

# Back To Back Champions



▶ The team celebrates after they receive the state trophy.

For the second time in school history, the football team became state champs. On November 19, Pella came out victorious in the state championship game against Norwalk with a final score of 31-17.

"It is a great honor to win the state championship, and it feels just as good, if not better, to win again. I think win or lose, we would have come off the field as champions. The brotherhood that was created was far better than any champion title that could be given to us," said junior **Tyson Wassenaar**.

Along with a second state championship, the team finished the season undefeated. Even more notable is wrapping up the season with 28 consecutive wins, the first dating back to the first game of the 2014 season.

"Coming off the championship before, we had to pretend we weren't #1 and work hard to stay on top and to end up back on top," said senior **Will Warner**.

TLCBF (Trust Love Commitment Belief Faith) continued to be a guiding principle for the team this year. Team bonds were strengthened through team meals and other activities the team partook in throughout the season.

"The trophy was only a perk; the real win was having the opportunity to be on the field one more time with my family. This would be the last time I would play with this outstanding team, a team that didn't leave any regrets on the field and fought for each other," said senior **Vanessa Chapman**.

Along with TLCBF, the team motto for the year was "All you got, all the time." The team was expected to give 100% at practices as well as games.

"This year was the result of hard work that was put in by all the players, coaches, managers, and everyone who come out to support the team," said senior **Jackson Scholten**.



▶ Senior **Noah Clayberg** runs a play. He was named Iowa Gatorade Player of the Year. "Our hard work helped us gain an advantage over the other teams. All the hard work you do is what you fall back on when the game gets tough," said **Clayberg**.



▶ Sophomore **Lucas Warner** cheers with the team during the semi-final game. This was his first year on varsity. "I got very nervous because there were high expectations, and I was just a sophomore, but after the first play all the nerves were gone," said **Warner**.



▶ Junior **Nick Finney** squares up against the opponent. **Finney** played cornerback and quarterback. "The atmosphere was great at the Dome thanks to our fans. I wouldn't trade those two games for anything," said **Finney**.



▶ Seniors **Nathan Henry** (left) and **Matthew Vos** (right) celebrate a Dutch victory after winning the state championship game. Both have been a part of the team during both the state titles. "Experiencing the win not once, but twice, was amazing," said **Henry**.

## 28 | November/State

**8** COLOR Run **Prepare for Submission** for Color ID information.

TCID: SM Lawn, C=75 M=5 Y=100 K=0

LMCID: N/A

Names of tagged colors should appear in this box.

# Serving up the competition

## Volleyball receives 4th at State

The volleyball team took on the state game for the first time since 2010 in Cedar Rapids on November 10.

"It was so rewarding to know that all of the hard work and effort that we put in over the summer and during the season paid off," said junior **Jordan Rempé**.

Even with a diverse and extremely talented team, the girls faced a tough game against Harlan and ended up coming home with a trophy for 4th place.

"I wish it would have had a different outcome, but I enjoyed getting to go. We made so many memories and shared tons of laughs," said junior **Jenna Murphy**.

The girls finished up their season 27-11. Even with a loss, the team celebrated the hard work they put in through the season and the chance to be part of such a big game.

"State volleyball was an experience I'll never forget. It felt like I was in one of those dramatic sports movies," said sophomore **Kara Wichhart**.



ABOVE ▷ The varsity girls volleyball team huddles around their trophy after placing 4th at the state tournament.

RIGHT ▷ Junior **Katie VanderMolen** serves the ball at the state game. "It was definitely an awesome experience and even more fun getting to bond with the team on and off the court. I'm excited to hopefully go back next year," said **VanderMolen**.



# Giving the "Perfect Effort" at State

## Cross country runs their way to victory

Finishing up a strong season, the varsity boys' and girls' placed highly against the competition at the state meet, which took place in Fort Dodge. This was the girls' tenth consecutive year qualifying for state and the boys' eleventh.

"The whole experience of state was awesome. I had a great time with my teammates and getting to race," said junior **Isaac Vos**.

The boys' team placed third this year, with senior **Adam Sievers** placing sixth, junior **Nick Bernhagen** placing twelfth, and sophomore **Blaise Winegardner** placing eighteenth. The girls' team placed second, the highest in school history, with junior **Tess Roorda** placing fifteenth, junior **Kelcey Blommers** placing twenty-second, and junior **Ciara Buchheit** placing thirty-first.

"State has the best competition and everybody is geared up and tapered down for their final race," said **Sievers**.

Going along with the season's theme, both teams gave a "perfect effort" at state this year.

"I enjoyed being able to compete with a team knowing we all were doing our best to push each other and each give our best," said **Bernhagen**.



▷ The state boys' cross country team stand together on the podium and receive their third place trophy.



▷ Sophomore **Blaise Winegardner** and junior **Nick Bernhagen** compete together side by side.



▷ Junior **Ciara Buchheit** runs a strong race at the state meet, placing 3rd for Pella girls and 31st overall.



▷ Senior **Micah Wittenberg** and junior **Micah Hammann** comfort each other after their race.



▷ The state girls' cross country team take their place on the podium with their second place trophy. This was the highest the girls have ever placed.

# Making a Splash

## Two Pella Swimmers take on the State Meet

On November 6, the girls' swim team arrived in Marshalltown for their state meet. Pella was represented by senior **Samantha Hedrick** and sophomore **Madeline Webb**.

"I told my coach at diving the Friday night before, 'Coach, I'm going to do it tomorrow, I want this,' and she looked at me and said, 'Let's do it then,'" said **Hedrick**.

**Hedrick** placed second in the 200 yard freestyle and was a champion in the 100 yard fly with a 55.01. Hedrick along with **Webb** were members of the 400 free relay, placing 12th.

"The best thing about state swimming was the energy in the pool area. The adrenaline started to rush through my body from the moment we arrived," said **Webb**.



▷ Senior **Samantha Hedrick** took home second place in the 200 yard freestyle and was the state champion in the 100 yard fly at the state meet.

November/State | 29