

GAME DAY GLORY Up to bat, junior **JOSEY PERKINS** swings to hit the ball and run to first base. This summer, Millard Fury Nelson traveled to Kansas City and Wisconsin Dells where they played their hearts out to win the game. "This summer we did okay. It was a lot of fun, I hit four home runs throughout the season," Perkins said. "We had ups and downs but we worked through it." Photo by Josey Perkins

00 We got to travel to the Wisconsin Dells as a team where we competed in a tournament and got to explore the city together. 00
LILLIAN STUECKCRAFT '27



ACE OF HEARTS With a crucial block at the net, junior **REGAN BLANKENAU** prevents the ball from going over the net, scoring a point for their team. Nebraska Elite 16 Ohana visited Fla. for nationals ending with a 10-2 record and a 21st placement. "My favorite part about playing with this team was the friends I made," Blankenau said. "We all got along so well and it made playing together so much more fun." Photo courtesy of Regan Blankenau



BALLIN' OUT OF TOWN A crown fit for a queen, senior **KYLEE PABEN** gathers with her team after winning the 3v3 tournament, Paben had the honor of being invited to the Under Armor Future 60 camp, where she met new people training and practiced with other high level players. "From my team I was the only one invited," Paben said. "We did some skills work on the first day but after that we mostly played 3v3." Photo courtesy of Kylee Paben

ONE TEAM, ONE DREAM About to play a game, senior **KODI BARRATA** poses for a photo along side her teammates from her national Iowa-Nebaska team. Baratta traveled to Boston, Mass. where she played smaller state teams, showed off her skills to colleges and learned many new skills that will help her for her last high school season. "I loved getting to know all the girls that I was going to play alongside with," Barrata said. "After a five-hour tryout I was so eager to play against teams I never thought I was play before." Photo courtesy of Kodi Baratta



SANDY SERVES With a serve underway, junior **AMAYA THORNTON** aims to score a point for the team to win the game. Playing through the Volleyball Academy, Thornton and her partner finished in 3rd place in the silver bracket. "We had so much fun," Thornton said. "We placed higher than ever in previous years and overall, won many more games than in the past." Photo courtesy of Amaya Thornton

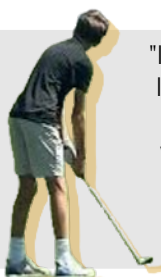


TEE TIME



"I'm a super competitive person, so it's never really just for fun. I think it's more stressful but there's a level of excitement that draws me back."

DEREK JOHNSON '26



"I love golfing during the summer as I usually go 2-3 times a week. One day I was with my friends and we wanted to try it, so ever since we have been going."

KOLVEN WILHITE '29



"I am a member at a county club so I usually book tee times and play there twice a week during the summer."

ANNA JETTER '27

HEALED on the FIELD

Freshman's setback sparks his team's success

Pressure builds on the field as the Millard United Battle White baseball team fights to win the St. Columbkille Cornfield Wood Bat tournament. Among them, freshman **SOLOMON WILLIAMS**, whose season came to an unexpected end after he broke his leg during the championship game.

After the injury, he was quickly taken off the field and brought to the hospital to seek medical attention. The team then strived even harder to be named Grand Champions, which led them to a victory with a score of 6-3.

"I was sliding into second base to break up a double play during the championship game of a tournament," Williams said. "My cleat got caught and

I broke three bones in my leg and I could tell immediately that I wouldn't be able to play the rest of the game."

Despite not being able to play, Williams wanted to continue supporting his team. Even while moving everywhere by wheelchair and being unable to bend his right leg, his family decided to make the eight-hour journey to Parker, Col., to be with his team and cheer them on further.

"After not seeing him for a while while he was recovering, it meant a lot to see him come out a long ways to watch us play in Colorado, especially as it is our last year together as a team and one of our last tournaments," freshman **HENRY REYNOLDS** said. "When we all first saw him in the hotel, we all knew we had to win for him."

Just as they hoped, the team won the Colorado State Tuneup tournament 19-4 with the support of Williams from the sidelines. The coaches and team wanted to do something special for their number one cheerleader.

"They brought the chair down the hill and he was finally where he belonged," coach **MIKE REYNOLDS** said. "After the game, coach John spontaneously jumped behind his chair and started running the bases with him."

Williams' determination and team spirit left a lasting mark on the team, coaches and families, as he showed them that being part of a team is about support and lifting up one another.

Story by Lainey Reynolds



STRENGTH IN SUPPORT Moments after the Battle White baseball team wins the Colorado State Tuneup tournament 19-4, freshman **SOLOMON WILLIAMS** joins his teammates on the field for a victory lap. Williams, a third baseman, broke his leg in a game 12 days before the Millard United group traveled to Parker, Col. "I liked being in the mountains but I wanted to be on the field," Williams said. "It felt good to be included because I wanted to play but we still won the tournament." Photo courtesy of Kyle Anderson