

Warren High School Athletics



Year In Review

2019-20

REFLECTIONS

Warrior Nation witnessed the rise of Warrior Athletics in 2018-19, and this continued with even more success as several 2019-20 squads took it to another level. The Fall season saw the return to relevance of Football as they posted a 6-4 record, a 12-win season and a sectional title from the youthful Girls Soccer team, and District runner-up finishes in both golf programs. The momentum from Fall continued into the Winter months as both the Boys and Girls Basketball teams advanced to the District Finals, with the girls posting the best season in program history and a #4 State ranking. All of this success, however, was unfortunately overshadowed by the COVID-19 pandemic, which forced the disappointing but necessary cancellation of our 2020 Spring Sports seasons.

TEAM ACHIEVEMENTS – FALL SPORTS

Cross Country - Girls

The 10-member Girls Cross Country team, coached by Neil Brague, put together a solid season with a very young squad. Led by program newcomer Allison Werry (Jr.), the lone qualifier for Regionals with an 18th place finish at Districts, the squad posted three top 5 finishes. Seven of the ten runners are projected to return in 2020.

All-East Central Ohio League:

- Allison Werry 7th Place

All-Southeast District:

- Allison Werry 18th Place

Cross Country – Boys

Lost to graduation from the Boys Cross Country team, coached by Neil Brague, was the leader and ultra-talented Trent Sayre, but the young, 12-member squad ran to a solid season. Along the way, the team earned four top 5 finishes, captured 3rd place honors at the ECOL Championships and qualified for the Regionals with a 6th place team finish at Districts. Sophomores Brennan Perdue (22nd place) and Bryson Angelo (27th place) were outright qualifiers, and joining that duo at Regionals was the lone senior Preston Rowland-Demster, Juniors Matt Rauch and Justin Pate, Sophomore Andrew Vincent, and Freshman Oliver Yost. The 2020 season appears bright with the return of the teams' core group of runners.

All-East Central Ohio League:

- Brennan Perdue 9th Place
- Bryson Angelo 10th Place

All-Southeast District:

- Brennan Perdue 22nd Place
- Bryson Angelo 27th Place

Football

For years, the Warren fans longed for a winning season, and the 2019 football season did not disappoint. Under the direction of 1st year Head Coach Matt Kimes, the Warriors finished 6-4 for the second best record this century. Along the way, the Warriors rewrote the record books, smashing single-season passing yardage, single-game passing yards, single-game TD passes, season receptions and season receiving yards. Improvements were seen in all 3 phases of the game --- offense, defense, and special teams. The improvements resulted in five athletes earning post-season honors, led by a quartet of Juniors – QB Kurt Taylor, WR Evan Gandee, K Joel Chevalier, and DE Josh Welch – and repeat honoree, Senior Brandon Simoniette. Thomas Miller was the recipient of the Burlsworth Character Award, a national honor.

All-Southeast District:

- Kurt Taylor 1st Team – QB
- Evan Gandee 1st Team – WR
- Joel Chevalier 1st Team – K
- Josh Welch Special Mention
- Brandon Simoniette Special Mention

All-Ohio Valley Athletic Conference

- Kurt Taylor 1st Team – QB
- Evan Gandee 1st Team – WR

All-Marietta Times

- Kurt Taylor 1st Team – QB
- Evan Gandee 1st Team – WR
- Brandon Simoniette 1st Team - WR
- Joel Chevalier 1st Team – Specialist
- Josh Welch Defensive Line

All-Ohio

- Kurt Taylor Special Mention
- Evan Gandee Special Mention
- Joel Chevalier Special Mention

Golf - Boys

Ultra-successful golf coach Nathan Evans was masterful in his management of a young, but very talented Boys Golf Team as he led them to an impressive 2019 season. Without a Senior and with the late arrival of its top two golfers – Junior Seth Dennis and Sophomore Caleb Davis, members of the Beverly Lowell Regional Runner-up Legion Baseball team – the young squad got off to a slow start. During the slow start, Evans was able to develop players in the heat of the competition in the absence of Dennis and Davis, which proved very valuable. Upon their return, Coach Evans saw his team accomplish the following:

- Won 10 of 22 tournaments

- Finished 3rd in both the OVAC and ECOL Tournaments
- DI OHSAA Sectional Runner-Up
- DI OHSAA Districts – Runner-Up
- Finished with a 95-45 team record

