

BOYS

TEAM CAPTAIN Logan Mendez Grand Island



David Watson Elkhorn An active and athletic keeper, Watson was a major eraser in the back for Elkhorn. He registered nine shutouts in the Antlers' final 13 regular-season and district matches. The senior stopped three shots and watched another miss in a shootout win in the district semifinals to help Elkhorn reach state.



Kyle Nowka Lincoln East The Creighton recruit was again a standout despite not playing at 100 percent after an ACL injury in the fall. Nowka capped the Spartans' 24-0 state championship season in 2010 with an overtime goal. He was a serious candidate for All-Nebraska captain honors.



Hector Gutierrez Grand Island The spark behind Grand Island's historic season, the senior led the state in assists with 18. His 11th and final goal of the season wasn't bad, either. Gutierrez found the back of the net on a free kick in the last 10 seconds in the state semifinals as the Islanders beat Lincoln East and advanced to the championship match.



Jony Lara Schuyler Lara switched to midfielder from forward, where he had set Schuyler's scoring record last year. And the results were evident. Lara ran the middle of the field for the Warriors, who reached the state finals. He still scored 12 goals and dished out 11 assists and helped teammate Victor Cruz lead the state in scoring.



Alex Stillinger Omaha South After he led the state in scoring as a junior, Stillinger's goal numbers were slightly down, but in the first round at state his miracle score with five seconds left forced overtime and helped South reach the semifinals. He finished with 14 goals and six assists and is South's all-time leading goal scorer.



Elizabeth Bartels Omaha Skutt The next in a line of star scorers at Skutt, Bartels is attracting recruiting attention from some of the top programs in the country. She scored 14 goals (including the match-winner in the state final) and added 14 assists during her sophomore season for the SkyHawks.



Addison Nokels Omaha Burke The Iowa State recruit followed up a breakout junior season with 17 goals and nine assists as the Bulldogs reached the No. 1 ranking in the state during parts of the season. Nokels' energy up front was a major reason.



Mayme Conroy Omaha Skutt Last year's All-Nebraska captain missed the first month of the season while recovering from an ACL injury. The Nebraska recruit came back strong, though, finishing with 16 goals and leading Skutt to its third straight Class B state title.



Marquette Pick Millard North Pick and teammate Alyssa Flannery were the state's top 1-2 combo in the middle, a duo Millard North coach John Walsh called the "behind the scenes" heroes of the Mustangs' state title run. The junior scored 10 goals.



Jackie Tondi Omaha Marian A Texas A&M recruit, Tondi was widely regarded as the top defender in the state. Her offense wasn't too bad, either. The junior was third on Marian's team with 11 goals and also a major reason the Crusaders registered 15 shutouts.



Jake Linden Omaha Creighton Prep Linden followed up a solid junior season with a 14-goal, 13-assist senior campaign. The state's Gatorade player of the year will play at Xavier next season.



Matt Pritchard Omaha Creighton Prep The junior finished with 24 goals and 58 points, both good for second in Class A. An attacking threat, Pritchard gave the state champion Junior Jays' talented midfield a finisher up front.



Joe Marinkovich Omaha Creighton Prep While Pritchard and Linden did the scoring, Marinkovich did the little things that helped the Junior Jays win the Class A crown. He'll be a part of UNO's first men's soccer recruiting class next season.



Tyree Kinning Columbus His physical presence was the difference for a Columbus team that reached the state tournament. Kinning netted 22 goals and six assists, good for third in the state in scoring. He will play at Midland next season.



Mike Reckmeyer Lincoln East An Oregon State walk-on, Reckmeyer was the leading scorer for a Lincoln East team that lost to only one team all season (Grand Island). The senior scored a pair of goals in the first round of the state tournament to finish with 21 on the season.



Paige Nielsen Lincoln Southeast The North Carolina recruit finished a close second for All-Nebraska captain honors. Nielsen, a junior, led Class A in scoring with 23 goals and 17 assists as Southeast reached the state finals for the first time in school history.



