



ALL-COUNTY BOYS INDOOR TRACK

Track Athlete of the Year KOREY KAUFLIN

URBANA, SENIOR, MIDDLE DISTANCE

■ Feeling like his results have leveled off, Kauflin found another gear at the Frederick County Public Schools indoor championships, winning the 500-meter dash (1:06.58), the 800 run (2:02.23), the 1,600 (4:33.99) and ran a leg for the Hawks' winning 4x800 relay team (8:29.78).

■ His four victories at the county meet helped the Urbana boys claim their first team championship at that meet since 2018.

■ Kauflin went on to place third in the 800 in Class 4A at the state meet in 1:59.85 and fifth in the 1,600 in 4:22.81.

■ At the Virginia Showcase in Virginia Beach in mid-January, Kauflin ran the 1,000-meter run in 2:30.55, which was the fastest time ever for a Frederick County athlete in that race, according to Hawks coach Jackie Suarez.



Field Athlete of the Year MASIAH MARTIN

WALKERSVILLE, JUNIOR, HIGH JUMP

■ Soared to the Class 2A state title in the high jump with a personal-best leap of 6 feet, 10 inches. That victory came two weeks after he won the 2A West regional title with a leap of 6-8, which was his personal-best at the time.

■ After sailing over the bar at 6-8 at the state meet, Martin cleared 6-9 on his second attempt and then 6-10 on his second attempt to claim the state title. He then had the bar raised to 7 feet and a quarter inch and nearly cleared it on all three attempts. That would have been the best indoor high jump in state history. Martin finished a half-inch shy of former Walkersville high jumper Jon Hill for the 2A record and an inch shy of the all-time indoor mark.

■ Draws praise from his coaches, teammates and fellow competitors for his general friendliness and willingness to help them out and offer pointers.

FIRST TEAM

ASHER ADELMAN
SENIOR, DISTANCE
BRUNSWICK

■ After placing second at the county meet in the 3,200-meter run, he won the Class 1A West regional title in the race with a time of 10:02.53 before finishing fourth at the state meet (10:08.07). Also placed fourth at states in the 1,600 in a personal-best 4:38.07.

JASIRI BELOTE
SENIOR, SPRINTS
TUSCARORA

■ Proved to be the fastest man in the county for the second consecutive season. He won the county title in the 55-meter dash in 6.54 seconds before placing second at the Class 3A West regional meet (6.51) and eighth at the state meet (6.59).

JAKE BROWN
JUNIOR, SPRINTS
LINGANORE

■ The leader of the Lancers' team, which claimed the Class 3A state title without winning a single event. He won the county title in the 300-meter dash in 35.47 seconds before placing fourth at states (35.53). Also placed third at states in the 500 (1:05.89).

GARRETT HOWES
SENIOR, MIDDLE DISTANCE
MIDDLETOWN

■ Enjoyed a terrific season in the middle-distance races, placing third at the Class 2A state meet in the 1,600-meter run with a personal-best time of 4:28.01 and finishing third in the 800 (2:02.32). Also helped the Knights finish third in the 4x800 relay.

COLTEN LAWSON
SOPHOMORE, SPRINTS
MIDDLETOWN

■ One of the top sprinters in the county who ran a personal-best time of 6.55 seconds in the 55-meter dash to place third in Class 2A at the state meet. Also won the 2A West regional title in the race (6.58) and helped the Knights in the relays.

CARL MBELLA
JUNIOR, HURDLES
WALKERSVILLE

■ The top hurdler in the county who won the county title in the 55-meter hurdles (7.91 seconds) before placing second in the Class 2A West regional meet in a personal-best 7.79 second and fourth at states (7.90). Also helped the Lions finish third in the 4x200 relay at states.



JONAS SPARKS
SENIOR, POLE VAULT
OAKDALE

■ Successfully defended his Class 3A championship in the pole vault with a winning height of 14 feet. It marked his fourth state title overall (two indoor; two outdoor) and helped the Bears finish second in the 3A team standings.

KYLER VALLEY
SENIOR, SHOT PUT
OAKDALE

■ Shined in the shot put over the course of the season, winning Frederick County (46 feet, 10 inches) and Class 3A West regional (47-8) titles before placing second at the state meet with a mark of 50-4 1/4, helping the Bears finish second in 3A.



HONORABLE MENTION

Brunswick—Zion Garry, Jonah Miller, Adam Parde, Kassey Tetteh

Catoctin—Konner Dodson, Owen French, Noah Riling

Frederick—Osahon Aigbogun, Austin Cheek, Nicholas Cherry, Jayden Parsley, Bobby Waters II

Linganore—Jacob Araujo, Luke Collins, Quinton Dodds, Kayden Harris, Ricky Johnson, Vance Lalli, Brandon Rosario

Maryland School for the Deaf—Mark Gwynn III, Josiah Lockhart

Middletown—Ryan Carpenter, Levi Derr, Evan Raymond

Oakdale—Sai Vedaas Boyapati, Merrick Collins, David Nguete Etaba, Andrew Gregorio, Patrick Salter, Tyler Spencer, Brogan Thompson