Seth Dennis put together a dominant Junior season on the links by earning DI Southeastern Ohio District 1st Team and Player of the Year honors and All-OVAC 1st Team honors. Seth became just the 2nd Warren individual male golfer to qualify for the State Tournament. In addition to Seth’s accolades, his teammates were well-represented as the following earned post-season honors:

All-ECOL

- Chance Weihl Honorable Mention

All-OVAC

- Seth Dennis 1st Team

All-Southeast District

- Seth Dennis 1st Team, Player of the Year
- Caleb Davis 1st Team
- Chance Weihl 1st Team
- Jacob Smeeks 2nd Team
- Nathan Heft Honorable Mention

State Qualifier

- Seth Dennis Warren’s second individual to qualify for State Tournament

Golf – Girls

Andy Biddinger, in his 2nd year leading the Girls Golf Team, fielded a very competitive and talented squad of 14 players and competed in a full schedule. The team finished with a 66-15 record, winning 16 of 22 tournaments. Other team highlights along the way included:

- Captured the Washington County Tournament
- Placed 3rd at the ECOL Championships
- Won first Sectional Title
- Runner-up at District Tournament
- Smashed low team round scores for 9 hole, 18 hole, and OHSAA Tournament

The team was led by the consistent play of Senior Hannah Jankauskas, who set program records for a 9-hole round (38) and 18-hole round (82). The future remains bright for this squad as 10 underclassmen return, including post-season honorees Hollis Sturgill (Fr.), Sage Husted (So.), Aubrey Schenz (Fr.), and Jillian Stemple (Fr.).

All-ECOL

- Hannah Jankauskas 1st Team
- Hollis Sturgill 1st Team

All-Southeast District

- Hannah Jankauskas 1st Team, Player of the Year
- Hollis Sturgill 1st Team

- Zoe Miller 1st Team
- Grace Wharton Honorable Mention
- Aubrey Schenz Honorable Mention
- Jilliann Stemple Honorable Mention

State Qualifier

- Hannah Jankauskas 1st WHS female golfer to qualify for State Tournament

Soccer – Boys

For the second consecutive season, a slow start resulted in the Ekrem Eksi-led squad finishing the season with a 7-9-1 record. Plagued by a rash of injuries to key players and the loss of 3 more players with post-season honors from the 2018 squad, the young Warriors struggled against a very difficult schedule. Things won't get any easier as the Warriors will in 2020 start competing in the highly competitive East Central Ohio League. However, there is reason to be optimistic as 18 of the 21 Warriors on the Varsity squad return, including all 4 post-season honorees, and will do so with much valuable experience gained in 2019. The Warriors were well represented with the following post-season honors:

All-Southeastern District

- Brayden McConnell 1st Team
- Gavin Ott 2nd Team
- Brayden Sallee Honorable Mention
- Shane Gardner Honorable Mention

Soccer – Girls

The 2019 squad of Head Coach Andy Pinkerton put together one of the better seasons in Girls Soccer history. The youthful squad (16 of 21 players were underclassmen) posted an overall record of 12-4-3, and earned a 2 seed enroute to a Sectional championship. Along the way, the stingy defensive squad, headed by post-season honorees Alexis Frazee (FR), Sommer Saboley (SR), and goal keeper Millie Ryan (JR), allowed just 21 goals and recorded 8 shutouts. The return of most of its roster and 4 athletes that earned District honors lends to high expectations in 2020. Next season will mark the Warriors first time competing in the highly competitive East Central Ohio League.

All-Southeast District

- Taylor Sloan 1st Team
- Alexis Frazee 2nd Team
- Macie Smith 2nd Team
- Millie Ryan Honorable Mention
- Sommer Saboley Honorable Mention
- Ohio/West Virginia Referee's Association Team Sportsmanship Award

Volleyball

The 2019 Warren Volleyball team, coached by Michelle Tyo, posted an 8-14 overall record. The veteran squad hosted and won a Sectional play-in game before bowing for the 2nd year in a row to a very good Vinton County squad. Senior standout Abby Gilliland put together a solid season, earning a spot in the OVAC All-Star Game.

All-Southeast District 13

- 2nd Team Abby Gilliland
- 3rd Team Madison Foy
- Honorable Mention Caspen Ford, Haylee Morgan

TEAM ACHIEVEMENTS – WINTER SPORTS

Basketball – Boys

The veteran leadership of Coach Maddox and his staff was obvious throughout this season as they delivered one of the better coaching jobs in recent memory. Faced with an upgraded strength of schedule and the loss of Seth Dennis, this team was a resilient group that far exceeded fans expectations, an added motivation that fueled their late season return to the Convo and a trip to the District finals, where they were defeated by Logan Elm. Led by Senior Guard Brandon Simoniette, a 1st Team Southeast District honoree, and a supporting cast of 3 District award-winning Juniors --- Jake Baumgard, Joel Chevalier, and Kurt Taylor --- the Warriors were able to grind out 16 wins. Optimism abounds in 2020-21 with 4 starters returning, the anticipated comeback of Seth Dennis, and a JV team that finished 19-3.

