

BIG **SHOTS**

UNIFIED

Lyndon Institute senior

crowd during a Unified

bury at Alumni Gymna-

sium on Tuesday, April

won a thriller, 42-35.

Photo by Michael Beniash

4, 2023. The Hilltoppers

JOY



COVER SHOT

Maya Auger, center, and top-seeded North Country celebrate at the final horn after rallying past No. 3 Spaulding 47-42 to claim the Division II championship at Barre Auditorium on Saturday, March 4, 2023. The Falcons finished the season undefeated at 24-0 for their second title in three years.

Photo by Michael Beniash



THE RECORD/EDITORIAL

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2022-23 YEAR IN REVIEW



Another year, another memorable year of sports memories. From buzzer-beaters to state championships and everything in between, 2022-23 brought joy to athletes and fans around New Hampshire's North Country and Vermont's Northeast Kingdom. Here's a look back at some of the year's most unforgettable sports moments from June 2023 to July 2022:

BY KEVIN DOYON

Sports Writer

HILLTOPPER RELAY TEAM BLAZES TO SECOND IN NATION **JUNE 17**

St. Johnsbury Academy foursome of Andrew Bugbee, Jaden Beardsley, Gerardo Fernandez and Andrew Thornton-Sherman delivered a historic, All-American second-place finish in the Sprint Medley Relay at the 2023 New Balance Nationals Outdoor at the University of Pennsylvania's Franklin Field.

The electric squad ran a time of 3:25.63 in the championship division, bettering a pair of All-American fourth-place finishes from last summer's outdoor nationals and this past March's indoor nationals. It was St. J's highest-ever finish at the national level.

DENNIS DEALS MASTERPIECE. **BUCKS FINISH DOMINANT RUN** TO D-IV TITLE **JUNE 10**

Blue Mountain senior Evan Dennis delivered a masterpiece in his final high school outing, allowing just one seventh-inning hit while striking out 18 batters as the top-seeded Bucks shut out No. 6 Arlington 9-0 in the Division IV baseball championship in Burlington.

After two years of heartbreak - losing to White River Valley 16-2 in 2021 and 5-4 last spring — the Bucks returned to glory, capping a memorable 18-1 season with their first state title since 2015 and 10th overall. Blue Mountain finished off a dazzling postseason; not allowing

See Review, Page 8

St. Johnsbury's Gerardo Fernandez is all smiles after anchoring the Hilltoppers 4x100 team to victory during the Vermont Division I high school track and field state championship at Burlington High School on Saturday, June 3, 2023. (Photo by Kevin Doyon)

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STILL ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR THE 2023-2024 **SCHOOL YEAR**

2023 SPRING PLAYERS OF THE YEAR

- ★ Baseball: Evan Dennis, Blue Mountain
- ★ Softball: Mackenzie Griswold, Woodsville
- ★ Lacrosse: Maren Nitsche, St. Johnsbury
- ★ Girls Track & Field: Sabine Brueck, North Country
- ★ Boys Track & Field: Jaden Beardsley, Gerardo Fernandez, Andrew Bugbee, Andrew Thornton-Sherman, St. Johnsbury **★ Tennis:** Nia Bebb, White Mountains

2023 BASEBALL/SOFTBALL DREAM DOZEN

- ★ Evan Dennis, Blue Mountain, Sr., P/SS
- ★ Karter Deming, White Mountains, Sr., P/SS
 - ★ Austin Wheeler, Lyndon, Sr., P/OF
 - ★ Tyler Rivard, Hazen, Sr., SS/P
 - ★ Rex Hauser, St. Johnsbury, Soph., 3B
 - ★ Mike Hogan, Woodsville, Jr., P/OF/2B
- ★ Blake Fillion, Littleton, Jr., 1B/2B/SS/P ★ Noah Covell, White Mountains, Soph., C/1B
- ★ Kolten Dowse, Colebrook, Jr., P/C
- ★ Ricky Fennimore, Blue Mountain, Sr., 1B/P
 - ★ Lyle Rooney, Hazen, Sr., P/SS
 - ★ Cam Berry, Lyndon, Sr., OF/2B

- ★ Mackenzie Griswold, Woodsville, Jr., P
 - ★ Molly Smith, Lyndon, Jr., SS
- ★ Emersen Mitchell, St. Johnsbury, Soph., 3B/SS/P
 - * Karli Blood, Blue Mountain, Jr., SS
 - ★ Rileigh Fortin, North Country, Sr., SS
 - ★ Dory Roy. Woodsville, Jr., C
 - ★ Sierra Riff, Colebrook, Sr., P/IF
 - ★ Javdin Rover, Lvndon, Jr., P/RF
 - ★ Kyra Nelson, Blue Mountain, Soph., P/3B
- ★ Kaia Anderson, St. Johnsbury, Jr., SS/3B/OF
 - ★ Ashleigh Simpson, Lyndon, Soph., P/2B ★ Tyra Scelza, North Country, Jr., C

