

# PEN CITY CURRENT

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## Barnes finds home with Hawks

**2018 FMHS GRAD:** Finishes 6th at Big 10 Indoor Championship in shot

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG  
PCC EDITOR

IOWA CITY – Elijah Barnes wanted to be a baseball player, then a football player, then an electrician. Three years ago he had no idea what the future held.

This past weekend the 2018 Fort Madison High School graduate found himself caught up with a glimpse of the future and the whirlwind that is the Big 10 Indoor Track and Field championship in Geneva, Ohio.

It was the first outright win for the Hawkeyes and the former Bloodhound was part of the title. Barnes said Iowa won the title in 1929, but technically it was a tie and the 2021 title is the first outright win.

“This is a great feeling. What made it even sweeter is that we’d been flirting with it the past two or three years and this year we won by like 30 points,” Barnes said.

Iowa won the 2019 Big Ten outdoor title, but the 2020 outdoor championships were canceled due to COVID-19.

Barnes earned 3 points for the Hawks with a throw of 18.24 meters on his second attempt of the day good enough for 6th place. He said in warmups he pushed one out 19 feet, which would have been good enough for a top 3 finish had it been a recorded throw.

The Hawkeyes finished with 119 points, 27 ahead of second place Indiana.

Barnes said his goal was to finish in the top three.

2018 FMHS graduate Elijah Barnes finished sixth in the shotput at the 2021 Big 10 Indoor Championship last weekend for the Iowa Hawkeyes. His throw of 18.24 meters earned 3 points in the Hawkeyes 119 point 1st-place finish. Barnes has been battling a groin strain and still threw 19 meters in warmups. Courtesy photo

“Leading into the week of the Big 10 Indoors was stressful. I didn’t know if I was going to be able to throw,” he said. “I couldn’t even get off my left foot to get out of the back of the ring.”

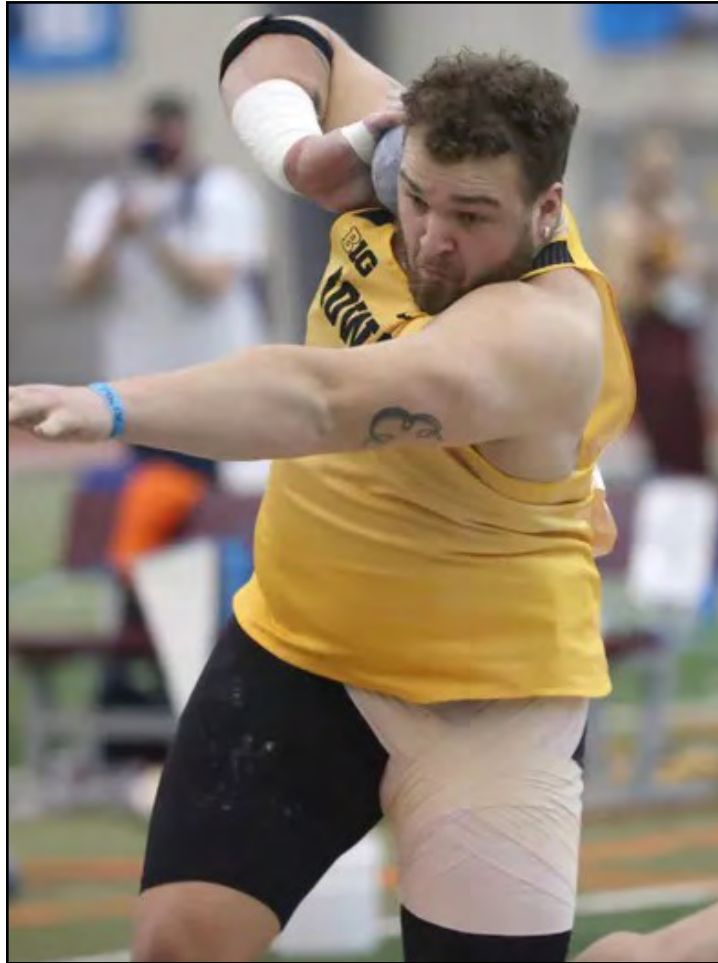


Photo Courtesy University of Iowa Sports

2018 FMHS graduate Elijah Barnes finished sixth in the shotput at the 2021 Big 10 Indoor Championship last weekend for the Iowa Hawkeyes. His throw of 18.24 meters earned 3 points in the Hawkeyes’ 119 point 1st place finish. Barnes has been battling a groin strain and still threw 19 meters in warmups.