Earning post-season individual honors in Boys Basketball were:

- Ohio Prep Sports Writers Association All-District
 - 1st Team Brandon Simoniette
 - 2nd Team Jake Baumgard
 - Special Mention Joel Chevalier, Kurt Taylor
- District 13 Coaches All-District
 - 1st Team Brandon Simoniette
 - Special Mention Joel Chevalier, Kurt Taylor

Basketball – Girls

The Girls Basketball team, led by District 13 Coach of the Year Amy Colgrove, had a record-setting 2019-20 season. A 23-2 record, which included a 22-game win streak, led to one of the finest seasons in Lady Warrior history. Utilizing a talented 9 player rotation, a suffocating press, and a stingy half court zone defense, the Lady Warriors achieved a #4 State ranking and a District Runner-up finish. Expectations are high for next season as the Lady Warriors will welcome back 5 of their top 7 players and a talented Junior Varsity squad that posted a 19-2 record on the season.

Earning post-season honors for the young Warriors were:

- Ohio Prep Sports Writers Association All-District
 - Abbie Smith – 1st Team

- Molly Grayson – 2nd Team
- Sommer Saboley – 3rd Team
- Olivia Alloway – Special Mention
- Millie Ryan – Special Mention
- Amy Colgrove – Tri-Coach of the Year

- District 13 Coaches All-District
 - Molly Grayson – Co Player of the Year; 1st Team
 - Abbie Smith – 1st Team
 - Olivia Alloway – Special Mention
 - Sommer Saboley – Special Mention
 - Amy Colgrove – Coach of the Year

- All-Ohio
 - Abbie Smith – 3rd Team
 - Molly Grayson – Honorable Mention

Cheer

Terri Roddy's 2019-20 Cheer Squad finished a very respectable 3rd Place in their ECOL Cheerleading competition debut. Freshman Remi Ross was touted for her phenomenal tumbling and jumping skills during the competition.

The squad added to the excitement of all football and boys basketball games during the Fall and Winter sports seasons, and will be remembered for their high energy halftime performances at home varsity boys basketball games. Members of the Varsity cheer squad included:

Seniors:	Kaylie Ahart, Kyra Gaughan, Makayla Muntz, Hallie Walker, Madison Ware, Kaira Wittekind
Juniors:	Kayla Harnage, Mya Puccio
Sophomores:	Kaylee Hafer, Lakyn McGuire, Rylee Moore
Freshman:	Remi Ross

Swimming

2019-20 ushered in the inaugural swim team for Warren High School girls and boys. Led by Coach Jenny Miller, the 5-member squad of 3 girls (Ashley Miller, Sage Husted and Jori Husted) and 2 boys (Andrew Vincent and Kodi Reynolds) gained Board approval in Mid-December and began practicing with Marietta and competing in meets in Southeast Ohio. The team swam in 4 meets plus Sectionals. Ashley Miller qualified for Districts in the 50 meter freestyle.

Much improvement was seen throughout the season in all the swimmers. There is optimism that several more swimmers will be joining the squad for next season.

Wrestling

The 2019-20 Warren Wrestling squad, led by first-year Head Coach Jeff Parsons, posted a 121-43 overall record, including a 2nd place team finish in their ECOL Championship debut. Nine Warriors placed and 3 captured ECOL titles led by Cole Coleman (113), Peyton Kellar (145), and Brady Oberdier (170). Season-long improvements continued as a record 10 wrestlers qualified for Districts, including Peyton Kellar (sectional champ), Brady Oberdier, Cole Coleman, Hayley Snyder, Brodie Tait, Darian Congleton, Zach Ochampaugh, Austin Carpenter, Jake Welch, and Hayden Wiggers as an alternate. Peyton Kellar once again was Warren's headliner as he posted a 48-0 record, and qualified for his 3rd consecutive trip to the Ohio State Championships (only to be denied by the coronavirus). Kellar, a junior, now has 147 career victories, and is zeroing in on the most wins in school history.