2022-23 WINTER PLAYERS OF THE YEAR

- ★ Girls Basketball: Hayden Wilkins, St. Johnsbury
 - ★ Boys Basketball: Tyler Rivard, Hazen
 - ★ Girls Hockey: Ella Blaise, Lake Region
 - ★ Boys Hockey: Garett Shatney, Lyndon
 - ★ Girls Alpine Skiing: Makenna Price, Profile ★ Boys Alpine Skiing: Adam Bell, Profile
- ★ Nordic Skiing: Ruth Krebs, St. Johnsbury
- ★ Boys Indoor Track: Andrew Thornton-Sherman, St. Johnsbury
- ★ Girls Indoor Track: Brooke White, St. Johnsbury
- ★ Wrestling: Hannah Keithan, St. Johnsbury
- ★ **Gymnastics:** Lydia Ruggles, St. Johnsbury

2022-23 BASKETBALL DREAM DOZEN

- ★ Tyler Rivard, Hazen, Sr., F
- ★ Cam Davidson, Woodsville, Sr., F
- ★ Harry Geng, St. Johnsbury, Jr., G ★ Josh Robie, Profile, Jr., G
- ★ Kayden Hoskins, Littleton, Jr., F
- ★ Cooper Brueck, North Country, Sr., G
- ★ Austin Wheeler, Lyndon, Sr., F/G
- ★ Evan Dennis, Blue Mountain, Sr., F
- ★ Rex Hauser, St. Johnsbury, Soph., F
- ★ Carmichael Lopez, Littleton, Sr., F ★ Alex Leslie, Profile, Jr., F
- ★ Christian Young, Danville, Sr., G

- ★ Hayden Wilkins, St. Johnsbury, Jr., G
- ★ Sabine Brueck, North Country, Soph., G ★ Sakoya Sweeney, Lake Region, Sr., G
- ★ Brooke'lyn Robinson, Lyndon, Jr., G
- ★ Marissa Kenison, Groveton, Sr., F
- ★ Caitlyn Davison, Hazen, Jr., G
- ★ Cora Nadeau, North Country, Sr., G
- ★ Addison Hadlock. Littleton, Soph., F
- ★ Jordan Alley, Blue Mountain, Jr., F
- ★ Ariana Lord, Colebrook, Sr., C
- ★ Laci Potter Danville, Sr., G
- ★ Maya Auger, North Country, Jr., G
- 2022 FALL PLAYERS OF THE YEAR
- ★ Girls Soccer: Sakoya Sweeney, Lake Region
- ★ Boys Soccer: Gerardo Fernandez, St. Johnsbury
 - ★ Field Hockey: Sarah Tanner, Lyndon ★ Golf: Jackson Horne. Woodsville
- ★ Cross-Country Running: Andrew Thornton-Sherman, St. Johnsbury Football
- ★ Defense: Dawson Wilkins, St. Johnsbury
- ★ Offense: Quinn Murphy, St. Johnsbury

2022 SOCCER DREAM DOZEN

- ★ Gerardo Fernandez, St. Johnsbury, Sr., F
- ★ Cooper Brueck, North Country, Sr., MF ★ Tyler Rivard, Hazen, Sr., GK
 - ★ Joelvy Perez, Littleton, Jr., MF
- ★ Cam Davidson, Woodsville, Sr., GK
- ★ Charlie Thompson, Lake Region, Sr., D
- ★ Jorge Trade, St. Johnsbury, Sr., MF ★ Rob Southworth, White Mountains, Jr., MF/F
- ★ Noah Fortin, North Country, Sr., D
 - ★ Connor Houston, Woodsville, Jr., D
- ★ Pierson Freligh, Profile, Sr., MF ★ Aidan Brody, St. Johnsbury, Jr., D

- ★ Sakoya Sweeney, Lake Region, Sr., MF/F
- ★ Lily Garey-Wright, St. Johnsbury, Jr., D ★ Sabine Brueck, North Country, Soph., F
- ★ Paige Smith, Woodsville, Sr., MF
- ★ Madison Bowman, Lake Region, Sr., MF
- ★ Charli Kellaway, North Country, Jr., MF * Hannah Amadon, St. Johnsbury, Sr., F
- ★ Josie Deangelis, White Mountains, Sr., MF
 - ★ Evie Burger, Profile, Jr., F
 - ★ Jordan Alley, Blue Mountain, Jr., F
 - ★ Kaitlyn Ilacqua, Littleton, Jr., D
- ★ Emilu Kostruba, St. Johnsbury, Sr., GK

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WIL-POWER!

BURLINGTON — If there's a will, there's a Wilkins.

Hayden Wilkins buried the game-tying jumper late in regulation, then nailed a heart-stopping, game-winning 3-pointer with 12 seconds left in overtime to lift third-seeded St. Johnsbury to an epic 50-47 triumph over No. 2 Rutland in the Division I semifinals on Monday night at Patrick Gymnasium.

"Crazy," Wilkins said. "Just an unbelievable moment. We fought until the end."

Tied 47-all in overtime, the Hilltopper junior guard received a pass outside the arc over the right elbow, elevated and let the 3-ball fly.

"As soon as I got the ball, I didn't know how much time was left," Wilkins said. "But I knew as soon as I saw her hands down I was going to shoot. I knew it was my time."

