles in 2011, 2012 and 2013,

continued on page 6E



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A season of runner-up finishes

Marso sparked Lynx football, basketball teams

Jill Meier
Journal editor

Chase Marso has a wealth of memories as a student-athlete at Brandon Valley. One may think competing for state titles in both football and basketball would rank among his best memories.

And they surely do. But one memory clearly sticks out in the BVHS 2013 grad's memory bank: his first ever high school basketball game as a freshman. It was in the sophomore game that he scored 37 points, drilling the net for nine, 3-pointers.

"It was the first basketball game in the new gym, and just to be able to play as well as I did and have that much fun was a really special memory," he said. "I remember kind of celebrating just that little bit of success after the game with teammates, the coaches and my dad, and that was a lot of fun."

That was one of those fun memories that not a lot of people know about. It's not the regional game or state championship game, but on a lesser stage."

And that's the kind of student-athlete that Marso was at Brandon Valley. His determined efforts on the football field and the basketball court weren't necessarily for the individual accolades, but more importantly, were for the greater good of the team. He continues to possess that same mindset as he joins the BVHS Athletic Hall of Fame.

"I think the first thing that comes to mind is excitement, and the second thing is just how humbling it is to be amongst the group of people that you know I looked up to certainly throughout my time in Brandon all those years. And so, to be recognized and honored with that group of people is a really humbling experience," he said.

Marso's accolades are many. As a quarterback on the football team, the three-year letter winner led the team to three ESD titles and a state runner-up in the 2012 championship game. He was named the Joe Robbie MVP for that same game, where he threw for the most yards ever in a title game with 454.

Marso was also a three-time All-Conference selection, as well as a 2012 All-State and Elite 45 selection. He continues to hold many school and state records as well as being in the top five in many categories.

On the basketball court, Marso was a three-year letter winner. He helped lead the boys' basketball team to two state tournament appearances with a sixth-place finish in 2011 and a state runner-up

in 2013. He was recognized by being named First Team All-State, All-Conference, and *Argus Leader* Top 10 All Classes.

Where it all started

Growing up with a dad, Randy, who coached and later transitioned into the activities director position at Brandon Valley, Marso said he was "pretty young" when a ball was put into his hands for the first time. Ironically so, soccer was the first formal sport that he played on a team in a formal league setting.

"That had a lot to do with that being my dad's biggest and favorite sport," he said, noting the elder Marso played on the club team at South Dakota State University.

While many of his friends played South Dakota Junior League Football in elementary school, Marso didn't put on the pads and helmet until the sixth grade.

"That's because my mom did not want me to start playing that young," he said.

He immediately stepped into the role of quarterback and defensive back. He credits his throwing arm to playing baseball from a very early age.

"I think that was second sport that I picked up after soccer, and it had a lot to do with transitioning into playing quarterback and football," he said.

He relished in the role.

"I think the responsibility and the joys and burdens that come with it are on the practice field on any given day, and they're certainly there on game days, but I think

opportunities he was given to succeed on those teams.

"Because of the teams I was on, because of the coaches that put us in a position to have success and the teammates that contributed to our team success, and by virtue of that, contributed to my individual success.

In football, if nobody blocks or nobody catches the ball, there are no yards or touchdowns to throw for. And in basketball, if there are no assists and screens, there are no points to come by. Achieving those individual and team successes is a byproduct of a lot a lot of work in off-season and in practice, and I think that those aspects of the awards are what make me most proud of looking back on them," he said.

The 2012 state championship against Sioux Falls Washington was surely a memorable one for the BV quarterback.

"Obviously, the state championship is the goal every year of varsity football, especially your senior year, that you're working towards from the time that you start playing organized football. And so, to work towards and get to that game was the culmination of that goal that we all had, especially that senior class. It was an incredible game, a game with college football talents all over the field with fans packed from both communities, Brandon and Sioux Falls Washington," he reflects. "The environment and the competitiveness of that game was something that I will never forget. We

the camaraderie that comes when you give your best effort.

"You have 11 guys on the field at once, but if one person isn't doing their job, there isn't success, and so, this is the ultimate team game in that way," he said.

Under the Friday night lights – or Saturday night in the case of BV's Pigskin Classic – Marso describes the event as "something you're involved in, especially when you're in the Brandon community, from when you're young playing 3-on-3 basketball and doing Punt, Pass and Kick. Growing up, you looked forward to that game or the homecoming game or the playoffs, just knowing what the nights mean to the student body, to the community in terms of bringing people together and having fun and celebrating athletic excellence is something that I certainly look back on fondly," he said. "In the moment, there wasn't much better as a high school kid than a Friday or Saturday night football or basketball game."