U of I Throwing Coach Eric Werskey told Barnes to just work on drills while the groin recovered in hopes he would be able to throw in Ohio.

“I took it real light during the week before just to prepare it to See **BARNES**, page 8

## PAW SHELTER

### Jordan’s Way to do 4-hours at FM shelter

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG  
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON – There’s going to be some howling at the PAW Animal Shelter on Tuesday.

Obviously no animals will be being harmed, but a national fundraising personality will be on hand for four hours to help the shelter raise funds for a new facility currently in the works.

PAW Director Sandy Brown said social media personality Kris Rotonda, founder of Jordan’s Way is making a run through Iowa and will be stopping at the PAW Animal Shelter Tuesday morning.

“So it’s a live video feed from the shelter and it’s four hours of this guy being here on the property and doing all kinds of insane things,” Brown said.

“There’s challenges during the whole event, dunk tanks, someone might get in a pie in the face and he attaches fundraising goals to everything. It’s just crazy and we can’t wait for it.”

A donation link to the event, which runs Tuesday, March 9 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. out at the shelter, is already live at the following link:

<https://www.facebook.com/donate/425849251982180/704702760223296/>

Brown said people are encouraged to come out and see what all the madness is about, and of course make a donation or contribution to the event.

Throughout the duration businesses that donate at least \$100 will have their name on a placard that will be paraded around in front of the camera for the livestream.

But Brown isn’t stopping there. According to Jordan’s Way’s Facebook page, the events typically raise anywhere from \$5,000 to \$15,000. Brown said if the support from this area surpasses \$25,000 she’ll shave her head.

Other staff has offered to color their hair

See **FACILITY**, page 4

See **PAW**, page 5

## NEW FACILITY

### FM YMCA wants Donnellson residents’ input on fitness

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG  
PCC EDITOR

DONNELLSON – The Fort Madison YMCA has set its sights on Donnellson and is looking to make another investment in the community.

On Thursday, Fort Madison YMCA Executive Director Ryan Wilson said the organization is planning a community meeting in



WILSON

Donnellson on Thursday, March 11, starting at 5:30 p.m. at the ISU Extension office 414 N. Main Street.

Wilson said the board has identified some property and is considering putting a 24-hour fitness center in the community if there is a want and desire from the public in and around the town.

“We have a building lined up to be purchased, but the board felt it was an important piece to get feedback from Donnellson community if those folks would be interested in having something out there,” Wilson said.

“Would people sign up and utilize it? That’s what we would need to find out.”

See **FACILITY**, page 4

## INDEX

*BeRecycled.org*.....P.4  
*BeyondDo.org*.....P.7  
*Business Directory*.....P.6  
**BUSINESS NEWS**.....P.4  
**CLASSIFIEDS**.....Ps.6-7  
Complete Rental.....P.2  
Connection Bank.....P.8  
**FOR THE RECORD**.....P.3  
Fort Madison Community Hospital.....P.2  
Fort Madison Community  
Neighborhood Watch Programs.....P.5

**FROM THE FRONT**.....Ps.4-5,8  
Fullenkamp Insurance.....P.5  
Great River Regional Waste Authority.....P.4  
LCK Roofing.....P.3  
**LEE COUNTY NEWS**.....P.4  
**LOCAL NEWS**.....Ps.4-5,8  
Mobile Nursing Services.....P.7  
**OBITUARIES**.....Ps.2-3  
• Eugene D. Brisby, 86  
• Timothy L. Druppel, 70  
Pen City Current.....Ps.5-7

Pothitakis Dentistry.....P.5  
Pothitakis Law Firm, P.C.....P.8  
#SheCanStem.....P.3  
Sonny’s Super Market.....P.3  
Southeast Iowa Regional Airport.....P.3  
**SPORTS**.....P.8  
StopTextsStopWrecks.org.....P.8  
Test Kitchen Education Foundation.....P.3

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POWERBALL 03/03.....21 40 44 50 55, Powerball: 16, Power Play: 3

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# Obituaries

## TIMOTHY L. DRUPPEL

Long-time Fort Madison resident, Timothy Loran "Tim" Druppel, went to be with his Lord and Savior Monday, March 1, 2021. Tim was 70 years old. Born July 22, 1950, at Sacred Heart Hospital, Fort Madison, he was the 3rd of 4 children of Jerome Ferdinand Druppel and Esther Mae (Heath) Druppel.