The ball hit the front iron, caromed off the glass, rolled around the rim and fell through the net. Wilkins backpedaled, shrugged her shoulders and smiled.

"Shooter's bounce for sure," Wilkins said. "When I let it go, I thought it was good, but it hit the front rim and my gut dropped. Then it went in and I was just thrilled."

Rutland's Karsyn Bellomo got a look for the tying 3, but it bounced off the rim and the Academy celebrated its first trip back to the state final since winning back-to-back crowns in 2018 and 2019.

WIL-POWER

Hayden Wilkins and her teammates celebrate after third-seeded St. J knocked off No. 2 Rutland 50-47 in overtime in a Division I semifinal at Patrick Gymnasium on Feb. 27, 2023.. (Photo by Michael Beniash)



Congratulations to all of the Northeast Kingdom & Northern New Hampshire Athletes for all their hard work, dedication and achievements this year!



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Continued from Page 2

a run while outscoring its foes 33-0 in three playoff wins.

BLUE MOUNTAIN BASHES DEFENDING CHAMPS FOR D-IV SOFTBALL CROWN **JUNE 10**

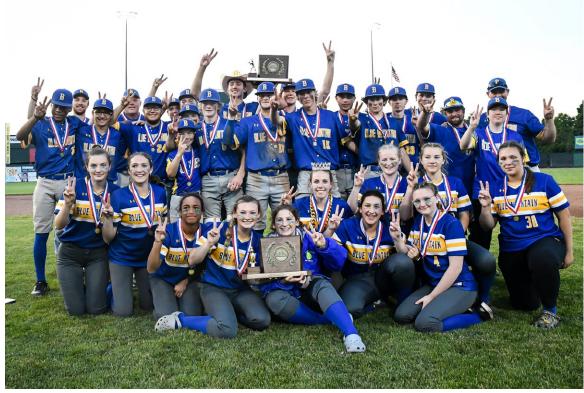
Big knocks, small ball — you name it. By the time the rain let up, the Bucks had already poured it on.

Blue Mountain (15-3) had everything working and left little doubt as to who Division IV's top team was with a 17-6 shellacking of topranked and defending champion West Rutland (15-4).

The 11-run margin of victory was the largest in a D-IV championship in 25 years.

KARTER WITH A K: DEMING **DOMINATES AS SPARTANS** STUN HUSKIES FOR D-III TITLE **JUNE 10**

game of his life as No. 3 White Moun-



BLUE FOR TWO —The Division IV state champion Blue Mountain softball and baseball teams celebrate together in Burlington on Senior Karter Deming pitched the Saturday, June 10, 2023. The boys beat Arlington 9-0 while earlier in the day the girls waxed West Rutland 17-6 as both programs won for the first time since doubling up in 2015. (Photo by Michael Beniash)

tains Regional stunned top-seeded, two-time defending champions Monadnock, 2-0, at Delta Dental Field to win the New Hampshire Division III baseball title.

Deming was masterful, tossing a two-hit shutout with an eye-popping 16 strikeouts, to end the Huskies' 43game win streak.

Ian St. Cyr drove in both Spartans' runs, with Noah Covell scoring each

In the quarterfinals, down to their final out and trailing by two, the Spartans stormed back for an improbable 9-8 victory over sixth-seeded Conant.

Facing an 8-6 deficit with two outs in the bottom of the seventh, No. 8 and 9 hitters Ethan Heng and Danny Stinson belted back-to-back home runs to tie the game.

Brayden Shallow then hit a single and stole second base to keep the rally going before Rob Breault smoked a shot to left center to score Shallow for the spectacular walk-off victory.

See Review, Page 9



Karter Deming, left, Deagan Stover (4) and teammates celebrate after No. 3 White Mountains Regional beat top-seeded Monadnock, 2-0, in the Division III Championship at Delta Dental Field in Manchester, N.H., on Saturday, June 10, 2023. (Photo by Paul Hayes)



Blue Mountain players pigpile after blankinkg No. 6 Arlington 9-0 to seize the Division IV baseball crown at Centennial Field in Burlington on Saturday, June 10, 2023. Evan Dennis fired a one-hitter with 18 Ks to guide the No. 1 Bucks to their first title since 2015. (Photo by Michael Beniash)

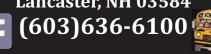
Congratulations Athletes!

Well Done!



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Yellow Black

Review

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NO MERCY: SJA'S REIGN **POURS ON AS** HILLTOPPERS ROLL TO D-I THREE-PEAT JUNE 3

The St. J Academy boys continued their supremacy, securing their third of back-toback-to-back Vermont Division I state track and field championships after another dominant outing at Burlington High School.

SJA tallied 135 points, a statement-making 55-point margin of victory ahead of runner-up South Burlington's 80. Essex scored 78, Mount Mansfield tallied 59 and host Burlington 50.

For four Hilltoppers, Saturday's rout capped off a rare triple crown feat — being crowned state champs in cross country and both indoor and outdoor track. For the rest of the team, it was the final culmination of a historic season in what seemed destined right from the beginning.

