

# ALMA COLLEGE ATHLETICS NEWS



## HOFFMAN AND BIGHAM COMPETE AT NCAA CHAMPIONSHIPS

Two members of the Alma College women's track and field team competed at the NCAA Division III National Championships on Friday (Mar. 11) at the JDL Fast Track.

Senior Bailey Hoffman finished 15th in the weight throw with a toss of 15.82 meters, improving on her 18th seed. She concludes her indoor track and field career with the school record in the weight throw (16.78 meters). The native of Olivet, Mich., broke the school record four different times throughout the season.

In the 400-meter dash, Ericka Bigham placed 19th with a time of 58.74 seconds in just her fifth time running the event. The junior concluded the indoor season by winning the 400-meter dash title at the MIAA Championships and finishing runner-up in the 200-meter dash. She was also named All-MIAA after her performance at the championship meet. Her personal-best this indoor season was 58.09 seconds.

## KUEHNLEIN NAMED MIAA SENIOR SPORTSMAN OF THE YEAR

Alma College wrestling's Jayce Kuehnlein received the Michigan Intercollegiate Athletic Association (MIAA) wrestling's first-ever Senior Sportsman of the Year Award.

This honor was created to recognize the wrestler that best exemplifies the multi-dimensional traits of an MIAA and Division III student-athlete. The criteria for this award includes grade-point average, extracurricular activities, community service and athletics.

Jayce was also crowned first-team MIAA for a second time. He was champion at the Muskegon Community College Ben McMullen Open and runner-up at the Waynesburg Invitational.

## KLEIVER AND SAS NAMED TO ALL-MIAA SECOND TEAM

Men's basketball, senior Cole Kleiver, and women's basketball, sophomore Taylor Sas were both named to the All-MIAA Second Team.

Kleiver finished the season third in the MIAA for points per game with an average of 18.5. He posted 352 points with a field goal percentage of 45.8. Men's basketball finished 5-19 overall and 4-10 in conference play.

Sas finished her season second in the MIAA for points per game with an average of 16. She scored 368 points on the season and found a field goal percentage of 40.8.

# OSTROWSKI RECEIVES MIAA SENIOR IMPACT AWARD

Alma College's swimming and diving Jennifer Ostrowski was the first-ever Senior Impact Award recipient. Ostrowski is an Integrative Physiology and Health Science (IPHS) major at Alma. Ostrowski is a captain for the Scots, where she is an incredibly hard working and self-disciplined individual, along with taking athletes under her wing and guiding them. Around campus Ostrowski is a Dean's List student and is a member of the Student Nurses Association. She takes part in the service fraternity, Alpha Phi Omega, and is Vice President of the Alpha Xi Delta. Ostrowski is also an SI Leader, where she tutors other students on campus.



## NATIONAL GIRLS AND WOMEN IN SPORTS DAY

Alma College Athletics celebrated the 36th annual National Girls and Women in Sports Day and the 50th anniversary of Title XI with a student-planned virtual panel discussion on Thursday, Feb. 3.

Current and former Alma College student-athletes, coaches and administrators came together to discuss their experiences and achievements as girls and women in sports, and to celebrate the enactment of Title IX, which helps to protect against sex-based based discrimination. While on the panel, they discussed everything from gym time to equipment, transportation to respect.

Current student-athlete and SAAC President, Stasha Warchock, organized this group of women to shed light on the trailblazers that helped establish women in athletics at Alma College.

"The stories that our panelists shared and the experiences that were told were aspiring to hear. Many of these women advocated for Women's Sports in collegiate athletics and equality in athletics. I was amazed with everything that was shared and it was truly life changing to be a part of," explained Warchock.

## KUCZAJDA NAMED AMERICAN HEARTLAND PLAYER OF THE YEAR

Senior Rachel Kuczajda was named the 2022 American Heartland Bowling Association Player of the Year for her performance throughout conference play. She was also named to the AHBA Varsity All-Tournament team and All-Conference team.

Kuczajda finished the AHBA series in seventh place with an average score of 205.78 per game. Alma followed suit with an overall standing of seventh place with 41 points.

## HEAD GOLF AND WOMEN'S WRESTLING COACHES HIRED

Alma graduate, JT Cleveland has been named the new head coach of the Alma College men's and women's golf programs, as announced by Director of Athletics Sarah Dehring on Tuesday, Jan. 25.

Katlyn Pizzo has been named the first head coach of the new Alma College women's wrestling program, which is set to kick off in fall 2022, as announced by Director of Athletics Sarah Dehring on Friday, March 25.