

State title crowns top 5 sports moments



Photo by Zachary Pearlman
Charles Huesmann runs in the state finals of the 4x400-meter relay last May.

By Gus Thoma

State has almost become a routine destination for the athletes of the senior class of 2024.

The Wildcat Chronicles compiled the top five athletic moments of the senior class, and four of the five included trips to state.

At number five, two bowlers, Macyn Huston and Brooklyn Schlapkohl, both competed at the state tournament during their high school years.

Huston qualified for state her senior year. She finished 25th in the tournament with a 484 series.

Macyn followed in her older brother Cooper’s footsteps. Cooper, a 2022 graduate, qualified for the state tournament his sophomore year as part of the team.

Schlapkohl qualified for state her sophomore and junior year. In her sophomore year, she got the chance to bowl with her older brother Ethan, a 2022 graduate, who also qualified for the state meet that year. Brooklyn was the first girl bowler to ever qualify for the state tournament from Durant.

At number four, golfer Collier Rockow placed ninth at the state meet his junior year. Rockow was the first Wildcat boy to qualify for the state meet since Leo Callison in 2017. Rockow shot a 75 on day one as well as day two and putted extremely well.

Rockow wants to return to state this year and place in the top three.

At number three, basketball player Isabelle DeLong scored over 1,000 career points and finished as Durant’s third all-time leading scorer for girls.

DeLong scored her 1,000 point on a free throw in front of her home crowd. She finished her Wildcat basketball career with 1,049 career points and 577 career rebounds. Both are number three all time at Durant in the five-on-five era.

At number two, wrestler Lainey Shelangoski placed eighth at the state meet

in her junior year and sixth in her senior year.

Shelangoski was the first girl wrestler from Durant to not only qualify for state but also place at the state meet. She has inspired the younger generation of girls in Durant to give wrestling a shot.

“It gives me a sense of accomplishment when young girls’ parents come up to me and say their daughter tried out wrestling,” said Shelangoski. “Also seeing how many more younger girls have come out for the sport compared to when I first started.”

Shelangoski says that this sport will always hold a special place in her heart.

“I’ve made lifelong friends throughout this sport,” said Shelangoski. “I’ll have many memories to cherish for the rest of my life.”

Finally at number one, senior Charles Huesmann was part of the 4x400-meter relay team that won a state title at last year’s state meet in Des Moines.

The last time that Durant had a state champion was in 2017 when swimmer Sarah Schemmel won the 50-meter freestyle while competing for Muscatine High School.

It had been six years since the last state title, but Huesmann said, “I don’t think it seems that long. I just think that it shows how hard it is to actually achieve something like that.”

Even after Huesmann’s blazing fast

49.5 second split in the third leg of the relay race at Drake Stadium, he still says that he couldn’t do it without his other teammates.

“It takes all four guys doing their jobs to win it,” said Huesmann. “One guy can’t do it all.”

Huesmann ran alongside graduates Garrett Hollenback in the first leg and Nolan DeLong in the fourth leg. Sophomore Colby Gast ran the second leg. They ran a time of 3:22.51 beating out Alburnett, who got second place.

Huesmann says he knew that they would win the title the moment that he passed the baton off to DeLong because Huesmann had captured the lead before the handoff.

“I’ll always remember what that feeling was and sharing it with those guys,” said Huesmann.



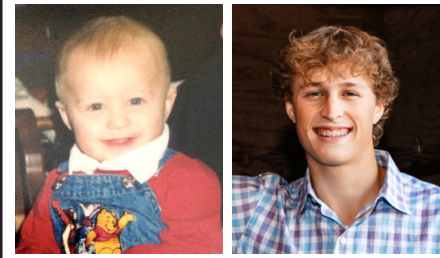
Photo by Nic Poston
Lainey Shelangoski gets her hand raised after a win at the state tournament.



“You can’t have a million-dollar dream with a minimum-wage work ethic.”
---Stephen C. Hogan



“The things that make me different are the things that make me, ME.”
Piglet, *Winnie-the-Pooh*



Caden James,
Your dad and I are so proud of the young man you’ve become and can’t wait to see what the future holds for you.
Love,
Mom & Dad



Congratulations, Sis!
We are proud of your accomplishments and cannot wait to see what will unfold for you in your future!
Love Ya,
Team Streeter



Michael,
Set goals to turn vision into reality!



To Kennedy as you graduate,
It seems like just yesterday you were just starting school, and now you’re receiving your diploma. It’s been a joy to watch you grow and achieve so much these past four years. Congratulations!
Love,
Mom & Dad



Kaetlyn,
You’ve always been a shining star in our lives, and today, as you graduate, that star shines even brighter. Your future is limitless, and we have no doubt that you’ll reach for the stars and achieve your dreams. As you graduate and embark on this new chapter of your life, remember that the world is full of opportunities waiting for someone as talented and driven as you. May your journey be filled with success, happiness, and endless adventures. We are forever blessed and so proud of you!!
Love,
Mom & Dad



Lainey,
It has been a pleasure to watch you grow and find your way. Many more successes on your new path after high school!
We love you!
Mom and Dad



Ryan,
We are very proud of all the things you have accomplished over the years. You are a joy to have in our lives, and we have loved watching you grow. We are excited about your future and know your success is unlimited. You are a strong person who stays focused and reaches your goals.
We love you very much,
Mom and Dad



Brooklyn,
From the day you were born, you had the brightest eyes with the biggest smile. You are a thoughtful & caring soul, always willing to lend a hand when needed. We are so proud of the strong, independent young woman you have become. We look forward to watching you achieve your dreams.
Love,
Mom, Dad & Ethan



“Keep your face always toward the sunshine, and shadows will fall behind you.”
Walt Whitman
Isabelle,
We love you like crazy!
Mom, Dad, Drew, Nolan, Owen, Elsie & Jack



Congratulations, ladybug!
We’re so proud of you,
Olivia!
XO,
Mom, Dad & the sisters