With the crown already won, SJA's dynamite quartet of Andrew Thornton-Sherman, Andrew Bugbee, Jaden Beardsley and Gerardo Fernandez stepped up to compete in the 4x400 for the meet's finale. Already owning the school record after setting it the month prior, the Hilltoppers raced to a time of 3:22.12 to set the new Vermont record.



The St. J Academy relay team of Andrew Thornton-Sherman, Andrew Bugbee, Gerardo Fernandez and Jaden Beardsley stand with coach Chip Langmaid after racing to second place in the Sprint Medley Relay at the 2023 New Balance Nationals Outdoor at the University of Pennsylvania's Franklin Field on Saturday, June 17, 2023.

point was the seventh track attempts. event win of the day for SJA with the champs picking up wins in the 100, 200, 400, 300 hurdles and each of the three

CRUSADERS CAPTURE D-III GIRLS TENNIS TITLE WITH DOMINANT **DISPLAY** JUNE 1

The top-ranked Crusaders showed poise and were dominant throughout, capping a perfect 17-0 season with another wide-open win to claim the New Hampshire Division III girls tennis title, an 8-1 result over No. 3 Prospect Mountain at Memorial Field in Concord.

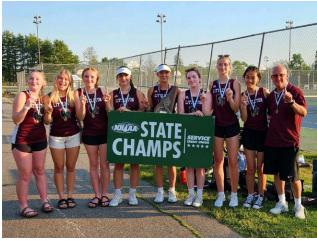
It was Littleton's fourth straight trip to the championship game and second time historic exclamation winning it all in the past three

MURPHY, NCU HONORED AS VERMONT **NFF CELEBRATES 2022** SEASON WITH AWARDS MAY 7

The Vermont chapter of the National Football Foundation honored the best of the 2022 football season at its 28th annual Vermont Chapter Awards Dinner held at Glenbrook Gymnasium on the Castleton University campus.

St. Johnsbury senior football standout Quinn Murphy was amongst those inducted into the 2022 high school class. Murphy is the sixth Hilltopper in as many seasons to be inducted into the Vermont Chapter of the NFF Hall of Fame as a scholar-athlete.

The Vermont Football Offi-



No. 1 Littleton captures the N.H. Division III girls tennis championship with an 8-1 win over No. 3 Prospect Mountain at Memorial Field in Concord on, June 1, 2023. Team members, left to right, include Madison Nelson, Kierra Charest, Ella Horsch, Lauryn Corrigan, Kaitlyn Ilacqua, Hannah Whitcomb, Addison Hadlock, Fiona Chau and coach Al Smith.

cials Association also gave its Remick Field in honor of the season-long team sportsmanship award, The Stan Amadon Trophy, was awarded to North Country Union for the North recipient.

PAUL REMICK FIELD **BECOMES REALITY** MAY 6

A large contingent of Danville softball royalty was on hand for the dedication of Paul

longtime softball coach.

The coach, family members, Indians past and Bears present gathered around the sign designating the new name of the field. One of the winningest softball coaches in the state, he wrapped up his 38th year at the helm last season. Saturday's fete in his honor came almost a year to the day of his 400th victory on April 29, 2022.

CAREY STEPS DOWN AS NVU-LYNDON MEN'S SOCCER COACH MAY 3

Northern Vermont University-Lyndon men's soccer coach Rob Carey has stepped down after eight years leading the Hornet program.

Carey, a 2008 Lyndon State College graduate and a member of the Lyndon Athletic Hall of Fame, also served as an assistant coach for eight years prior to being elevated to the head coaching position in 2015.

KINGDOM BLADES **OPTIMISTIC AFTER** HISTORIC RUN ENDS IN FINALS MARCH 9

Disappointed? Try determined.

The No. 3 Kingdom Blades were full of optimism following a 4-1 loss to No. 1 Woodstock in the Division II championship at Gutterson Fieldhouse on Thursday.

Following a historic season culminating in a first finals appearance, the Blades (18-5) See **Review**, Page 10

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BIG SHOTS

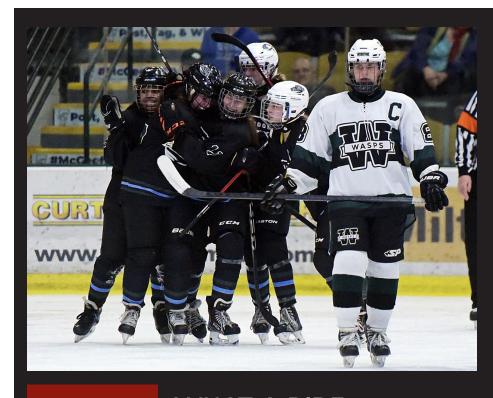
POWER

St. Johnsbury's Jade Huntington and Champlain Valley's Ute Otley share a hug following the Division I girls basketball championship, a 43-29 Redhawk win, at Patrick Gym on Friday, March 3, 2023. It marked the first time since 1990 that a D-I girls basketball championship game featured two women head coaches

Photo by Michael Beniash



10



BIG **SHOTS**

WHAT A RIDE

Kingdom Blades' Gabi Young, second from left, is mobbed by teammates after scoring in third period of a 4-1 loss to top-seeded Woodstock in the Division II hockey final at Gutterson Fieldhouse on Thursday, March 9, 2023.