DRUPPEL

Tim attended Sacred Heart School in Fort Madison before moving with his family to Geneva, Ohio, August 7, 1957, when Jerome transferred to True Temper Corporation at Saybrook, Ohio, from American Fork and Hoe Company, here. The family found an historic, 1890's, three story corner home at South Broadway and Tuttle court at Geneva, making it their residence for many memorable and treasured years. Tim, a brother, Paul, and sister, Carole, all attended Geneva Elementary, Jr. High, and High School, with Tim graduating from G.H.S. in June 1969. In September, of that year, he began his Freshman year at Kent State University. Growing up in Geneva and living across from a funeral home/ ambulance business, Tim developed an interest, over the years, in the funeral service profession and had aspirations of becoming a mortician. Once entering Kent State, he changed his study from mortuary science to theater arts/acting, but he never lost his love for the funeral field.

He appeared later in "Summertime," which earlier in 1967, had been a hit on Broadway and also in "Miss Whitcomb's Diary" and the TV presentation of "Alice in Wonderland." On May 4, 1970, he received his draft notice on the same tragic day in America when members of the Ohio National Guard fired into a crowd of students at Kent State University on the campus commons area, killing five and wounding eight others. Tim also demonstrated against the war at Kent State-Ashtabula and main campus, one day before the tragedy.

Once drafted, he never refused to enter the military. He reported with the U.S. Army to Fort Campbell, Kentucky on June 9, 1970, home of the 101st Airborne Division and Combat Arms Group. Following basic and advanced training, he was active during the Vietnam War. He also was stationed at Fort Jackson, South Carolina, Fort Dix, New Jersey, and HQ CO, Hanau, Germany. After his Army stint, he began his Sophomore year at Kent State and appeared in "Wise Guys" and in the musical comedy, "The Whole Truth About Stanley," receiving good reviews from actor Karl Malden, Tim's favorite.



Tim worked in Geneva at several places, including F.U.M.C., Hawkins Ambulance as a first responder and Sexton at Evergreen, Mt. Pleasant and Lakeview cemeteries. On May 4, 1976, he was Honorably Discharged from the Army and in September, of that year, came back to Fort Madison with family. He worked a bit for Choeys Zeiss and Dade Seavetek. In March, 1977, he began working for Lee County Sheriff's office at Fort Madison as a radio dispatcher on the 5 pm - 12:30 am shift. After four years, he began working at the Sheriff's Office and County Jail in March 1981, as correctional officer/dispatcher for the next 25 years, before retiring December 29, 2006, at age 56, with nearly 30 years of service. He began working part-time in 2015 for the Fort Madison Community School District, as a bus stop monitor at Victory Park.

Tim was a #1 fan of classic Rock-N-Roll music from the 1957 - 63 era and liked country singers, Dan Seals, Don Williams, and Charley Pride. He enjoyed the 60's folk group, Peter, Paul, and Mary and remembered auditioning with his sister for parts for a TV presentation and singing the groups hits, "Where Have All The Flowers Gone" and "Puff, The Magic Dragon."

Tim did the most important thing a person could do, receive Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior in 1987 and besides praying for his family, he also prayed they would accept the Savior in their hearts. He loved the monarch butterfly, was a huge animal lover and could not stand to see an animal hurt or mistreated. He supported the P.A.W. no kill animal shelter. He liked the saying "days go slow, years go fast," boy how true. Every December, he enjoyed attending the Barr Memorial Chapel Remembrance Service. Tim was a fan of the Brewers, Buckeyes wrestling, was a sports fan of Boston and Colgate Universities, the Kent State Golden Flashes, the films "Hoosiers" and "Field of Dreams." He liked Psalm 91, John chapter 11 and Hebrews 13:2, where it says be kind to a stranger you may meet for some have been in the company of an Angel without knowing, with Tim having two such encounters, once in Germany and again one day after his Mom's passing. Tim had been an avid reader/writer and in 1974, he wrote a TV play called "Expectation Home," all about a wounded GI returning back to civilian life. He watched, as a young boy, Mickey Mantle when he hit two homers during a game at Cleveland Municipal Stadium while with his Dad and friend. In October 1978, he began a costume party for family and friends at his home and co-hosted it with his Mom and Dad annually for many years. He was a member of Holy Family Catholic Parish, the Franciscan Associates, the Pious Union of St. Joseph, the C.A.R.A., the International Wolf Center and former member of the Iowa State Sheriff's and Deputies Association.

