

# 17 Durant athletes compete at college level

By Colby Gast

A 2024 Durant graduate found a new love in the sport of rugby when entering college this fall.

Addison Schuett, who attends the University of Northern Iowa, joins a group of 17 Durant graduates who have continued their athletic careers at the next level.

Schuett had never played rugby before but thought it would be a fun thing to try.

“I wanted to try something new, and I thought it sounded pretty cool,” said Schuett. “I also thought it would be a good way to meet new people.”

Schuett plays the lock position for her team, which is in the second row of the scrum.

There are two seasons for rugby, 15s in the fall and 7s in the spring. The 15s season involves a team of 15 competing on the field at one time, compared to the 7s season where seven players are on the field for each team.

Schuett’s favorite part about playing rugby is being around her teammates and getting to continue playing sports. A highlight from Schuett’s career is placing in the top four at the national tournament in Kansas City. Schuett is currently majoring in nursing and minoring in Spanish.

The *Chronicles* also reached out to other former Durant athletes who are now competing at the collegiate level.

**Isabelle DeLong** (Class of 2024) is on the rowing team at the University of Iowa. Isabelle is a novice, otherwise known as a first-year rower. She generally is in the stern, the back four, of the boat. Isabelle’s favorite moment so far is getting first place in both her eight- and four-boat races at the home meet for Iowa, the Iowa Chase.

**Nolan DeLong** (Class of 2023) is on the Iowa Hawkeye football team. He plays the linebacker position and various different special team roles. A highlight for Nolan is getting his first special teams start as an Iowa Hawkeye.



Photo courtesy of University of Iowa

Isabelle DeLong (second from right) rows during the Iowa Chase event on the Iowa River in Iowa City on October 19.

## New college football playoff format excites fans

By Josh Peel

College football has a new playoff format this year with a 12-team bracket that replaces a smaller four-team bracket started a decade ago.

Four teams will get a first-round bye: Oregon, Georgia, Arizona State, and Boise State. The other eight teams will play first-round games Dec. 20-21.

Those matchups will include SMU at Penn State, Indiana at Notre Dame, Clemson at Texas, and Tennessee at Ohio State.

High school English teacher Mrs. Cathy Pearlman is a longtime fan of Notre Dame and is excited to see them in the playoffs.

“I am so excited that they made the

**Carlie Jo Fusco** (Class of 2023) is on the University of Northern Iowa track and field team. Fusco battled an injury her first year, causing her to redshirt her freshman year. This year, Fusco will be focusing on the 100-meter and 400-meter hurdles. Fusco’s favorite moment so far was running a 58 second 400-meter dash, which is a five-second drop from her old PR.

**Kierra Hahn** (Class of 2024) plays golf at Concordia University Wisconsin. Hahn made the varsity team her freshman year.

**Ally Happ** (Class of 2022) is on the softball team at Wartburg College in Waverly. Happ is a middle infielder for the Knights. Her favorite memory from her time at Wartburg so far is making it to the NCAA tournament two years in a row and getting to experience traveling and competing with her team.

**Grant Hein** (Class of 2023) runs track at William Penn University in Oskaloosa, Iowa, and competes in the 100-meter and 200-meter dashes. Hein’s favorite moment in his track and field career so far is dropping a second from his high school PR when he ran a 200-meter dash in 23.9 seconds.

**Charles Huesmann** (Class of 2024) is a freshman sprinter at St. Ambrose University in Davenport. Huesmann runs the 400-meter dash in open events and relays. Huesmann’s season began on Dec. 7 with a home meet at St. Ambrose’s indoor track.

**Cooper Huston** (Class of 2022) is bowling for the third year at William Penn University. Cooper’s favorite part about his experience is the amazing people he has met on the team and being able to travel to Las Vegas for a tournament.

**Macy Huston** (Class of 2024) attends William Penn University and is also on the bowling team with her brother. Macy is coming off her state appearance in her senior year of high school. Macy’s season started in October.

