

DAWG



THE MOMENT

INSIDE:

Photo of the Year

Bulldog Milestones

From Mahomet to the NCAA Regional

Portraits & Sessions

From Above

and more

A look back at the year that was.

DAWO | Summer 2026

Published by Dawgtown Media



2026 SUM 26 001

Letter from the Editor



For me, the year follows the school calendar, beginning in August and winding down in early June. It's always a busy season, but one I truly enjoy.

Running This Week in Bulldog Athletics (TWIBA) keeps me plenty busy capturing and sharing Bulldog stories from the junior high level through high school. TWIBA, a product of Dawgtown Media, is dedicated exclusively to Mahomet-Seymour athletics. At the same time, Dawgtown has continued to grow beyond Bulldog Nation, providing photography and creative services throughout the area and beyond.

This past year marked a transition as Dawgtown Media launched and began to establish its own identity. I've been fortunate to photograph a variety of sports, athletes, and events while capturing moments that defined seasons and preserved memories. From media

days to milestones, from game days to senior portraits, and from Mahomet to places well beyond the village limits, it has been a year filled with opportunities I never take for granted.

The pages that follow represent only a small sampling of the moments, experiences, and stories that made the 2025-26 school year so memorable. Thank you to the athletes, families, coaches, schools, and supporters who have trusted me to preserve these moments along the way.

I hope you enjoy the inaugural issue of DAWG as much as I enjoyed creating it.

Mike Orton



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Big Bulldog Moments

Just A Few of the Many Highlights

Great Year To Be A Bulldog

The 2025-2026 season yielded another football playoff berth, six regional titles, seven sectional titles, six state medalists, and a state champion. Seventeen Bulldogs earned first team all-area honors and seven Bulldogs were named News-Gazette Athletes of the Year. Four Bulldog coaches were named coach of the year in their respective seasons.

Girls' swimming won the program's first sectional title, Adella Bird and Haley Reed became the first tennis doubles pair in MSHS history to win a sectional title, boys' cross country placed second at state, boys' wrestling placed third at dual team state, Emily Anand placed 15th at girls cross country state finals, boys 4x800 relay team placed third at state, the girls 4x400 relay placed second at state, Mady Marx was the 400m state champ and 200m state runner-up, and Marco Casillas placed second at IHSA State Wrestling Finals. Along with many more accomplishments.

FLAG FOOTBALL

On September 3, 2025 a group of Mahomet-Seymour girls blazed new trails and made history as they became the first team in school history to play an official IHSA flag football game that took place in Kankakee, IL.

Although they lost the first game, they would avenge that loss to Kankakee when the Bulldogs won their home opener a week later. As the team marched through the short season improvement was made each and every game. An exciting time for these girls, the community, and girls sports as a whole.

1,000 POINTS

Senior Jackson Bohm scored his 1,000th point on December 23, 2025 in a game against Romeoville at the State Farm Classic held in Normal, IL. A significant milestone for Bohm early in the season. Bohm would go on to have a stellar senior season leading the Bulldogs. Bohm earned all-conference, all-area, and all-state honors this season. He was also named The News-Gazette's Boys' Basketball Player of the Year. He will continue his basketball career at Illinois Wesleyan University.



3-Peat

Mady Marx's dominant track career ended in dominant fashion. Marx first won a state title her sophomore year in the 400m dash. It was a title she wouldn't relinquish the rest of her prep career. She achieved the three-peat her senior season winning the 400m dash state title with a time of 55.17. Marx had one of the greatest careers in school history and will continue running track at Ball State. (Photo by RDS Sports Images)



Marco Casillas

Sophomore, Marco Casillas placed second at the IHSA 2A 190-pound state finals. This coming off of a third place finish his freshman year in the 175-pound class. Expectations will be high going forward, but Casillas will be up for the challenge.



Girls Wrestling Makes History

The Mahomet-Seymour girls' wrestling squad won the program's first team regional title in February.

400 WINS

MSHS varsity baseball coach, Nic DiFilippo reached his 400th career varsity win on May 7, 2026 in the Bulldogs 5-3 win at Charleston.



A group of Northern Illinois Huskies baseball players in white uniforms and red caps are celebrating on a baseball field. One player in the foreground is being embraced by teammates. In the background, another player is spraying a blue water bottle. The scene is set outdoors with trees in the background.

Photo of the Year

One Swing - One Defining Moment

Northern Illinois Huskies, Ivan Dahlberg, walked-off a Friday conference win over Miami (OH) in dramatic fashion in March. With the bases loaded in extra innings, the senior catcher blasted a ball over the right field fence to win what would be the first of a three game sweep over the RedHawks that weekend.

At the time, it was an exhilarating moment. Looking back, it was THE MOMENT that launched one of the most memorable seasons in program history, ending with a MAC Tournament title and the school's first NCAA Regional appearance since 1972.





A Season Like No Other

2026 NIU Huskies Baseball Makes History

The Huskies captured the program's first Mid-American Conference Tournament championship, going 4-0 and defeating Toledo 5-1 in the title game. NIU outscored its opponents 32-9 during the tournament, trailed just once, and rode a dominant pitching staff that posted a 1.80 ERA while holding opponents to a .193 batting average.

The championship sent the Huskies to the NCAA Baseball Championship for the first time since 1972.

History continued in Tallahassee as NIU earned the first NCAA Tournament victory in program history, defeating Coastal Carolina 12-10 in the NCAA Regional at Mike

Martin Field at Dick Howser Stadium. The Huskies also became the first Mid-American Conference team to win a regional game since Central Michigan in 2022.