Marso was known for his calm presence in both football and basketball. He said that came with the sense of responsibility he has as a team captain.

"I need to make sure that we were focused on the things that we could control and doing our job well, and that was executing and playing well and having a lot of fun," he said. "Those same lessons from being a quarterback certainly transitioned to being a 'quarterback' of the basketball team and leading



Photos reprinted from *Brandon Valley Challenger*
Chase Marso puts up a shot during play against the Yankton Bucks.

all the teachers that set me up for academic success. As much as the school and the community invests in academics, it's also a community that invests in athletics and supporting athletes throughout elementary school to middle school, and certainly high school. I really think I was able to take advantage of all the best things that Brandon had to offer because of the opportunities that parents put into it. I think that Brandon set me up so well to succeed in all areas of life, and hope that I've been able to kind of pay that back in ways since high school as well," he said.

Despite earning state runner-up in both football and basketball, Marso said it was ironic that the baseball team that he didn't compete on that year also finished in second place.

"In the same way that football game was the most memorable high school football game that I was ever a part of, that state championship basketball game competing in a sold-out Sioux Falls Arena against that Pierre team that had unbelievable talent was maybe even more memorable," he shares.

The coaches

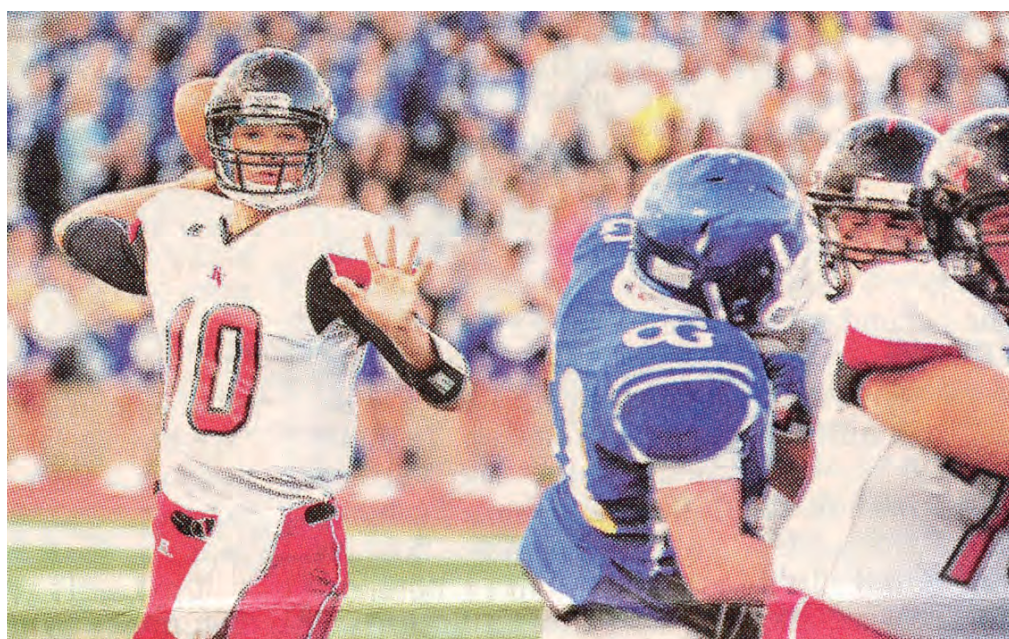
Sadly, both head coaches of the two sports Marso competed in at Brandon Val-

ley, Chad Garrow and Brent Deckert, have both passed away. He has great respect for both, and said their absence on Saturday "will undoubtedly be the most difficult part of the evening celebration."

"Both Coach Deckert and Coach Garrow were such incredible leaders in my life in athletics, but also off the field, when it came to their community leadership, their faith leadership, and then they were so instrumental in my athletic development, but also my growth as a person. I continue to feel their impact in my life constantly, and I'm so grateful for what they did for me and for so many of my teammates. That'll be a really tough part of the night, but at the same time, my teammates and I continue to carry on their legacy through things like celebrating as a family," he said.

From Brandon Valley Marso took Deckert's famed T.G.H.T. (The Game Honors Toughness) mantra with him. It's something, he said, he's incorporated into his studies and football career at Augustana College and then Harvard Medical School in Boston, and his years of residency.

Marso and his wife, Kristin, are expecting their first child in late May.



Photos reprinted from *Brandon Valley Challenger*
As the quarterback, Chase Marso guided the Lynx to three ESD Conference titles and a state runner-up in the 2012 season. He was named the Joe Robbie MVP for that game.

you carry that responsibility with you as the quarterback all year-round when it comes to football. You're looked to for leadership, in off-season workouts, in team building, in everything," he said.

