WATERLOO SCHOOLS NEWS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Waterloo Schools Announces New Head Coaches for Expanded Waterloo United Combined Sports Lineup

WATERLOO, IA – May 22, 2026 – Waterloo Schools is pleased to announce the appointment of four head coaches to lead its newly unified athletic programs under the Waterloo United banner. These coaching appointments mark a major step forward as the district expands its lineup of combined sports to ensure robust, competitive, and sustainable futures for student-athletes across the community.

The newly appointed head coaches for the combined programs are:

- **Volleyball: AJ Cassidy**
    - *Accolades & Experience:* A familiar face at West High, Cassidy has served the district as an English teacher since 2012. His coaching tenure with the volleyball program began in 2020 as an assistant coach, and he was recently named the head West High volleyball coach. Additionally, Cassidy brings nearly a decade of leadership to the district's athletic department, having served as an assistant coach for the West High girls' basketball program from 2016 to 2025.

- **Boys Cross Country: Tyler Borneman**
    - *Accolades & Experience:* Tyler Borneman has been officially named the Head Boys Cross Country Coach at Waterloo United. Since joining the program as the West High boys' cross country coach in 2024, Borneman has quickly energized the team with his modern training philosophies and dedication to student-athlete endurance—both on the course and in the classroom. His leadership promises to build on West High's strong running traditions.

- **Girls Cross Country: Nekoda Garbes**
    - *Accolades & Experience:* Stepping into the role of Head Girls Cross Country Coach is Nekoda Garbes, a dynamic and versatile leader within Waterloo athletics. Garbes has successfully directed both the boys' and girls' cross country programs at East High since 2022, showcasing a brilliant tactical mind for long-distance running. A true multi-sport mentor, Garbes also brings valuable high-stakes leadership experience from her previous experience as the East High girls' basketball coach, making her uniquely equipped to inspire and elevate the girls' cross country program.

- **Boys Wrestling: Chris Tims**
    - *Accolades & Experience:* A dedicated educator and leader in the Waterloo wrestling community, Tims currently teaches at East High, where he has served as the Head Wrestling Coach for the past six years. His extensive background includes seven years as an assistant wrestling coach for East High, as well as deep involvement in USA Freestyle and Greco-Roman wrestling, highlighted by his selection as an Iowa USA Wrestling Coach for the past eight years.

- **Boys Bowling: Brandon Steen**
    - *Accolades & Experience:* Bringing a wealth of lane-tested expertise, Steen is the current the Head Boys Bowling Coach at West High. Steen is a familiar and deeply respected face within the program, having served as a cornerstone of the West High bowling coaching staff since 2019. His long-standing dedication to the team's culture, precision, and player development ensures that Waterloo United bowling will remain a formidable force on the lanes.

- **Girls Bowling: Mike Weber**
    - *Accolades & Experience:* Waterloo Schools is thrilled to name Mike Weber as the Head Girls Bowling Coach. A veteran of the sport with an

extraordinary track record of success, Weber has successfully piloted the East High boys and girls bowling programs as head coach since 2014. His over a decade of elite head coaching experience, combined with his unique ability to foster both individual skill and team unity, positions the girls' program for an incredibly bright future.

These coaches are all veteran leaders within the district's athletic community, bringing a wealth of experience, technical expertise, and a proven track record of student-athlete development to their respective unified teams.

"Bringing these programs together under unified leadership allows us to maximize our resources, elevate the competitive training environment, and build a stronger sense of community among our student-athletes," said Tim Moses, the newly appointed Athletic Director for Waterloo United High School.

This expansion marks the latest addition to the district's successful framework of combined athletic offerings. With these additions, the full lineup of Waterloo United combined programs now includes:

- Boys & Girls Tennis
- Boys & Girls Swimming and Diving
- Girls Soccer
- Girls Wrestling
- Girls Golf
- **Volleyball (New)**
- **Boys & Girls Cross Country (New)**
- **Boys Wrestling (New)**
- **Boys & Girls Bowling (New)**

Waterloo Schools remains deeply committed to providing high-quality athletic opportunities for all students. The unification of these programs ensures that Waterloo United athletes will continue to compete at the highest levels while fostering collaboration and school pride across the entire district.


WATERLOO UNITED
Meet the Coaches
AJ Cassidy
Volleyball
Christopher Tims
Boys Wrestling
Nekoda Garbes
Girls Cross Country
Mike Weber
Girls Bowling
Brandon Steen
Boys Bowling
Tyler Borneman
Boys Cross Country

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