Head Coach, Ryan Copeland, has turned the Huskies baseball program around in just three short years. The season prior to Copeland's arrival, the Huskies posted a 10-43 record during the 2023 season. Copeland's first two seasons (2024 and 2025) the Huskies posted a record of 21-33 each season.

Northern Illinois finished the 2026 season 36-19 overall and 21-12 in MAC play, capping one of the most memorable seasons in program history.









showcase

MEDIA DAYS

Make Each Season Memorable

Media days are built around the athlete. Often held before the season begins and a fun way for the athletes to get excited for their season. The athletes and families have the opportunity to get one-of-a-kind photos that will last a lifetime. Many of the images captured on media day later become milestone graphics, game day graphics, record announcements, and more.

On Location

Dawgtown will come to your gym, field, or even venture off campus to capture your team in the most memorable way.



Affordable

With each media day, the athletes pay a session fee upfront which includes a coupon to use towards photo purchases.



Galleries

For each media day, the team gets a curated image gallery and an easy purchase process.









2026 NCAA Tallahassee Regional
Florida State University

Where the Camera Went

From Mahomet, Illinois to Six Different States

The Bulldogs keep me busy, and capturing their stories throughout the school year remains at the heart of Dawgtown Media. When the schedule allows, the journey extends well beyond Mahomet.

From Wisconsin to Florida and all places in between, the opportunity to photograph college athletics, special events, and athletes outside the village limits has created memories and experiences that continue to fuel a passion for sports storytelling. From the inaugural season of Illinois College flag football to the NCAA Baseball



Regional in Tallahassee, every opportunity has provided new experiences and lasting memories.

Along the way, I've had the chance to network with new people, visit new venues, and witness moments that remind me why I picked up a camera in the first place. What began as a way to document local athletes has evolved into opportunities I never imagined, while still keeping Mahomet and the Bulldogs at the center of it all.

Whether it's a Friday night under the lights at Frank Dutton Field, a college volleyball match in Wisconsin, or postseason baseball in Florida, the goal remains the same: preserve moments worth remembering.





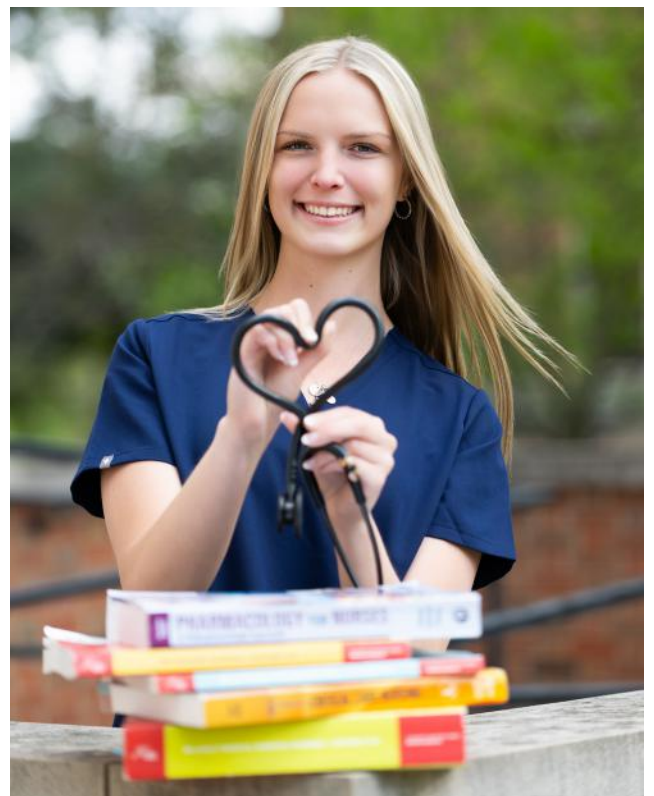
Beyond the Game



While game day moments are what many people associate with Dawgtown, some of the most meaningful memories happen away from the field.

From senior portraits and cap and gown sessions to youth teams and creative projects, Dawgtown enjoys preserving milestone moments that will be remembered many years from now.





An Area-Wide Project

A Day With The Champaign County IHSA State Wrestlers



What began as a simple idea from a few people became one of the more unique projects of the year. From capturing the wrestlers at Serra Champaign to assembling the final artwork and seeing it displayed along the streets of Champaign, the project showcased what can happen when photography and creativity come together.

Seeing the finished billboard was a reminder that moments captured with a camera and trusted connections can sometimes become something much bigger.









A Different Perspective





















Another Inaugural Season

Two Inaugural Seasons In One

It was a privilege to capture the first-ever Mahomet-Seymour High School flag football game in the fall of 2025. At the time, I had no idea the journey would continue just a few months later with another historic opportunity.

In the spring of 2026, the Illinois College Lady Blues became the first downstate college in Illinois to field an official

women's flag football team. That opportunity took me to Chicago and the Chicago Bears practice facility, where the Lady Blues opened their inaugural season

alongside other programs helping usher in a new era of collegiate flag football.

What began with a historic night in Mahomet came full circle on a much larger stage. Being able to document two inaugural seasons in the same year was a reminder that some of the most memorable moments aren't championships or records, but simply the beginning of something new.

From the Bulldogs to the Lady Blues, these firsts were more than games—they were milestones, and I was grateful to have a camera in hand to preserve them.





Thank you for reading the inaugural issue of DAWG Magazine. See you this fall.

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