Those surviving Tim are two brothers, Jerry L. (Marilyn) Druppel of Ocala, Florida and Paul R (Laura) Druppel of Menifee, California; one sister, Carole S. (Wayne) Nicholson of Orange Park, Florida; three nieces: Teresa M (Randy) Huett of Fort Madison; Anna M (Kevin) Springsteen of Burlington and Sarah L Nicholson of Grapevine, Texas; three nephews: Thomas J Druppel of Spring Hope, North Carolina, Christian P (Jill) Druppel of Temecula, California and Bryan W (Audra) Nicholson of Plano, Texas; many great nieces and nephews; great-great nieces and nephews; a host of cousins, and five, four legged companions and best buddies he loved so much, MaMaw, Martha, Michael, Matthias and Daniel. Tim met his four buddies, four legged ones, that he had loved on earth, Tiger I, Tiger II, Blackie, and Shep at the Rainbow Bridge near Heavens entrance. They all crossed over and Tim met and embraced his Mom and Dad; grandparents, Loran and Ida Heath, Ben and Rose Ahlen Druppel; other family members and friends, all looking so robust, renewed, no longer frail. What a reunion! They are now awaiting the rest of the family.

Per Tim's wishes, his body has been cremated. A Time of Remembrance for Tim, where friends and family can gather, will be held from 2:00 - 4:00 pm Sunday, March 7, 2021 at the Barr Memorial Chapel, Fort Madison, with a Christian Wake Service beginning at 3:30 pm Sunday, lead by Reverend Joseph Phung. A Catholic Committal Service, burial and military rites will be held at a later date at Sacred Heart Cemetery, Fort Madison. A memorial has been established for P.A.W. no kill animal shelter, contributions may be at the Barr Memorial Chapel, 1919 Ave F, Fort Madison, Iowa 52627. Barr Memorial Chapel is honored to serve the Druppel family and an online guest book may be found at [www.barrmemorialchapel.com](http://www.barrmemorialchapel.com). Please be kind to your family and pets, with love and peace. Tim.



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# Obituaries/For the Record

## OBITUARIES

### EUGENE D. BRISBY

Eugene D. "Gene" Brisby, 86, of Montrose, IA died on March 3, 2021 at the Montrose Health Center.

He was born on August 8, 1934 in Keokuk, IA the son of Allie and Hilda Fowler Brisby. After his parent's death when he was a child, he was raised by his aunt and uncle, Ruby and Lloyd Fowler. He graduated from Montrose High School.



BRISBY

On March 19, 1961 Gene was united in marriage to Judith Holland in Keokuk. She preceded him in death on May 13, 2017.

He was a member of the Presbyterian Church in Montrose. Gene had served as a volunteer firefighter for the Montrose Fire Department for many years.

Gene had been employed at Krebill Engineering in Keokuk as a surveyor. He also had been the co-owner of Brisby & Holland Plumbing in Montrose.

Gene enjoyed watching sports on T.V. and cherished the times he watched his grandchildren at their sporting events. He also enjoyed traveling with his wife and family to the Ozarks and Branson. Gene was a devoted NASCAR and Dale Earnhardt fan.

He is survived by four sons, Scot Brisby, Todd Brisby and his wife Gretchen, Jeff Brisby and Kent Brisby all of Montrose, six grandchildren, Kaycee Crawford and her husband Sean of Oklahoma, Allison Brisby, Jared Brisby, Daly Brisby, Regan Brisby, and Amber Brisby all of Montrose, one brother, Jack Brisby of Montrose, one sister Ruby Westermeyer of Keokuk, one brother-in-law, Mark Holland and his wife Barbara of Montrose, one sister-in-law, Mary Hemmie of Montrose and several nieces, nephews and cousins.

Besides his wife he was also preceded in death by his parents, one sister Mary Petty, two sisters-in-law, Carole Holland and Shirley Brisby and three brothers-in-law, Wayne Hemmie, Calvin Westermeyer and Charles Petty.

Graveside services will be held at 11 a.m., Saturday at the Montrose Cemetery.

There will be no visitation.

Memorials may be made to the Montrose Fire Department.

