

ALL-COUNTY **BOYS INDOOR TRACK**

Runner of the Year

NANJO LEVEC

MIDDLETOWN, SENIOR, SPRINTS/JUMPS

- A good enough pure athlete that he excels in just about any event he tries. Levec tried the pole vault for the first time this season and placed fourth at the county meet (12 feet, 2 inches), second at the Central Maryland Conference meet (12–10), fourth at the Class 2A West regional meet (11–0) and third at the state meet (13–6). In his first attempt at the shot put, he was fourth at the CMC meet (41-61/4) and ninth at the regional meet (39-8).
- Won his first state title in the Class 2A high jump with a personal-best height of 6 feet, 6 inches. That followed county (6-3) and CMC (6-3) championships in the event.
- Rose to the occasion in the 55-meter hurdles at states, running his personal-best time of 7.72 seconds to win the Class 2A title in the event. That followed county (7.88), CMC (7.93) and regional titles in the race.
- Also placed sixth at states in the 55-meter dash (6.62 seconds) after winning the county title (a personal-best 6.57) and placing third at the regional meet (6.69).





Field Athlete of the Year

GRANT LOHR

OAKDALE, SENIOR, THROWS

- Capped an unbeaten season in the shot put with his fourth state title (two indoor, two outdoor) in the event. His winning mark of 56 feet, 2 inches at the Class 3A state indoor meet was his best of the season and fell just short of his personal-best distance of 57-9. His overall number of state titles now stands at five, counting a championship in the 3A discus during the 2023 outdoor season.
- His marks improved over the course of the season and as the meets became more significant. His winning put at the county meet traveled 51 feet, 11/4 quarter inches. His victorious mark at the Central Maryland Conference meet was 53-11 1/2. And he won the Class 3A West regional meet with a put of 53-01/2 before posting season-best marks at states.

FIRST TEAM

ALEX ADETOLU SENIOR MID-DISTANCE

LINGANORE

■ Won the county (1:08.69) and Class 3A West regional (1:07.26) titles in the 500-meter dash prior to going on to place third in the event at the state meet. Also placed second at counties (1:59.31) and regionals (2:05.27) in the $800\,$ before placing fourth at states (2:01.02).



JASIRI BELOTE JUNIOR SPRINTS

TUSCARORA

■ Posted good times in the 55-meter dash all season. After placing second at counties (6.62 seconds), he finished first at the CMC (6.63) and Class 3A West regional (6.51) meets before placing second in the event at states (a personal-best 6.47).

RILEY GALLOGLY SOPHOMORE MID-DISTANCE

■ Claimed the Central Maryland Conference championship in the 500 dash with a personal-best time of 1:08.62 and ran a school-record time (1:56.82) in the 800 to place second at the Class 4A state meet. Also helped the Hawks win the 4x400 title at the county meet

KOREY KAUFLIN JUNIOR MID-DISTANCE URBANA

■ Swept the county titles in the 800-(1:58.55) and 1,600-meter (4:27.11) runs before placing third in both races at the Class 4A state meet. Ran a personal-best time in the 1,600 (4:18.75) at the state

AIDAN KOFFA JUNIOR SPRINTS **TUSCARORA**

■ Shined in the 300-meter dash all season, as he won Frederick County (36.32 seconds), Central Maryland Conference (36.45) and Class 3A West regional (35.92) meets before placing fifth in the race at the state meet with a personal-best time of 35.75 seconds

GILBERTO RAMOS SENIOR POLE VAULT

THOMAS JOHNSON

■ Cleared 14 feet on his first attempt at the height to win the Class 4A title in the pole vault at the state meet. It marked his third state title in the pole vault after winning indoor and outdoor championships in the event the previous school year.



JONATHAN REGULES SENIOR MID-DISTANCE

THOMAS JOHNSON

■ His overall excellence in the middle-distance races helped TJ claim another county team title. He won the Class 4A East regional title in the 800-meter run (1:58.60) and placed second in 4A at the state meet in the 1,600 (a personal-best 4:18.24).



JONAS SPARKS JUNIOR POLE VAULT

OAKDALE

■ Rose to the occasion at the Class 3A state meet and posted the best vault of his career (14 feet, 7 inches) to win his first state indoor title. The championship followed his victory in the state outdoor pole vault last spring (14-0).



HONORABLE MENTION

Brunswick—Collin Aldrige, Cayden Chanhatasilpa, Elias Connor, Thomas O'Leary.

Catoctin—Konner Dodson, Noah Riling, Gavin Scheetz, Shaymus Stull, Wyatt Sullivan.

Frederick—Osahenrumwen Aigbogun, Austin Cheek, Nicholas Cherry, John Oguariri, Jayden Parsley.

Linganore—Emory Best, Jake Brown, Quinton Dodds, Alex Lambert, Dylan Pagendarm, Amari Parker, Chase Roberts.

Oakdale—Ralph Etaba Ateba, Mauricio Encalada, David Nguele Etaba, Andrew Gregorio, Michael Kwanisai, Kyler Valley.

Middletown—Garrett Howes, Devlin McCollum, Daniel Michaels, Jonah Park-Rumbaugh, Evan Raymond, Hudson Smith, Asher White.

Thomas Johnson—Isaiah Adamson, Josh Adeoye, Vaughn Ditching, Miles Ghim, Tyler Wilson.

