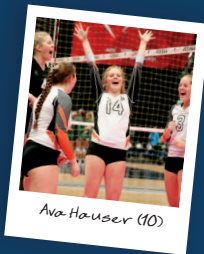
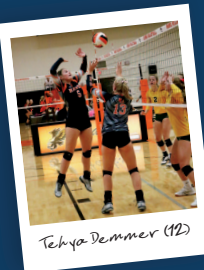


You had to be there!



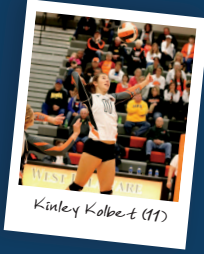
Ava Hauser (10)

Ava Hauser (10) celebrates after the Hawks score a point at the state tournament. After going into four sets, West Delaware fell to Sergeant Bluff-Luton, 1-3.



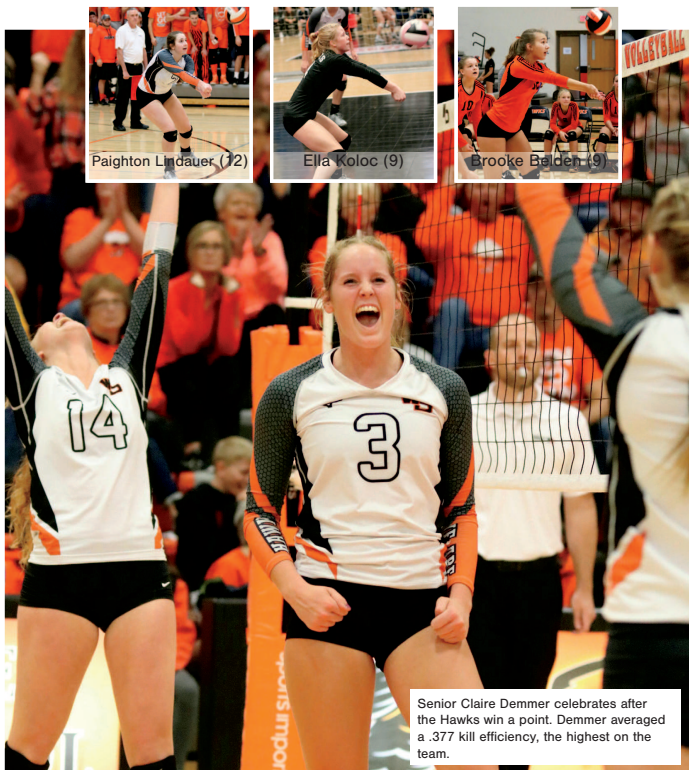
Tehya Demmer (12)

Leah Wegmann (11) sets Tehya Demmer (12) the ball. "I loved the atmosphere during the Beckman game when we became WaMaC East champs," Demmer said.



Kinley Kolbet (11)

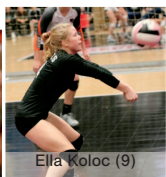
After being set, Kinley Kolbet (11) hits the ball. Kolbet made second team all conference for the WaMaC East Division.



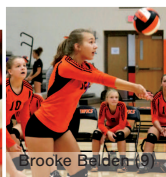
Senior Claire Demmer celebrates after the Hawks win a point. Demmer averaged a .377 kill efficiency, the highest on the team.



Paighton Lindauer (12)



Ella Koloc (9)



Brooke Belden (9)

Back to State

The Hawks punched their ticket for a trip back to the U.S. Cellular Center after failing to qualify the two previous years.

Heading back to the U.S. Cellular Center, only one of the 16 players, senior Claire Demmer, had previously competed at state.

The other 15 players experienced the electrifying atmosphere and the view from the court for the first time.

"When I looked up, everything took my breath away," Claire Rausch (12) said. "You don't realize how big it is until you're down on the court."

Before their first game, the players completed a scavenger hunt to calm their nerves.

Coach Shea Putz gave the girls vari-

ous items to find throughout the arena and asked them to take photos with the items.

"We had to find things like someone with a funny saying on their shirt and take a picture with them," Allison Collier (11) said. "It was a lot of fun, and it helped us get more comfortable with the environment."

West Delaware took on number one ranked Sergeant Bluff-Luton first round. Losing the first game, 15-25, the Hawks came back to take game two, 25-20. After falling in the last two games, 18-25 and 21-25, the team ended their season with a 33-11 record.

"It felt rewarding and fresh to make it back," head coach Brett Mather said. "They kept battling all season long."

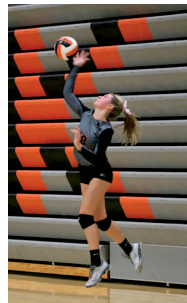
On the Court



During the Pink Out game against Dyersville Beckman, Ally Martin (12) throws her hands in the air after the team earns a point. The Hawks beat the Blazers in five games to claim the WaMaC East title.

Playing for the sophomore team, Laney Demmer (10) serves the ball. The sophomores ended the season with a record of 8-14.

At the state tournament, Leah Wegmann (11), Megan McDonald (12), Claire Rausch (12), and Tehya Demmer (12) cheer on their teammates. The Hawks played Sergeant Bluff-Luton first round in the U.S. Cellular Center.



Varsity Volleyball. Front Row: Reagan Dolan, Claire Rausch, Heather Heims, Ally Martin, Ella Koloc, Megan McDonald, Sabrina Welcher, Sydney Morris; Row 2: Katie Crock, Chloe Thein, Paighton Lindauer, Carlee Smith, Joanna Voss, Kayla Felton, Miah Winkowitsch; Back Row: Tehya Demmer, Allison Collier, Claire Demmer, Ava Hauser, Macey Kleitsch, Kinley Kolbet, Leah Wegmann, Manager Devon Gardner.



Sophomore Volleyball. Front Row: Karsyn Welcher, Anna Werner, Gracee Brooks, Morgan Collier, Lauren Hoefler, Laney Demmer, Aleah Heims, Addison Reetz.

A "You Had to be There" Moment

Kleitsch Earns WaMaC East Player of the Year



Every year during the regular season, the WaMaC conference announces its honor teams. For the first time, a new honor was added to the mix: WaMaC Player of the Year.

Junior Macey Kleitsch was the first East Division recipient of this new award. "I couldn't have done it without my team. I'm super proud of our accomplishments," Kleitsch said.



Freshmen Volleyball. Front Row: Juliette Weber, Olivia Hilby, Kylinne Meyers; Row 2: Madelyn Hogan, Aleah Winkowitsch, Sophia Manson, Rely Folsom, Kelsey Brown, Gracie McCusker; Back Row: Jaci Bries, Emily Prier, Brooke Belden, Alyssa Peterson, Allison Mullen.