As the recipient of the 2012 Joe Robbie MVP award, Marso said it's a reflection of the teams that he played with and the op-

portunity didn't end up on the right side of the scoreboard that night, but I still look back at that game and know that I was so proud of how we played and how well my teammates played and the effort that we put forth. It's a night that we'll certainly always remember."

He believes the team's success also stems from

on the court there as well. That was something that I tried to try to take pride in."

He remains forever grateful for the excellence in both academics and athletics that was fostered at Brandon Valley.

"I'm forever grateful for all the teachers, many of them who you know were coaches as well, but for

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Brandon Valley Athletic Hall of Fame inductees

1984	Jack Lauer	2003	Lloyd Costello	2017	Dale Moss
1985	Dr. John M. Hermanson	2004	Matt Swenson	2017	Kevin Nelson
1988	Susan Eleeson	2011	1984 Football Championship Team	2017	Doug Novak
1888	Gordon Ode	2011	Broc Halseth	2018	2004 Girls Bowling Championship Team
1989	John Brown	2011	Austin Hansen	2018	2010 Boys Bowling Championship Team
1989	Bob Hoyt	2011	Michelle (Hewitt) Koeshiharn	2018	Heath Bills
1990	Neoma Fields	2011	Mike Klinedinst	2018	Mary (Roddel) Knetsch
1991	Shelly (Allen) Lozano	2012	1989 Football Championship Team	2018	Brian Tait
1991	Merton Peterson	2012	Tate Metcalf	2019	1988 Football Championship Team
1992	Ron Archer	2012	Danielle (Nolte) Lemon	2019	City (Fitts) McGuire
1992	Mickey Metcalf	2012	Dan Pansch	2019	Austin Sumner
1993	Bruce Foster	2012	Steve Reiter	2019	Brad Thorson
1993	JoAnn (Ode) Presler	2012	Darrell Vander Esch	2020	2011 Girls Basketball Championship Team
1993	Scott Peterson	2013	1985 Boys Track & Field Championship Team	2020	Dan Hanson
1994	Ralph Cook	2013	David Behan	2020	Heidi (Hoff) Hausmann
1994	Deb (Wilkins) Runkel	2013	Eric Halseth	2020	Mike Meyers
1995	Lori (Beaird) Dather	2013	Lee Magnuson	2021	Brent Deckert
1995	Bryce Bly	2013	Ryan Tobin	2021	Chad Garrow
1995	Lyle Claussen	2013	1998 Boys Basketball Championship Team	2022	Scott Novak
1995	Howard Brown Jr.	2014	Jason Larson	2022	Kory Scholten
1996	David Versteeg	2014	Jon Montoya	2022	Jane Swenson
1997	David Larson	2014	Chris Rygh	2022	2010 4x800 Boys Relay Team
1997	Doug Metcalf	2014	Lyndsey (Schneiderman) Smith	2022	1974 Undefeated Football Team
1997	Glenn Sellevold	2015	1998 Football Championship Team	2023	Brad Helm
1998	Luther Hegland Jr.	2015	Mark Moeller	2023	Bob Logan
1998	Jan Kolbrek	2015	Scott Schaffer	2023	Matt VamdeBerg
1998	Bryson McHardy	2015	Mikal Schamons	2023	Jack VanLeur
1998	Teresa Underberg	2016	1985 Football Championship Team	2023	1986 Boys Track & Field Championship Team
1999	Wayne Allen	2016	Joe Ford	2024	Nick Bentele
1999	Rich Larson	2016	Amy Johnson	2024	Chase Douglas
1999	Ivan Else	2016	Wade Rasmussen	2024	Lindsey (Johnson) Block
2000	Bill Bly	2016	Jerome Skiles	2024	Steven Thu
2001	Tom Jones	2017	1979 Football Championship Team	2024	1990 Football Championship Team
2003	Jeff Eitreim	2017	2007 Cheer Championship Team		
2003	Dick Sorum				

WILL CASTLE cont. from page 3B

average 25 points a game in basketball and we didn’t win a state championship in Pierre. I think for Will it’s the same. He’s not going to go up there and (talk about) throwing for 300 yards a game or about scoring 20 points a game. He’s just the guy that did his job, and he did it so well that he’s being recognized for it years later. I think that’s super cool, because, as an offensive lineman, there’s no statistics. He’s had a school record for football, but he definitely set the bar for the offensive line every year. I’ve been doing this

for 23 years, and I always take pride in our players. We’ve got some really good players because of guys like Will and the guys before him and so forth, and I think that’s something to be proud of on his end, that people wanted to be like him and play like him.”

Gaining induction into his high school’s hall of fame holds special meaning for the “big, red-headed kid at heart.”