Tuscarora—Nathan Boateng, Isaiah Harris Talbott, Brayden Wilhelm.

Urbana—Koen Edwards, Easton Malone, Jaehziel Peak, Joshua Rothery.

Walkersville—Owen Ansong, Logan Boston, Shane Fawehinmi, Awoenam Nutakor, Ian Pezenosky, Tyler Shuler, Alexander Simmons, Patrick Word.

NFL's smallest market prepares to host league's top offseason spectacle

By STEVE MEGARGEE Associated Press

GREEN BAY, Wis. - Corey Behnke was a 7-year-old attending a Green Bay Packers preseason game with his grandfather when he pointed to the homes across the street from Lambeau Field

Now he has one of the best spots to watch as the NFL's greatest offseason spectacle takes shape.

and vowed to live there even-

The NFL draft's annual pilgrimage to cities across the league is arriving in Green Bay next week with all the pageantry that comes from operating in the home of the NFL's only publicly owned franchise.

"I think it's going to be iconic in a way that other drafts aren't," said Behnke, now president of the neighborhood association of the area adjacent to Lambeau Field.

As soon as the NFL started taking its draft around the country nearly a decade ago, Packers officials wondered what it would take to bring the event to Green Bay. They realized they'd never get a Super Bowl because of Green Bay's small population and frigid February weather.

Hosting a draft would be the next best thing.

The possibility that Packpresident/ČEO Mark

Murphy envisioned so long ago now becomes reality just as he prepares for his retirement this summer. As draft-related construction continues in the area around Lambeau, one of several Packers-themed signs in the yards of homes across the street from the stadium includes this message: "Draft Dreams on Murphy's Turf."

"For us, we'd been seeing how the draft has grown and what it's become, and knew the kind of impact it would have, not just on the local Green Bay community, but the entire state," Murphy said. "Since we're a community-owned team, that's really one of our top priorities, is to give back to the community. It'll be the largest event ever held in Green Bay."

Therein lies the challenge. The Green Bay metro area includes about 320,000 people, according to Discover Green Bay spokesman Nick Meisner. The city itself has a population of under 110,000. Bringing the draft to a town of this size creates obstacles that league officials didn't have to worry about when this event took place in Chicago, Philadelphia or other major metro areas.

Green Bay has about 5,000 hotel rooms, a figure that gets up to 10,000 when nearby Appleton is included. That means plenty of fans watching the draft may have ... I think people are kind of



Associated Press file photo

Packers wide receiver Christian Watson does the Lambeau Leap in 2022 in Green Bay, Wis. The NFL draft's annual pilgrimage to cities across the league is arriving in Green Bay with all the pageantry that comes from operating in the home of the NFL's only publicly owned franchise.

to stay a couple of hours used to driving an hour-andaway in Milwaukee or Madison, though many of them already are accustomed to doing that for Packers home

games. "When people say, can the city handle it, well, what does that mean?" Behnke asked. "Do we have enough hotels? No, but we knew that. Does Wisconsin have enough hotels? Yeah, I think so. Ī think a lot of people [understand] the fact that it's going to be a driving event. People are going to drive here. But I also think that's how games are.

a-half or two hours to get to Green Bay."

The smaller population likely means a smaller number of people at this draft. Murphy said a total attendance of about 250,000 is expected, less than one-third of the record crowd of over 775,000 that attended last year's draft in Detroit. Crowd figures are measured by adding the attendance numbers for each of the draft's three days, so one person who attends all three days would be counted three times.

"The beauty of the draft is

you can adapt it to any envi- each of his pieces of reronment you're in," said Jon claimed wood from discard-Barker, the NFL's senior vice president for global event operations. "With each draft, there's always going to be challenges that you need to overcome, but there's also great opportunity."

Those opportunities involve focusing on the tradition and history of a place Behnke calls "the best football town in America."

For instance, one of the NFL's greatest training-camp rituals occurs at Green Bay each summer, as players borrow children's bicycles to ride from the locker room to the practice field. Packers officials referenced this tradition in their draft bid by sending a Packers-themed bike to NFL Commissioner Roger Good-

ell's office. 'We had our draft pitch in video form in the basket in the Packer bike," said Gabrielle Dow, the Packers' vice president of marketing and

fan engagement. Without giving too much away, Barker said part of Thursday's draft opening will incorporate that bike tradition. A bike parade for children is planned for Saturday.

There are other local connections as well. When firstround picks hear their names called, they'll go through a walkway featuring artwork from Milwaukee-based Ike Wynter, who will have made part of it."

ed furniture collected across the state. Former Wisconsin Badgers such as Jonathan Taylor, Joe Thomas, Tim Krumrie and James White will be announcing picks on the draft's second and third days.

Lambeau Field also will play a central role in this draft, though this sprawling event encompasses millions of square feet surrounding the stadium. Admission is free, and television screens all over the area will enable fans to watch the draft even if they're far from the stage and taking in the NFL Draft Experience, a fan festival featuring games, exhibits, activities and autograph sessions.

When probable round selections make their red-carpet entrance Thursday before the draft. thev'll walk onto the field known for its Frozen Tundra nickname. Fans will be able to go into the stadium to watch the draft on the giant scoreboard. The stage on which the picks are announced is in a parking lot just east of Lambeau Field.

"I think it'll be a threeday commercial not just for Green Bay but for the entire state," Murphy said. "So many different things that are unique and special to Wisconsin, you'll see that as a