The Vigen Memorial Home in Montrose is assisting the family with arrangements.

Online condolences may be sent to the family at [www.vigenmemorial-home.com](http://www.vigenmemorial-home.com).

## For the Record

### Fort Madison Police Report

03/03/01 - 8:05 a.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a property damage accident in the 700 block of Avenue C.

03/03/01 - 8:56 a.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a larceny/theft in the 700 block of Avenue C.

03/04/01 - 7:06 a.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a larceny/theft in the 1500 block of Avenue H.

03/03/21 - 1:49 p.m. - Fort Madison Police arrested Tara Mae Klein, 37, Danville, in the

2700 block of Avenue O, on a charge of simple assault. She was taken to Lee County Jail.

03/03/21 - 10:29 p.m. - Fort Madison Police cited John Adam Wiggins, 36, of Fort Madison, in the 3400 block of Avenue L, on a charge of driving while revoked.

### Lee County Sheriff's Report

03/03/21 - 12:13 a.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies cited Raymond Evan Hymes, 28, of Fort Madison, no location listed, on a charge of driving while barred.

03/03/21 - 4 p.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Megan Jo Plowman, 28, of Hamilton, Ill., at the Hancock County Jail, on warrants for turning violation, 5th degree theft, eluding, and driving under suspension. She was released on bond. Those listed above are presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.

### Fort Madison Fire & Rescue Report

03/03/21 - Fort Madison firefighters responded to two medical calls, one smoke detector alarm, and one false alarm.



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# PEN CITY CURRENT

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## From the Front

# YMCA also considering fitness classes in county

**FACILITY** - Continued from Page 1

Wilson said the facility would include cardio equipment, treadmills, ellipticals, bikes, rowing machines etc., on one side and then the other side would have some dumbbells, mirrors and weight equipment.

“That’s what we’re envisioning right now,” he said. “It would be controlled with a swipe card like our current facilities and would have secure cameras and limited staffing.”

Wilson said he also wants the conversation with residents to focus on group fitness needs, like exercise and fitness classes at the facility.

“It’ll be interesting to see what the thoughts and perspectives are. I don’t know what group fitness looks like in that area, so that’s what we want to talk with them about,” Wilson said.

He said it’s just another way for the Fort Madison YMCA, which also has child care

## COMMUNITY MEETING

When: Thursday, March 11th, 2021 @ 5:30pm  
Where: 414 N Main St, Donnellson, IA  
Who: Donnellson, Iowa (and surrounding area) Residents and Visitors



The Fort Madison Family YMCA is planning to expand their footprint and need input from Donnellson, and surrounding area, residents. Please join us for an informational meeting and Q&A sessions on Thursday, March 11th, 2021 at the ISU Extension office at 5:30pm. \*Masks are required\*

We will be live streaming the meeting in the event feed on Facebook for those unable to attend in person. The link to the event will be 'pinned' at the top of our Facebook posts feed for easy access. We encourage those tuning in to type questions in the comment section of the live stream and Ryan will answer them during the Q&A session.

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facilities in Donnellson, to make an impact in the area through health and wellness.

“I think it’s an opportunity for them and us, and we’ll explore that and have that conversation.”

The meeting will also be livestreamed and

pinned to the top of the YMCA Facebook page for easy navigation prior to the start of the meeting. Anyone following the meeting livestream is encouraged to write any questions or comments in the comment section of the feed.

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## From the Front

# YouTuber set to help PAW Shelter raise funds Tuesday

**PAW** - Continued from Page 1

or do other antics. Rotonda has done things like provide cheeseburgers and hot dogs when funds surpass preset thresholds \$5,000

Brown said there will be guest appearances from Fort Madison Mayor Matt Mohrfeld, Fort Madison Police Chief Mark Rohloff and Lee County Sheriff Stacy Weber throughout the day. City Councilman Donna Amandus, who chairs the committee that brought the Canine Corral to Fort Madison will also be on hand.

Rotonda's dog Jordan was adopted from a shelter and died recently. He then became a social media advocate for humane shelters around the country. Brown said he's done more than 300 fundraisers across the country.

"Some people think all we do is pet puppies, take animals or euthanize and he started doing this to make people aware of what we do and the need for it," Brown said.

"Most people think shelters get state or federal funding and more than 90% do not. This is his way of getting them noticed."

Brown said she has proposed some ideas, but she really has no idea what to expect.