Ava Ambrose Omaha Marian The top scorer for the Crusaders finished with 27 goals and seven assists to tie for second in Class A as a junior. A Miami (Fla.) recruit, Ambrose will be one of the top returning threats in the state next season.



Jordan Cassalia Millard West The keeper was a major reason that West's first 11 wins were shutouts. She finished third in Class A in goals per match average. Cassalia is garnering Division I attention already as a sophomore.



Alyssa Flannery Millard North The junior was perhaps the top midfielder in the state, fueling a Millard North attack that featured two of the top 10 scorers in Class A. Flannery is a Nebraska recruit.



Jaylyn Odermann Millard North The junior led a Millard North defense that allowed just nine goals in 22 matches. A Nebraska recruit, Odermann helped the Mustangs notch 15 shutouts on the season.



GIRLS

TEAM CAPTAIN Rachel Brennan Millard North

ALL NEBRASKA FIRST TEAM

Table with 3 columns: P, Player, School, Yr. Lists players like David Watson, Logan Mendez, Matt Pritchard, Mike Reckmeyer, Tyree Kinning, Alex Stillinger, Jony Lara, Kyle Nowka, Jake Linden, Joe Marinkovich, Hector Gutierrez.

Honorary captain: Mendez

SECOND TEAM

Table with 3 columns: P, Player, School, Yr. Lists players like Mike Rilett, Spencer Lindsay, Tyler Ortlieb, Logan Henning, Victor Cruz, Shane Davidson, David Torres, Ryan Lynch, Jacob Quandt, Jose Castro, Taylor Valderaz.

CLASS A FIRST TEAM

Table with 3 columns: P, Player, School, Yr. Lists players like Mike Rilett, Logan Mendez, Matt Pritchard, Mike Reckmeyer, Tyree Kinning, Alex Stillinger, Shane Davidson, Kyle Nowka, Jake Linden, Joe Marinkovich, Hector Gutierrez.

SECOND TEAM

Table with 3 columns: P, Player, School, Yr. Lists players like Spencer Lindsay, David Torres, Aaron Carman, Guillermo Ventura, J.P. Pulverenti, Gustavo Olvera, Paul Floersch, Jacob Quandt, Jose Castro, Taylor Valderaz.

CLASS B FIRST TEAM

Table with 3 columns: P, Player, School, Yr. Lists players like David Watson, Tyler Ortlieb, Logan Henning, Victor Cruz, Vince Van Haute, Jony Lara, Ryan Lynch, Rwendy Armentariz, Gavin Sass, Kade Hollendieck, Humberto Tapia.