Thomas Johnson—Elijah Alexander, Miles Ghim, Elijah Glay, Gideon Mensah

Tuscarora—Samuel Cooper, Aidan Koffa, Dorian Lewis, Ryan Thomas, Brayden Wilhelm

Urbana—Jasen Behling, Riley Gallogly, Ben Hart, Simon Lipchock, Luke Osher, Evan Madraymootoo, Matthew Rodrigues, Ryan Tang

Walkersville—Owen Ansong, Johnathan Buchanan—Boards, Tyler Butler, Joseph Gessner, Cameron McNiesh, Christopher Pugh, Alex Simmons, Isaiah Triesh, Benjamin Walker, Kaleb Williams

Sorsby gambling addiction casts light on issue that could plague college sports

By ERIC OLSON
AP College Football Writer

In the eight years since the Supreme Court cleared the way for legal sports gambling across the country, the bad headlines for college sports have picked up.

Coaches being tainted by scandals at their programs. The social media pressure on athletes to perform for gamblers. The arrests and indictments of players, former players and associates betting on the outcome of games few remember. The back-and-forth over whether to allow college athletes, who can now earn millions, to bet on pro or college sports.

This week, the problems were underscored in a dramatic way: Brendan Sorsby, set to become the well-paid quarterback of Big 12 defending champion Texas Tech, stepped away to seek treatment for a gambling addiction. Investigations are reportedly under way involving a potential Heisman Trophy hopeful and his stays at Indiana and Cincinnati before his transfer to Texas Tech ahead of next season.

Details have not been released about Sorsby's gambling. But experts estimate that thousands of athletes in men's college sports are en-

gaged in compulsive gambling.

"Statistically, I think this is still only the tip of the iceberg," said Keith Whyte, a gambling industry consultant and former executive director of the National Council on Problem Gambling. "Given the elevated risk factors for young, male college athletes to demonstrate a high propensity to bet on sports and take on other risk-taking behaviors, there's probably a lot more guys that have problems. So in some ways, I really admire his decision to publicly seek help for a gambling problem."

The NCAA is the largest organization in college athletics, with some 500,000 athletes across 1,100 schools in three divisions. Its most recent survey of athlete gambling behaviors, released in January 2025, asked 13,306 male athletes across all divisions about their wagering habits.

Some 21.5% (2,861) acknowledged having placed at least one sports wager in the previous year; 10.7% (1,424) acknowledged having done so in the previous month. In Division I, 12.6% of the males (619 of 4,913) reported having gambled at least once in the previous



Associated Press file photo

New Texas Tech quarterback Brendan Sorsby is seeking treatment for a gambling addiction.

year, 4.7% (231) in the previous month and 1.9% (93) in the previous week.

Across the three divisions, mobile online sports wagering platforms were by far the preferred vehicle for placing bets and college football ranked behind the NFL, NBA and college basketball among most popular sports for betting.

The NCAA, extrapolating from survey results, estimated about 6,000 mostly male athletes across the three divisions would meet standard diagnostic criteria for problem gambling in any given year.

College-aged male ath-

letes check a lot of boxes in a compulsive gambler's profile, according to Michelle L. Malkin, lead research scholar of the Gambling Research and Policy Initiative at East Carolina. Those athletes are in their 20s, highly competitive, aggressive and typically have a refuse-to-lose mentality.

"Just think about the person who's down 20 points going into the fourth quarter and being told, 'Keep going, you can still win this game.' So the lifetime exposure of 'if I just keep going, it's going to turn around for me' is the type of thing that leads to that lower risk aver-

sion, which also leads to this [gambling addiction]," Malkin said.

The introduction of revenue-sharing and name, image and likeness compensation has put extra money in athletes' pockets, significant amounts in some cases. Sorsby, for example, signed a two-year NIL agreement with Cincinnati that paid him \$875,000 last year, according to a lawsuit filed by the school seeking a \$1 million buyout from Sorsby for transferring to Texas Tech.

Whyte said athletes earning hundreds of thousands or millions of dollars wouldn't place a lot of importance on losing a few dollars here and there. "That can lead to some risky decisions," he said.

Eligibility can be at stake for NCAA athletes found to have gambled, and that can keep them from disclosing an addiction.

Malkin said there should be a confidential avenue for an athlete to ask for help, as long as the athlete didn't bet on their own team. About the only option an athlete would have is to connect with an online therapist. NCAA rules require anyone who works in an athletic department to report gambling activity.

Athletic departments typically put on seminars to warn athletes about gambling and about risks to eligibility. Malkin said most athletes who gamble were doing so before they entered college, so lectures generally won't stop existing behavior.

Malkin leads a team developing curricula for regular college students and athletes that explains how gambling can become addictive. East Carolina's "Betting Blueprint" explores healthy gambling, financial wellness, risk, identifying gambling-related harms and where to seek help.

John Holden, an associate professor of business law and ethics at Indiana and a gaming law expert, said the NCAA is in a difficult position because it must balance punishment of athletes who bet on college sports with providing help to those who come forward to ask for help.

"The NCAA needs to take time and study what is a reasonable approach, what is something that protects integrity of the game and then, at the same time and the bigger issue, is what resources are they providing to athletes that might experience problems with gambling?" Holden said.