- All-East Central Ohio League
 - Cole Coleman (1st Place – 113)
 - Peyton Kellar (1st Place – 145)
 - Brady Oberdier (1st Place – 170)
 - Zach Ochampaugh (2nd Place – 182)
 - Jake Welch (2nd Place – 285)
 - Hayley Snyder (3rd Place – 106)
 - John Shoup (3rd Place – 160)
 - Kaleb Tait (3rd Place – 220)
 - Brodie Tait (4th Place – 132)

- All-Ohio Valley Athletic Conference
 - Peyton Kellar – Champion
 - Cole Coleman

- All-District (State Qualifiers)
 - Peyton Kellar – District Champion
 - Brady Oberdier – 5th Place (alternate to State Meet)

- Ohio Wrestling Coaches Association Girls State Tournament Champion
 - Hayley Snyder – 101 1b

TEAM CAPSULES – SPRING SPORTS

With the announcement of the 3-week closure of schools due to the COVID-19 pandemic on March 13, then its extension through June 30, the Spring Sports season was cancelled abruptly ending the sports careers of 23 seniors. During this unprecedented time, below is a brief look into our 2020 squads that seasons ended much too soon.

Baseball

Reigning D2 District Coach of the Year, Ryan Lemley, and his breakout, District runner-up squad from a season ago looked forward with great optimism to the 2020 season. With the return of 7 starters and 4 of its top 6 pitchers from a team that posted a 19-8-1 record last season, the Warriors were poised

for a deep run in the post-season in 2020. For Senior Pitcher Brett Gandee (All-OVAC 1st Team) and his battery mate, catcher Thomas Miller, their seasons and careers came to an end at the hands of an invisible opponent, the deadly and highly contagious COVID-19 virus. 2021 appears bright for this squad, but we are left wondering what 2020 could have been for this talented group.

Softball

The 2020 Softball season for second-year Head Coach Katie Dickson was billed as a bounce back season for her young, but battle-tested squad. Coming off a 7-19 record with a squad that often times started as many as 6 freshmen and sophomores, an influx of new coaches, a deeper pitching staff, and some talented newcomers to the program led to cautious optimism. Senior leaders Kenady Sams, an All-District honoree last season, and Katlyn Hunter had hoped this team would build on the promise it showed in big wins over Wheeling Park, Parkersburg South, and Steubenville during the 2019 season. For both, their hopes, dreams and careers ended much too soon.

Track & Field – Boys

Coming off the greatest season in Warren Boys Track Team history – a 3rd place finish at the Ohio State Championships, the 2019 WOW Awards Team of the Year hoped the momentum would continue. Returning to the oval for 2nd year head coach Tyler Schaad, the reigning District Coach of the Year, was a talented senior trio of All-Ohio athletes Ethan Yost, Justin Lough, and Preston Rowland-Demster, as well as sophomore distance specialist Brennan Perdue. Ethan Yost will continue his running career at Kent State next season, but for the remainder of the seniors, the memories of an unfortunate ending to their running careers at the hands of the coronavirus will be forever in their minds.

Track & Field – Girls

The 32-member squad of Sally Maddox entered the 2020 Spring season with high expectations. Led by a talented core that included senior Emme Bowe, Allison Werry, Millie Ryan, and Lily Herriott and some promising newcomers, this squad hoped to build on several top 3 team finishes from a season ago. Junior discus thrower Millie Ryan looked forward to a return to the podium at the State Meet, after finishing 6th in 2019.

Senior Tribute

The following Spring sport seniors, whose seasons and careers were cut much too short, were honored by the Athletic Department with a series of social media posts:

Baseball

Brett Gandee
Thomas Miller

Softball

Katlyn Hunter
Kenady Sams

Boys Track

Ian Valentine
Ethan Yost
Justin Lough
Preston Rowland-Demster
Jonathan McDermitt
Adam Jensen
Nathan Ritchie
Kaleb Tait

Girls Track

Makayla Aiken
Emme Bowe
Caspern Ford
Madison Foy
Pearl Herriott
Brooke Holdren
Myah Husted
Jaelyn Ludwig
Sommer Saboley
Jenna Walters
McKenna Wynn



2019-20

The 2020 “WOW” Awards, honoring the best in Warrior Athletics during the 2019-20 school year, were cancelled due to the COVID-19 virus and the strict guidelines on social distancing. Although we were disappointed that we had to cancel this years’ event, the health and safety of our athletes, coaches, parents and fans must remain our #1 priority during these unprecedented times. We look forward with excitement to the return of the popular event next year.

Daily Inspiration



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