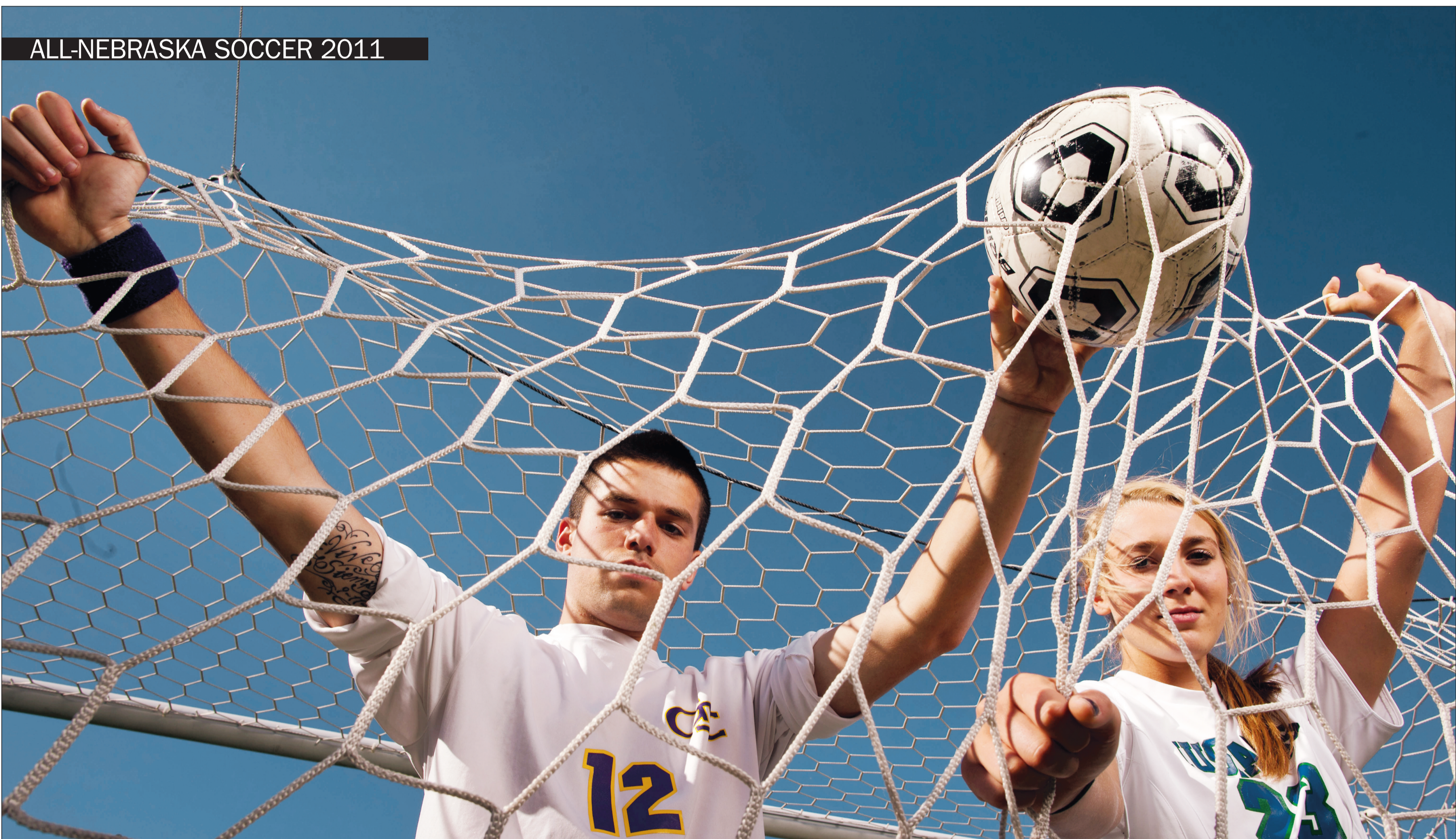
Honorary captain: Watson

SECOND TEAM

Table with 3 columns: P, Player, School, Yr. Lists players like Brian O'Neill, Jake Wise, LaRoy Cobb, Easton Nelson, Kevin Soenksen, Eduardo Gamboa, Omar Abdullahi, Brock Fitzgerald, Edwin Contreras, Greg Shanahan.

ALL-METRO TEAM, PAGE 10C See who made the Omaha-World Herald's AllMetro team.

ALL-NEBRASKA SOCCER 2011



Grand Island senior Logan Mendez and Millard North sophomore Rachel Brennan, the honorary captains of the All-Nebraska soccer teams, are pictured at Creighton's Morrison Stadium. Both players will play in college — Brennan has already committed to Nebraska and Mendez will play on the first team at the University of Nebraska at Omaha.

SWEAT, THEN NOTHING BUT NET MUSTANGS' BRENNAN, ISLANDERS' MENDEZ ARE HONORARY CAPTAINS

By NICK RUBEK WORLD-HERALD STAFF WRITER

Rachel Brennan and Logan Mendez have the same advice for defenders trying to slow them down.

