



NEWS RELEASE

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Four West High School Student-Athletes Sign Letters of Intent to Compete at NCAA Division 1 Universities

WEST BEND — Four accomplished West Bend West High School seniors signed their National Letter of Intent on November 8 to compete in athletics next year at NCAA Division I schools.

Cole Mirasola and Connor Mirasola will attend Pennsylvania State University (Penn State) in State College, Pennsylvania for wrestling. Ava Thelen will attend the University at Buffalo in Buffalo, New York for softball. Mia Buske will attend South Dakota State in Brookings, South Dakota for softball.

All four have also left their mark on West Bend West and the North Shore Conference, even with their fourth and final seasons in their respective sports approaching.

Cole Mirasola, Penn State, wrestling

Cole Mirasola is currently ranked #3 in the nation at 220 pounds by FloWrestling. His 121-6 West High School Spartans career record includes two WIAA State Championships: 2021 at 195 pounds and 2022 at heavyweight. In 2020, he finished fifth at the WIAA State Championships at 182 pounds.

In addition to his high school team, Cole competes with Askren Wrestling Academy North Shore. He was fifth in the U20 US Open and is a three-time All American (4th, 5th, and 2nd) at the US Marine Corps Nationals.

Connor Mirasola, Penn State, wrestling

Currently ranked #2 in the nation at 190 pounds by FloWrestling, Connor Mirasola has a 123-4 career record with the West High School Spartans and is a three-time WIAA State Champion. Connor won in 2020 at 170 pounds, 2021 at 182 pounds, and 2022 at 194 pounds.

PAGE 2

He is a two-time US Marine Corp Nationals champion, two-time U17 World Team Trials Runner-Up, and also placed in the U20 US Open. Connor also wrestles with Askren Wrestling Academy North Shore.

For the 2022-2023 season, Penn State won both the NCAA and Big Ten Conference Championships. The 2023-2024 team is ranked first in the nation in preseason polls. The program has 10 NCAA titles in the last 12 years.

Mia Buske, South Dakota State, softball

Mia has been the starting catcher for the Spartans softball team all three years of her high school career. In her first three seasons, Mia played in 79 games and the team record during that time was 51-28.

So far, Mia has 102 total hits for the Spartans, including 30 doubles, and 90 runs scored. Her career batting average to date is .357. Mia is a three-time North Shore All-Conference player and has earned all-district honors twice. This past season, she tied the previous North Shore Conference record for doubles with nine. She is a two-time National Fastpitch Coaches Association Academic All-America Scholar Athlete.

Ava Thelen, University at Buffalo, softball

Ave is a three-year starter, playing first base, for the Spartans softball team. During her first three years on the team, their record was 51-28. She has 100 total hits so far, including 21 home runs. Ava has 92 runs scored and 90 runs batted in and a career batting average of .407.

Ava earned first-team North Shore All-Conference honors, first-team all-district honors, and honorable mention all-state her freshman and junior seasons. Last season she had a .685 batting average and hit 11 doubles, both conference records. She is a three-time National Fastpitch Coaches Association Academic All-America Scholar Athlete. Ava also plays for Velocity 18U National club team.

The West Bend Joint School District #1 is proud to serve nearly 6,000 students and their families from the city of West Bend, villages of Jackson and Newburg, and townships of Barton, Polk, Trenton, Jackson, West Bend, and Addison. We strive to ensure that every student is given the opportunity to reach their potential through academics, the arts, and co-curricular activities. Within our community-based 4K program, Head Start program, five elementary schools (K-4), one intermediate school (5-6), one middle school (7-8), and two high schools (9-12), families can expect a caring, inclusive learning environment that supports the development of the whole child. Visit www.west-bend.k12.wi.us for more information.

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