Photo by Paul Hayes

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7 DAYS A WEEK

Review

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will return most of its roster of 19 players from seven different schools.

Senior forward Isabel Koniinenberg scored a hat trick to lead Woodstock (20-4) to back-to-back D-II crowns. The Blades, put together a memorable season despite the loss, winning 14 straight en route to the finals including a 6-1 semifinal win over second-seeded Burr & Burton.

BETHLEHEM'S WARREN WINS TUCKERMAN **INFERNO RACE** MARCH 18

Ed Warren, 37, of Bethlehem, placed first in the 21men solo elite class at the 2023 Tuckerman Inferno Pentathlon at Mount Washington.

Warren finished in a time of 3:01:14, besting second-place finisher and defending champion Kris Freeman of Concord (3:06:47.3) and former champion Josh Flanagan (3:25:21.9).

SJA BASKETBALL **RECOGNIZED WITH 2023** MONA GARONE AWARD MARCH 18

The St. Johnsbury Academy boys and girls basketball teams were honored as the 2023 recipients of the Mona Garone award during the emy foursome of Andrew

Vermont Basketball Coaches' Association's day-long celebration of basketball at Champlain Valley Union high school.

The award, named after leg-Garone, recognizes school communities that demonstrated the highest levels of positive sportsmanship.

At the end of the basketball season, officials are permitted to nominate schools for the honor. The officials are asked to base their nominations on the entire "school community" — meaning players, coaches, fans and administration.

KIETHAN EARNS WRESTLER OF YEAR **HONOR** MARCH 21

St. Johnsbury senior Hannah Keithan received the outstanding female wrestler of the year award from Green Mountain Grapplers, an organization that promotes wrestling for the state of Vermont.

Wrestling boys, Keithan reached the semifinals and finished fourth at the Vermont state high school wrestling championships in the 106-pound weight class.

ST. J RELAY TEAM **EARNS ALL-AMERICAN** STATUS AT NATIONALS MARCH 10

The St. Johnsbury Acad-

Bugbee, Jaden Beardsley, Gerardo Fernandez and Andrew Thornton-Sherman to fifth in the sprint medley relay championship event at the New Balance Nationals endary Oxbow coach Mona indoor track and field meet in Boston — the program's second All-American finish in the past year.

> Bugbee (200)meters), Beardsley (200), Fernandez (400) and Thornton-Sherman (800) finished in a Vermont record time of 3:31.03 to beat out traditional powers Hall High School in Connecticut, Union Catholic (N.J.) and Cary Academy of North Carolina. The top six teams in the national event earn All-American status.

LITTLETON CLAIMS SECOND STRAIGHT WINTER SPIRIT STATE **CHAMPIONSHIP** MARCH 9

Littleton was crowned back-to-back Division III winter spirit state champions at Pinkerton Academy. It was Littleton's third title in four years and 11th crown since 2002 under head coach Danielle Cook, LHS won six straight from 2009-14.

The Crusaders (90.5) narrowly topped Mascenic (89.3) for the second straight season to claim the title. Trinity placed third with a score of 72.7.

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SUNDAY SERVICE — Connor Houston (11) and Cam Davidson share a laugh during fourth-seeded Woodsville's 57-49 win over No. 6 Holy Family in the Division IV boys basketball championship at Colby-Sawyer College on Sunday, March 5, 2023. It was the third straight championship for the Engineers. (Photo by Paul Hayes)

Review

Continued from Page 10

NORTH COUNTRY'S **BRUECK NAMED** GATORADE VERMONT GIRLS BASKETBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR MARCH 8

The electric North Country sophomore guard was named the 2022-23 Gatorade Vermont girls basketball player of the year, the first Falcon girls hooper to earn the prestigious honor.

The award came on the heels of a celebratory Saturday at the Barre Aud where Brueck's top-seeded North Country team rallied past No. 3 Spaulding 47-42 in the Division II state final to cap a perfect 24-0 season. In the game she finished with 16 points and helped will the Falcons back from a seven-point halftime deficit.

The tough, quick 5-foot-8 guard who could score at the rim and from outside averaged 16.8 points, 6.8 rebounds, 4.3 steals and 3.4 assists per game.

MORENCY WINS THREE GOLD MEDALS AT SONH WINTER GAMES MARCH 7

Kerry Morency, from Team Challenger of Littleton, received three gold medals in cross-country skiing while competing in the Special Olympics of New Hampshire Winter Games at Waterville Valley.

SUNDAY SERVICE: WOODSVILLE TOPS HOLY FAMILY, WINS THIRD STRAIGHT TITLE MARCH 5

Woodsville might stopped at the pearly gates.

No matter, after a third finals win over a Catholic school in three years, the Engineers are in hoops heaven.

Jack Boudreault scored 11 of his career-high 23 points in the fourth quarter as No. 4 Woodsville beat No. 6 Holy Family 57-49 in the Division IV state championship at Colby Sawyer College.

Cam Davidson added 19 points and a game-high nine rebounds as WHS (19-3) became the first three-peat champs in the division since Lisbon (2005-07).