**Dayna Maiers** (Class of 2022)



Photo contributed by Full Wonder Photography

University of Northern Iowa rugby player Addison Schuett (#4) assists in a tackle in a game against the University of Wisconsin.

runs track at Mount Mercy University in Cedar Rapids. Maiers runs the 60-meter and 200-meter dashes during the indoor season, and in the outdoor season, she runs the 100-meter and 200-meter dashes, along with throwing the javelin. A highlight of Maiers is setting a PR in the javelin on her third attempt at conference to make the finals.

**Zachary Pearlman** (Class of 2023) is on the bowling team at Coe College for the second year in a row. Pearlman’s favorite memory is competing in Club Nationals.

**Nic Poston** (Class of 2024) wrestles at the University of Dubuque in the 197-pound weight class for the Spartans. Poston’s favorite moment so far is getting his first college win at Luther.

**Brooklyn Schlapkohl** (Class of 2024) bowls at St. Ambrose University. Schlapkohl’s favorite memory is traveling to a Las Vegas tournament, competing as a freshman on varsity.

**Kylie Schult** (Class of 2022) is playing softball at St. Ambrose University. Schult plays pitcher and third base. Schult previously played softball at Southeastern Community College in West Burlington and Kirkwood Community College in Cedar Rapids. Schult’s favorite memory from her



Photo contributed by Grant Hein

Grant Hein (center) runs track for William Penn University in Oskaloosa.

playoff format. His favorite team, the Iowa State Cyclones, missed out on an opportunity to make the playoffs after losing to Arizona State in the Big 12 Championship game.

“A 12-team playoff is way more exciting to watch than just four because it’s usually just teams like Georgia and Alabama, but now we get to see more teams that could do something,” he said.

Tate’s stepsister, Jade Jones, is dating a former Cyclone basketball player Tyrese Haliburton, who is now playing in the NBA with the Indiana Pacers.

“I’ve been a fan of Iowa State since my stepsister Jade started cheering there back in like 2016-2017 or whenever,” said McKinley.

career is leading her team in batting average at Southeastern her freshman year and going to nationals with her Kirkwood team.

**Laney Shelangoski** (Class of 2024) will be joining the Wartburg wrestling team in the upcoming semester. Shelangoski originally enrolled at Kirkwood but decided she didn’t want to end her wrestling career just yet and chose to continue wrestling at Wartburg because of the coach and environment. She plans on wrestling at 103 or 110 pounds.

**Maddie Utter** (Class of 2024) is on the dance team at Iowa Central Community College in Fort Dodge. Utter currently competes in the state and national level pom and hip hop routines. Utter is also in football game day sideline and halftime formations. Utter’s favorite memory is finishing first in her Pom and Jazz routine and second in her Hip Hop routine, with a judges choice award as well, at the state meet on Dec. 5.



Photo contributed by Zachary Pearlman  
Zachary Pearlman bowls for Coe College in Cedar Rapids.

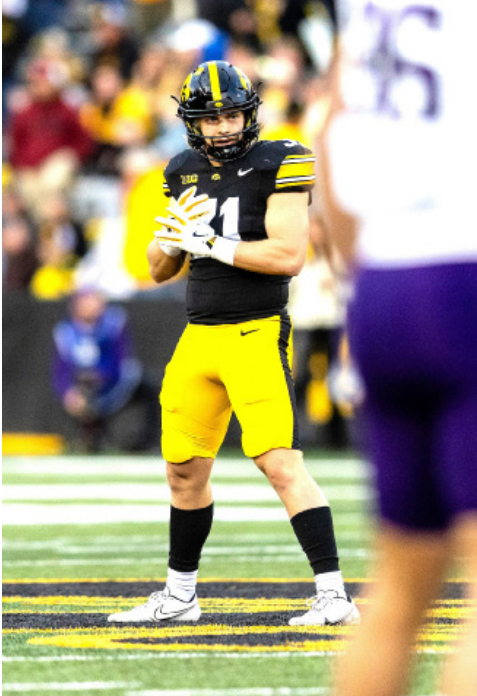


Photo courtesy of University of Iowa  
Nolan DeLong of the Iowa Hawkeye football team prepares for a play against Northwestern on October 26.