



EVAN CALDWELL / STANWOOD CAMANO NEWS

Emmalee Murry runs up to boot the ball during Stanwood's 4-0 loss to Glacier Peak on Tuesday, March 23.

Soccer, football end early

Multiple COVID exposures force seasons to be stopped

By EVAN CALDWELL
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The Stanwood football and girls soccer seasons are done. "Due to multiple non-school district functions over the past week in the community," officials were forced to pull players off the

pitch midway through the March 25 JV soccer game, according to a statement on the Stanwood High School website. "The varsity girls soccer game was canceled and (the March 26) varsity football game was cancelled related to COVID exposure." On Monday, school of-

icials confirmed the soccer season finale on March 29 and the football finale at Marysville-Pilchuck on April 1 were also canceled.

Stanwood isn't alone. Several other Wesco teams had their seasons cut short due to COVID exposures.

"It's just disappointing," football coach Eric Keizer said. "But more than anything, the kids got to get out and play three games, which is better than no games."

Girls soccer coach Lori Stunz agreed.

"It's unfortunate," she said of the premature ending. "But it's surreal when you think back on the season at how many moving parts there were just to have the opportunity to play. I'm grateful for as many games as we did."

The Spartans did log a game last week, a 4-0 home loss to Glacier Peak.

■ SEE END, A10



PHOTOS BY EVAN CALDWELL / STANWOOD CAMANO NEWS

Anna Veazey swims the 100-yard butterfly during the Stanwood girls swimming team's season finale time trial event on Friday.

Adapting on the fly



Aleena Wiegand swims the 100-yard breaststroke on Friday during the Spartans' season finale time trial event.

Spartan swimmers make most of short season

By EVAN CALDWELL
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Even without the kaleidoscope of thrills — fierce competition, deafening cheers, the lure of a state title — fueling a rush of adrenaline, Spartan swimmers made their mark.

Stanwood wrapped up its season Friday with 55 best times — the most at a single event during this COVID-shortened season.

For senior Anna Veazey — who swam four best times and came tantalizingly close to breaking a school record in the 100-yard butterfly — the limits on the season were almost too much.

"Part of me just wanted to keep the good memories from the past years and not swim this season," said Veazey, who swam a school-record 50-yard freestyle time in the 200-yard freestyle relay at last season's state swim championships. "But of course I'm going to do it, because I love swimming."

That may be an understatement.

When COVID closed pools last spring, Veazey didn't stop swimming. She and four other members of her Mighty Marlins swim club bought wetsuits. Three days a week, from May into the fall, they swam the perimeter of Lake Ki.

"It's very different than in the pool. It was cold. You cannot see the bottom," said Veazey, who has been swimming since age 8. "All you could see once in a while were some sticks pointing out from the darkness. It was a little scary. But it's a really funny experience to look back on."

Veazey ended last season eyeing several goals for her senior campaign. In addition to shooting for podium spots at the state championships, she began the season within 2 seconds of breaking four Stanwood records: the 100-yard freestyle, 100-yard backstroke, 100-yard butterfly and 200-yard freestyle.

■ SEE SWIM, A10

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Prep Roundup

Spartans hope strong seasons carry over for success in fall

By EVAN CALDWELL
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The Spartans' tough schedule might pay dividends in the fall.

Stanwood volleyball faced four perennial playoff-bound 4A schools in its nine-game schedule.

"I honestly feel like we played so well in nearly all of our losses," head coach Megan Amundson said.

"It's hard to look back and be upset about it."

With a squad of 12 re-

turning in the fall — including 11 seniors — Amundson said the Spartans used this season as an opportunity to learn and get better.

"They all really stepped into their own and took on new leadership positions," she said. "This year is a really fancy preseason for fall 2021."

Amundson said she could see her players' confidence grow in their play and in their teammates. "They're starting to play like upper-classmen," she said.

Last week, the Spartans fell to Glacier Peak 1-3 (28-26, 23-25, 23-25, 14-25) on March 23. They were led by Barrett Anderson (eight kills, one block, four aces, 16 digs), Lili Jones (seven kills, two aces), Emma Floyd (seven kills, three aces, five digs), Olivia Rueckert (six kills, three blocks), Cailyn Conley (three kills, three blocks), Baylor Hezel (three kills, 11 digs), Mischa Kessler (nine assists, three digs) and Grace Henken (two aces, seven digs, 21 assists).

On March 25, Jackson topped Stanwood 3-0 (17-25, 16-25, 21-25). The Spartans were led by Mallory Duffy (seven kills, one block), Floyd (seven kills, four digs, one ace), Anderson (two kills, 12 digs, two aces), Rueckert (four kills, one block), Jones (three kills, one ace), Hezel (11 digs, four kills, one ace), Jayme Sabo (10 digs), Henken (14 assists) and Mischa Kessler (11 assists).

■ SEE ROUNDUP, A10



EVAN CALDWELL / STANWOOD CAMANO NEWS

Mallory Duffy sends the ball over the net during Stanwood's 3-0 loss to Jackson High on Thursday, March 25.