COLEBROOK CROWNED: MOHAWKS KNOCK OFF RIVAL EAGLES FOR SECOND TITLE IN FOUR YEARS MARCH 4

Seniors Ariana Lord (12 points, 11 rebounds, six assists) and Sierra Riff (eight points, 11 rebounds) and freshman Haley Rossitto (10 points, five steals) led the way as No. 2 Colebrook beat No. 1 Groveton 47-44 in an all-North Country Division IV final at Colby-Sawyer College.

Trailing by one point midway through the fourth quarter, the Mohawks (19-3) relied

on their championship experience, with five seniors playing in their third championship game in four years.

PERFECTION: FALCONS CLAIM D-II **TITLE, CAP 24-0 SEASON** MARCH 4

Down early and having to battle back, No. 1 North Country gutted out a 47-42 victory over No. 3 Spaulding to cap off an undefeated 24-0 season and claim its second Division II championship in three years.

Cora Nadeau finished with 13 points, 10 rebounds, four assists and two steals while teammate Sabine Brueck turned in 16 points, six rebounds and four assists.

WIL-POWER! WILKINS' **BIG SHOTS PROPEL** ST. JOHNSBURY TO STATE FINAL FEB. 27

If there's a will, there's a Wilkins.

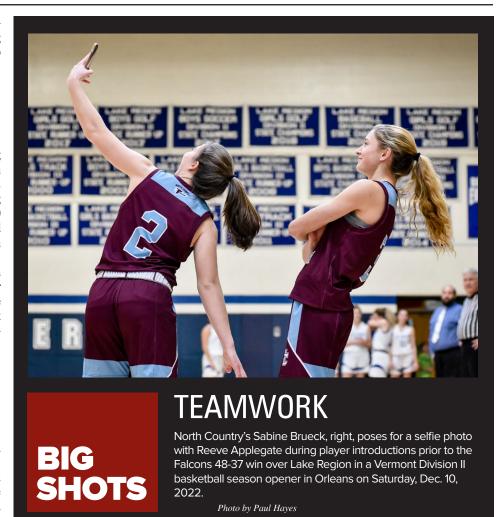
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Rutland's Karsvn Bellomo got a look for the tying 3, but

See Review, Page 12



COLEBROOK CROWNED — Second-seeded Colebrook celebrates after downing No. 1 Groveton to claim the Division IV girls basketball title at Colby-Sawyer College on Sunday, March 5, 2023. It was the Mohawks' second title in four years. (Photo by Paul Hayes)



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DUNK OF

on St. J's Connor Lyons

54-47 win in a Division I

of the Green Knights'

Photo by Michael Beniash

Jan. 24, 2023.



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Review

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it bounced off the rim and the Academy celebrated its first trip back to the state final since winning back-to-back crowns in 2018 and 2019.

SJA would go on to lose 43-29 to top-ranked Champlain Valley in the D-I final.

SIX-CESS! PRICE **SWEEPS AS PROFILE GIRLS** DYNASTY ROLLS ON **FEB. 14**

For the sixth straight winter, the Profile Patriots were named New Hampshire Division IV girls alpine ski champions for the sixth-straight season and the 25th time in program history.

Makenna Price took the top spot in giant slalom with a combined time of 1:13:89 and led five Profile skiers in the top 10. Ella Stephenson (1:16.27), Elaina Demaggio (1:16.29) and Ani Griffiths (1:16:68) finished a hair apart from one another and picked up fourth-sixth place finishes. Ella McPhaul was ninth at 1:17:18.

Price also paved the way in slalom, picking up another individual title with a time of 1:20.43. Demaggio (1:23.28) was third and Stephenson (1:28.20) eighth.

CROWNED, AGAIN: HILLTOPPER BOYS TAKE INDOOR TITLE, EXTEND RECENT DOMINANCE FEB. 4

The St. Johnsbury Academy boys indoor track and field team added another piece of hardware to the ongoing collection after being crowned Vermont Division I state champions on Saturday, February 4 at the University of Vermont.

SJA, which is both the twotime reigning outdoor track and field and cross-country state champions, picked up its first indoor title since raising backto-back banners in 2017 and

SJA earned the title by tallying 147 points, knocking off three-time defending champion Essex (122.5 points) in the pro-

BRYNN TRIUMPHANT AT IISA WORLD **CHAMPIONSHIPS JAN. 24**

Charlotte Brynn, 57, of Newport, brought home three gold medals and set two world records in her age group at the International Ice Swimming Association's 5th Ice Swimming World Championships in Samoens, France.

In the 500-meter freestyle, she finished with a time of 7:48:04, breaking the previous world record of 9:15.74. In the 250-meter freestyle, she finished in 3:38:99, setting another

world record in her age group.

She also claimed a gold medal for her age group in the 1,000-meter freestyle, finishing in 16 minutes and 50 seconds — all in 37-degree waters.

SJA'S THORNTON-SHERMAN CLOCKS **RECORD TIME IN 800 JAN. 22**

Thornton-Sher-Andrew man ran the fastest-ever indoor 800 meters by a Vermont high school athlete, winning the track and field event at the Greater Boston Track Club Invitational at Harvard Universi-

The St. Johnsbury Academy sophomore clocked a time of one minute, 55.93 seconds, earning a qualifying time for nationals in a field loaded with Vermont's best high school mid-distance runners.

