

# Tragedy inspires incredible performance



Photo by Keagen Head

Senior Aydin Flockhart sits on the home bleachers looking over Durant's football field.

## By Keagen Head

Early afternoon on Friday, September 25, senior Aydin Flockhart was in class counting down the hours before his first football game in a month. Aydin had been quarantined for three weeks and had even missed the Wilton game two weeks before.

Despite the long layoff, little did

he know his decision to play wouldn't be so easy after hearing about his uncle's unexpected death.

Flockhart's uncle, Ryan Curtis Flockhart, passed away early that morning from unknown causes at the young age of 39. At the time of his death, he was employed by Walsh Construction and was working on

the I-74 bridge in Bettendorf. He survived by two daughters, Ryleigh, age 8, and Kiara, age 20.

Aydin's mom, Nichole McCoy, got word of the tragedy and called her son out of school about seven hours before the Wildcats were to play Beckman Catholic High School in Dyersville.

Aydin's aunt, Penny McCoy, then shared with him the news and let him decide whether or not to play the game that night.

For Aydin, there was no doubt he would play.

"He would have wanted me to play that night, and I had to be there as a teammate," said Aydin.

However, Aydin's courage and bravery doesn't stop there. Not only did he decide to play after his family's loss, but he also kept the news secret from his teammates, so they could focus on the game and not how he was feeling.

As Aydin's quarterback and fellow senior, I only found out recently about his choice to play that night, and I can't imagine how much pressure he must have had under those lights.

Looking back now and knowing what happened in the next two games, I can't believe what he was able to accomplish on the field.

In the following two games, he had 196 yards receiving, two touchdowns, and seven total tackles. Although we lost to both Beckman and West Branch, Aydin was still

nominated for the KWQC Highlight Zone's play of the week in the game against West Branch.

In a different play against Beckman, Aydin broke three tackles on his way to carrying a defender into the endzone on an unbelievable 68-yard touchdown.

Watching him run for that score, I knew nothing was stopping him, and now I know why. He said that he recalls thinking about his uncle during that play and felt his support throughout the game.

"He was definitely in my head the whole game," said Aydin. "I couldn't stop thinking about him and how he wanted me to be there."

Aydin's drive for athletics, specifically football, came from his uncle, who he considered a father figure.

"My dad really wasn't around as often as [Ryan] was," said Aydin. "He would always ask about sports and how everything was going, and I got my athletic ability from him."

Aydin's magical performances defied all odds and lifted our team through its memorable season, which included our first playoff win ever in school history. His toughness added a vital weapon to both the offensive and defensive sides of the ball. Aydin's willingness to play for his school, teammates, coaches, and family is a true reflection of his unselfishness, to say the least.

His story should serve as an inspiration to us all.

# Students offer COVID-19 advice for their 2019 selves

## By Sofia Reyna

I recently asked my classmates what advice they would have given themselves before the pandemic started last March.

Junior Elizabeth Daufeldt said she would warn herself about her ongoing experience using masks while working out.

"You will have to wear masks during basketball season," she said.

Daufeldt pointed out that large amounts of masks will be needed, both dis-

posable and reusable. While she already has many packs of masks, she has also decided to buy many reusable ones.

"I have at least 25," she said.

Like Daufeldt, sophomore Kiyah Daily has bought many masks, so she can always be prepared. She said on days where she had sport practices and events, she had to bring a lot of masks. She also decided that sharing her experiences during lunchtime would be good advice.

"You'll need to find people that you'll sit with and people that will let you sit there," she said.

However, Daily said that if her past self heard all of this advice, there is a possibility that she would not follow it.

"If I told myself something a year ago about this school year, I'd be like 'No, you're wrong, that won't happen,'" stated Daily.

Freshman Kylie Meyermann said she would warn herself about how long the pandemic can last and how it changes over time.

"You don't think it's that bad at first," she said.

She explains that the pandemic has



Photo by Sofia Reyna

Freshman Ryan Wulf sits at an eight-person lunch table with his friend Michael Iossi due to the three-person limit at each table this year.

lasted longer than she originally expected, and she wishes that she could have prepared more for the situation.

Junior Dakota Adams said he would warn himself about the new daily routine of wearing a mask.

"Prepare yourself mentally and physically. It takes a toll on your head, breathing into a mask the whole time," he

said.

Freshman Ryan Wulf said he would tell himself that he wouldn't be able to see all his friends at lunch. Currently, students need to be spread out while eating lunch. This separates people from their friends at times.

"I can sit with only half of my friends that I usually sit with because there are only three per table," said Wulf.

While some students would have advised about their experiences at school, freshman Layla Streeter said she would tell herself to visit her extended family before the pandemic started.

"I would want to see my great grandparents because they are in the higher risk category, so it's harder to spend time with them," she said.

Along with her family, since the pandemic started, Streeter couldn't hang out with friends as much as usual.

"We don't hang out as much as we used to," she said.

While it seems that there have been many problems with the pandemic, Streeter has been able to have a closer relationship with her family at home.

"My relationship with my immediate family got closer through the pandemic because I spent a lot more time with them," she stated.



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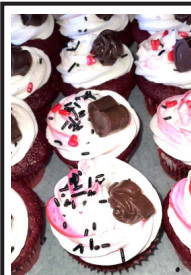
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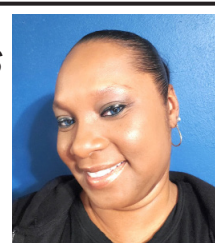
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The Wildcat Chronicles staff feels a school newspaper is uniquely qualified to inform, entertain, and represent our peers. We strive to present accurate stories and thought-provoking commentary and are responsible for the content of each issue.



## Michelle's Sweet Treats Can't Be Beat

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Michelle Tate

## Liberty Trust and Savings Bank's Fine Arts student of the month



Durant, Bennett, Tipton, New Liberty  
563-785-4441

Junior Logan Wolf is a percussionist for the band and has been playing for six years. "I really enjoy being able to play a variety of instruments as a percussionist as opposed to just one," said Wolf. He likes learning new music and hearing it all come together. He plans on continuing to play the guitar and drums after school.



Wolf