“It’s a great honor,” Castle said. “It’s a very special group of people that have gone in the past, people

I’ve looked up to, like Austin Hansen, that whole like ‘98 state basketball team, and then some of the coaches that I’ve had that have been inducted, and then some teammates like Austin Sumner and Chase Douglas, who were my good friends that I had in high school, and then fortunate enough to be in college with them. I’m still trying to figure out how I made it. I was a good lineman, and an average track athlete, so, I don’t know if I’m exactly deserving, but I guess some people think I am.”



Reprinted from Brandon Valley Lynxonian yearbook

Will Castle and his senior teammates in the 2007 season were, from left, front: Ethan Funke, Jared Kirkeby, Will Castle, Michael Bellmore; center, Andy Dellman, Caleb Benson, Nate Neuberger, Erik Dieren, Erik Hanson, Andrew Laycock; back: Andrew Bauer, Brett Daly, Taylor Choudek, Jarod Ruud, Sam Saywer and Cory Foster.

ALLIE KOEHN cont. from page 4B

making her a four-time conference discus champ. Her senior year, Guthmiller claimed the top prize in discus at the 2013 State Meet. She currently has three throws that remain on Brandon Valley’s All-Time Top 10 list in discus.

She remembers her call up to the varsity ranks as an eighth grader.

“It was intimidating,” she reflects. “There were some big guys like Chase Douglas and Ryan Ode, and you have characters like Danny Larson and James Burkman, just some of those junior, senior boys were big and tall and full of personality. Then you had Kate Swenson, who is just a presence, and I just felt very out of my league as a measly little eighth grader. Thankfully, Kelly Hoff took me under her wing and Kate did, too, and said, ‘Just ignore them. They’re loud.’”

Guthmiller heeded their advice, and soaked in all the throwing knowledge that she could from her teammates.

“The Swensons definitely have

a family name in throwing, and I think a lot of athletes, as you’re a younger athlete ... are wanting to try to accomplish what others have, or try to outperform. That provides the motivation,” she said.

Her four-year run as the ESD discus champ is partially credited to BV strength coach Adam Bobzien.

“Coach Bobzien and I spent a lot of time together. he was always a warm, smiling face in those early mornings, no matter what season it was, or in the middle of the summer when he was always present there and helped coach me a lot through developing more strength for all my fall sports,” she said.

And while one might think muscle earned her a state title, Guthmiller said it boiled down to a combination of technique.

“There’s a lot of speed and power and explosive motions that can actually enhance the outcome of your throws,” she said.

Early on in her varsity track and field experience, Guthmiller said she

was “oddly” successful in the shot put.

“I think the field was just kind of down, and people got better across the state just as I got towards my junior and senior year. I figured out that I liked discus more, and was obviously more successful at that, so I put a lot more time and effort into my discus competitions,” she said.

“She had a good, solid athletic build, but she would surprise people with how strong she was,” Stadem said. “You’ve got to be strong and explosive to be a great thrower, and that’s why she had the success she did in track”

Guthmiller married her high school sweetheart, Adam Guthmiller. They exchanged vows in the fall of 2018 after she graduated from Augustana. The couple has three girls, Anna, 4, Sophia, 2, and Noelle, six months. She presently works as a financial analyst for Good Samaritan Society/Sanford Health, working on the Good Sam side of the business in long-term care. Adam is the head

pastor at First English Lutheran Church in Lennox.

“He is literally the best girl dad,” she says of Adam. “He just personifies patience and gentleness and fun. They absolutely adore him. He has always wanted to be a father, and he fits the mold perfectly.”

Although she’d love nothing more than to see her girls play sports one day, she’ll support them in whatever they want to do.

“They love to sing and dance right now, and Anna is in gymnastics,” she said. “But I’d love nothing more than to have three little point guards to coach up.”

As her plaque takes a place on BV’s Hall of Fame wall, Guthmiller said she’s proud and humbled to be recognized.

“There are so many former athletes that have accomplished and meant so much to the Brandon Valley community, so it’s really a big honor,” she concludes. “Growing up in the community my whole life, all I ever wanted to do was be on the

court, be on the field and win state championships, have a great time with my teammates and coaches and friends and just represent the community well. It just meant a lot that we were able to accomplish a lot of our goals of bringing home the first girls basketball state championship. I’m just immensely proud to be part of the foundation of a new era of volleyball and excellence that they’re able to achieve now, I won’t ever be the greatest thrower to go down in the books. I spent a ton of time in the gym and in the summer training, lifting. I had so many coaches meeting me there and opening up the doors and my parents drove me to tournaments and practices and camps and all the investment that they put in. It wasn’t because of me, it was really because of all the people around me that impacted me and helped me just to be able to have such success, and I think this is like icing on the cake of an incredible journey.”



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