SJA'S LANGMAID NAMED VERMONT BOYS XC COACH OF THE YEAR JAN. 6

St. Johnsbury cross country coach Chip Langmaid was selected by the US Track and Field Coaches Association as the Vermont Boys Coach of the Year, the Academy announced on Jan. 6.

In his 31st season leading the Hilltoppers' XC program, Langmaid guided SJA to its second straight Division I boys championship. The Academy See Review, Page 13



St. Johnsbury's Andrew Thornton-Sherman reacts as he crosses the finish line to help the Hilltoppers win the 4x400 relay during the Vermont Division I state indoor track and field championships at University of Vermont on Saturday, Feb. 4, 2023. (Photo by Steve Legge)

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has won back-to-back crowns after ending a 63-year title drought in 2021.

It was a historic XC season for Langmaid and the Hilltoppers. They also cracked the top 10 at New Englands for the first time, qualified for the national championships, won their third straight NVAC Mountain crown, delivered a historic win at the Woods Trail Run and finished unbeaten in Vermont.

ROLFE TAKES FIRST AT MASTERS WORLD **CHAMPIONSHIPS NOV. 23**

Kirby's Danica Rolfe took home first place at the IF3 Masters World Championships in Aruba.

Rolfe, 46, competed in the Female 45-49 division, tallying 560 points to beat out Sweden's Ulrika Akerlund (540) and fellow American Velvet Minnick (520).

RAIDERS END RANGERS' MAGICAL RUN IN **SEMIFINALS** NOV. 1

No. 10 Lake Region's magical postseason run came to an end and No. 3 Stowe came one step closer in its search for a Division III three-peat.

The Rangers hung tough with the two-time defending champi-

ons, battling to the final whistle in the Hilltoppers' favor and in a 2-1 defeat in the Division III girls soccer semifinals. It was LR's first-ever trip to the final four after knocking off No. 7 Randolph and No. 2 BFA-Fairfax in the first two rounds.

POWER PACK: TEAM-FIRST HILLTOPPERS REPEAT AS D-I XC CHAMPIONS OCT. 29

After ending a 63-year title drought last fall, the Academy repeated as Division I champions on a perfect late fall Saturday morning at Thetford Academy, edging runner-up Champlain Valley by four points at the 2022 Vermont high school state cross-country running championships.

Led by Andrew Thornton-Sherman's third-place finish, St. J put three runners in the top nine, five scoring runners in the top 13 and all seven Hilltoppers crossed the line in the top 17. Remarkably, they all finished within 69 seconds of each other.

MURPHY, HILLTOPPERS **MAKE IT 8 STRAIGHT** WINS OVER RIVAL VIKINGS **OCT. 22**

With time for one more snap before the half, St. Johnsbury senior quarterback Quinn Murphy turned a broken play into a Superman-esque diving touchdown — turning all momentum

sending the Division I visitors well on their way to a 48-14 victory and an eighth straight victory over rival Lyndon in the 117th playing of The Game at Robert K. Lewis Field.

Lyndon's RJ Kittredge rose up to bat down the Murphy pass attempt and, for a split second, looked to preserve the Vikings' deficit at just 14-6. But in a play that will go down as one of the rivalry's most memorable, the ball dropped back into the hands of Murphy, who caught it, broke to the outside and dove head-first into the front right corner of the end zone for one his four touchdowns on the day.

MURPHY PRODUCES 8 TDS, HILLTOPPERS SHINE ON SENIOR NIGHT OCT. 14

Senior quarterback Quinn Murphy produced eight total touchdowns - six passing, one rushing and one defensive — as St. Johnsbury dismantled visiting Rutland 56-28 on senior night at foggy Fairbanks Field.

Classmate Alejandro Orozco hauled in four touchdown passes while senior lineman Dawson Wilkins spearheaded a stout, disruptive defense for the Academy, which led 35-14 at halftime, 56-20 in the third quarter, then finished the game with a running clock and their highest-scoring output of the season.

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Jake Sanville hoists the Barrel and leads the Vikings to celebrate with the Lyndon fans following LI's 33-20 victory over North Country in the 15th Barrel Bowl at Veterans Field in Newport on Thursday, Oct. 13, 2022. (Photo by Kevin Doyon)





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RANGERS MAKE RUN

Sakoya Sweeney celebrates her first-half goal during No. 10 Lake Region's 2-1 loss to No. 3 Stowe in the Division III girls soccer semifinals in Stowe on Tuesday, Nov. 1, 2022. (Photo by Kevin Doyon)

Photo by kevin Doyon

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VIKINGS REIGN IN THE RAIN: LYNDON TOPS NORTH COUNTRY IN BARREL BOWL 15 OCT. 13

On the strength of five different touchdown scorers — via the offensive, defensive and special team units — Lyndon kept pouring it on and didn't let up en route to a wet and windy 33-20 Barrel Bowl victory over Division II rival North Country at Veterans Field in Newport.

