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SATURDAY, AUGUST 21, 2021

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## TOKYO BOUND

Local athletes will play for Team USA at Paralympics



Abby Bauleke of Savage, a 2020 graduate of Burnsville High School, is a member of the 2021 U.S. Paralympic women's wheelchair basketball team that will compete in Tokyo, Japan starting Aug. 24.

BY TOM SCHARDIN  
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Minnesota will be represented on the U.S. women's wheelchair basketball team in Summer Paralympic Games.

Abby Bauleke of Savage and Josie Aslakson of Jordan are two of three Minnesotans on the 12-player squad that will compete in Tokyo, Japan. The Paralympics start right after the Summer Olympic Games, and will go from Aug. 24 to Sept. 5.

The 25-year-old Aslakson, a 2014 Jordan High School graduate, has been a member of the U.S. National Team since 2017.

Bauleke, 20, is a newcomer to the senior national team. The 2020 Burnsville

High School graduate already owns one gold medal as the youngest member competing for Team USA in the 2019 Under-25 World Championships in Thailand.

Bauleke is excited to compete with her teammates in Tokyo.

"It's the greatest honor I have ever felt," said Bauleke. "I have grown up watching sports at all different levels with my family and always imagined how cool it would be to get to the point of representing the USA.

"I remember when I got to a point in high school and realized it could

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Josie Aslakson, a 2014 graduate of Jordan High School, is a member of the 2021 U.S. Paralympic women's wheelchair basketball team that will compete in Tokyo, Japan starting Aug. 24.

TEAM USA PHOTOS

## Savage officials to require masks for unvaccinated city employees

BY CHRISTINE SCHUSTER  
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City of Savage employees who've not been vaccinated against COVID-19 will be required to wear masks during periods of high community transmission, according to a new policy outlined by city officials this month.

The Savage City Council voted on Monday to develop a policy that'll require unvaccinated employees to wear masks while working indoors.

The requirement will be in effect during times, such as the present, when the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's data indicates high levels of community transmission in Scott County.

The council represented differing opinions during Monday's discussion on the city's COVID-19 policies.

Councilwoman Christine Kelly said the city should continue to encourage, but not require, masking indoors.

Councilman Bob Coughlen said the city's policy should require all employees to wear masks indoors during periods of high community transmission.

The latest data shows unvaccinated individuals may still become infected and spread the virus, Coughlen argued, and the CDC recommends masking indoors regardless of vaccination status during COVID-19 surges.

Savage Mayor Janet Williams said she also supports employees being required to wear masks indoors.

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