Get to work. "Don't stop," said Brennan, a sophomore star for Class A girls state champion Millard North. "If you stop, I'm going by you."

Mendez, the heart and soul of a Grand Island boys' team that finished as the Class A runner-up, had a similar response.

"I'll outwork you," the senior said. "If you go 100 yards, I'll go 120. If you jump in the air, you can bet I'll be waiting for you when you get down."

It's that drive that helped them become two of the state's elite. Today they are recognized as the honorary captains of the All-Nebraska soccer teams.

Brennan follows in the footsteps of Molly Thomas, another former Mustang. Thomas was the All-Nebraska captain as a senior on the 2008 Millard North state championship team.

"When I was younger, I looked up to her," Brennan said. "She was definitely a role model."

After Thomas graduated, it was Brittney Neumann who did much of the scoring. Neumann was the Missouri Valley Conference freshman of the year at Creighton.

Now Brennan is the lead Mustang. "We've sent quite a few girls on to the next level," Walsh said, "but every once in awhile you get a kid that goes above and beyond. Goal scorers are born, not made. (Brennan) was born to score goals."

Mendez is just as much a natural. He played his best in big games. Against defending champion Lincoln East in the season opener, Mendez scored a goal seven seconds in, added another later in the half and was fouled to set up a penalty kick before halftime.

land coach Jeremy Jensen said, "I put my arm around him and I just kissed him on the head."

Mendez recently became the first player to sign with the University of Nebraska at Omaha's new Division I men's soccer team. Jensen said it's a combination of skill and natural gifts that makes Mendez so tough.

"I think it has to do with his explosive ability," Jensen said. "If I'm coaching against us, he would just scare me to death."

He scored both Islander goals in their win over Millard West in the first round of the state tournament — Grand Island's first state tournament win in history. Mendez also gave Grand Island a first-half lead in the championship match before Omaha Creighton Prep came back for the win.

He fueled 19 straight victories before that loss, finishing with the most goals (28) in the state and most points (67) in Class A.

ALL NEBRASKA FIRST TEAM

Table with 3 columns: P, Player, School, Yr. Lists players like Jordan Cassalia, Rachel Brennan, Paige Nielsen, Mayme Conroy, Addison Nokels, Ava Ambrose, Elizabeth Bartels, Alyssa Flannery, Marquette Pick, Jackie Tondi, Jaylyn Odermann.

Honorary captain: Brennan

SECOND TEAM

Table with 3 columns: P, Player, School, Yr. Lists players like Klynn Moyer, Hannah Wampler, Yari Estrada, Sara Cushing, Sarah Woelfel, Liz Sundberg, Jourden Casey, Caitlin Wills, Alissa Kohmetscher, Rachael Baley, Jordan Chohon.

CLASS A FIRST TEAM

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Honorary Captain: Brennan

SECOND TEAM

Table with 3 columns: P, Player, School, Yr. Lists players like Klynn Moyer, Yari Estrada, Sara Cushing, Liz Sundberg, Sarah Woelfel, Jourden Casey, Emily Nulty, Caitlin Wills, Rachael Baley, Anna Sibson, Caitlin Lewis.

CLASS B FIRST TEAM

Table with 3 columns: P, Player, School, Yr. Lists players like Jordan Thiem, Melissa Stine, Mayme Conroy, Elizabeth Bartels, Brooke Martin, Jordyn Wollenburg, Kirsten Larson, Sam Aremam, Chloe Nability, Jordan Chohon, Emily Roll.

Honorary captain: Conroy

SECOND TEAM

Table with 3 columns: P, Player, School, Yr. Lists players like Sarah Warren, Cierra Cjaden, Danielle Anderson, Kelsey Doerr, Kelsey Nealon, Ashlin Pawloski, Megan Kruse, Rachel Granville, Ali Graham, Tessa Delaney, Ele Banghart.

MORE SOCCER, PAGE 10C A complete list of the All-Nebraska honorable mention selections.

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