RJ Kittredge, Jake Sanville, Cam Berry, Ethan Lussier and Colby Simpson all found the end zone; and the Vikings found themselves hoisting the coveted barrel for the 10th time in the rivalry game's history. The gridiron slug fests between LI and NC have been happening for over a century.

WOODSVILLE BOYS SEIZE FIRST GOLF CROWN OCT, 11

The Woodsville golf team took home the New Hampshire Division IV golf state championship, beating out Mascenic by four strokes to claim the program's first-ever state title.

Jackson Home's 18-hole score of 77 led all Engineers at Mount Washington Resort Golf Club. Home had four birdies and shot 5 over on the day. Josiah Hakala of Mascenic finished 3 under and leads the individual event. Mike Hogan and Monty Foster, both with 80, and Camden Clawson (86) also scored for Woodsville.

VERMONT'S FIRST FEMALE FOOTBALL COACH JULIA KEARNEY AUG. 16

Julia Kearney is in a league of her own.

The 25-year-old Northern Vermont University-Lyndon alumna became one of St. J Academy's newest assistant football coaches, in charge of running backs and cornerbacks under veteran Hilltopper leader Rich Alercio.

She also became Vermont's first female high school football coach.

BURKE MOUNTAIN HOSTS ENDURO CHAMPIONSHIP AUG. 14

For the first time ever, the Enduro World Series was held on the east coast, and Burke was chosen as the inaugural host. Racers from

35 different countries ventured into the Northeast Kingdom to compete and see just what the small Vermont course had to offer.

For some, it was a fun opportunity to race on a track close to home in front of family, friends and fans. For others, it was just another stop on a global tour as both amateur and professional riders took their turns down the mountain. Those competing on the EWS circuit had raced in Scotland, Australia, Slovenia, Italy and Canada.

ST. J ALUM MINORS CARRIES FLAG, RUNS IN 1,500 AUG. 4

Former St. Johnsbury Academy star Dage Minors recently competed for Bermuda at the Commonwealth Games in Birmingham, England.

He was also awarded the prestigious honor of being a Bermuda flag bearer during the Opening Ceremony on Aug. 4. The 26-year-old was selected along with Emma Keane, Bermuda's first female squash player, as Team Bermuda flag bearers.

BERLIN POST #36 NAMED AMERICAN LEGION JUNIOR STATE CHAMPS AUG. 2

Berlin Post #36 captured the 2022 New Hampshire American Legion Junior State Championship at Holman Stadium in Nashua.

Berlin fell to Exeter 5-3, for its first defeat of the tournament on Aug. 2. Needing to be beaten twice, the two teams played each other again immediately afterward and for the third consecutive time. Berlin, used to battling from behind, instead won in convincing fashion, 13-2. The Post #36 team is made up of players from Berlin, Gorham, White Mountains Regional, Kennett and Colebrook.

GREEN MOUNTAIN WILD CROWNED 16-18 BABE RUTH STATE CHAMPS JULY 31

The Green Mountain Wild, compiled of players from Blue Mountain, Danville and Hazen, won the Vermont Babe Ruth 16-18-year-old state championship after defeating Mount Mansfield, 8-5, at Norwich University.

The Wild jumped out to a 5-0 first-inning lead, giving starting pitcher Lyle Rooney a hefty cushion to work with. Ricky Fennimore relieved Rooney in the fifth

and was tasked with preserving the now 5-4 lead. Fennimore gave up a run in the bottom of the seventh inning, but by then the Wild had already tacked on three more insurance runs en route to the 8-5 final score.

THREE CORNERS ADVANCES TO 13-15 NE REGIONAL FINAL JULY 26

Three Corners picked off host Keene (N.H) 7-6 in nine innings in the Babe Ruth 13-15-year-old New England Regional tournament semifinals. Jacob Putnam delivered the go-ahead double in the top of the ninth while Cage Thompson pitched the last four innings for TC, including the last two scoreless.

MILLER CLAIMS ANOTHER NATIONAL DOWNHILL CROWN JULY 24

Riley Miller is again a national champion.

The 17-year-old Green Mountain star continues to feel right at home in the Rockies, as the Kirby native claimed the downhill title in the 17-18-year-old category at the 2022 USA Cycling Mountain Bike National Championships in Winter Park.

AFTER 107 WINS AND THREE TITLES, LI'S CARR STEPS DOWN JULY 20

Chris Carr took Lyndon Institute softball for quite a ride.

But it's the end of the road for the beloved Viking leader.

The seventh-year coach revealed that he is stepping down because of health issues — pain in both shoulders and knees. The announcement came a month after Carr guided Lyndon to an undefeated season and its second consecutive Division II state championship.

EAST BURKE SIBLING SKYRUNNERS HEADED TO WORLDS JULY 18

Naia Tower-Pierce, 19, and Finn Tower-Pierce, 17, a pair of East Burke siblings, raced at the 2022 Youth World Skyrunning Championships in Arinsal, Andorra.

The two locals were among five Americans, including Josh Taylor, Sophia Mayers and Benat Froemming, set to compete against fellow top skyrunners from around the globe.



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