"We don't really know what he's going to do, but if you look at some of the videos on his Facebook page, it's pretty much insanity for about four hours from what I've seen," she said.

"It's going to be fun and something we've never done before and I'm hoping it's a kickoff to a friendlier fundraiser year than last year."

For those that work during the day, the fundraiser feed runs for five days after the event so you can still donate after the event wraps.

Rotonda has been featured on The Dodo, Hallmark Channel, and in countless news stories across the U.S. He is the CEO of Jordan's Way Charities, an investor, business owner, and popular YouTuber who has devoted himself to a 50-state tour this year where he is visiting 300 animal shelters.

"Jordan's Way serves as the true "Make A Wish" style company for animals and those who help them," Rotonda wrote.

"As we grow to millions of followers, the combination of our events, my energy, and the millions of people watching and sharing, we can truly clear the shelter while funding them at the same time.

"We have the power of social media today. Let's use it and abuse it for a good cause."



Courtesy Image Jordan's Way Charities

Jordan's Way Charities will be in Fort Madison on Tuesday, March 9 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. for four hours of antics and social media engagement to help raise funds and create awareness of adoptions in and around Fort Madison.

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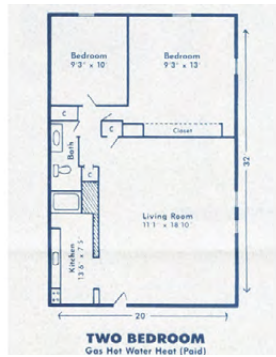
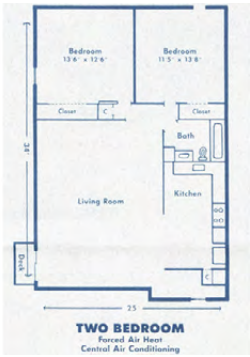
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**REQUIREMENTS:**

Graduation from an accredited law school and admission to practice law in the State of Iowa with a law license in good standing and no history of discipline.

Must be able to simultaneously handle multiple areas of responsibility with minimal supervision, properly prioritizing tasks and duties as dictated by changing demands. Must be able to simultaneously advance all assigned cases in a large trial caseload.

Prior trial experience and prosecution experience is preferred but not required.

**SALARY:**

Salary range to start at \$71,300.00 per year commensurate with experience, as well as a competitive benefits package.

Applicants should submit, by email or mail, a cover letter, resume, writing sample, and three references to:

Ross J. Braden  
Lee County Attorney  
710 Avenue F  
Fort Madison, Iowa 52627  
[rbraden@leecounty.org](mailto:rbraden@leecounty.org)

Applications must be received by March 19, 2021 at 4:30 PM.

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From the Front

# Barnes still has three years left as a Hawkeye

**BARNES** - Continued from Page 1

make a full throw during competition. I didn't do a full throw in practice until the day before the meet," Barnes said.

"It wasn't the result I wanted. but considering everything and competing with an injury, it was probably the most consistent series of my life."

Barnes' throw was a couple feet shy of qualifying for the NCAA Indoor Championships next week, but his goal will be to get to that level in his next two years.

Barnes is technically in his sophomore year with the Hawkeyes. COVID resets wiped out last year's eligibility hit and the NCAA granted everyone an extra year.

So he just completed his sophomore year of indoor track and has two remaining. He still has three remaining outdoor seasons.

"I guess you could call it a COVID-shirt sophomore year," Barnes quipped.

The son of Sonja Barnes Shipley of Fort Madison started serious throwing his senior year with the help of former Fort Madison coach Andrew Troxel, who moved back to Wisconsin to lead his alma mater's football program at Richland Center High School.

Barnes said he still communicates with Troxel, who convinced him if he put in the time and effort as a senior, he could potentially throw in college.

At the state track meet his senior year in 2018 for the Hounds where the Bloodhound took 4th in Class 3A shot put, Barnes had a conversation with the Hawkeyes defensive coordinator about playing football, but didn't speak with anyone from Iowa City about throwing the shot until after his freshman year at Indian Hills.



University of Iowa junior Elijah Barnes, fourth from right, worked out with some Bloodhounds Tuesday afternoon. Barnes finished 6th at the Big 10 Indoor Championships last weekend in Ohio.

"It has been a goal to get to Iowa, but I didn't know how I was going to get there. During my freshman year I said I was going to do this (in junior college) and then I was going to go throw at Iowa."

The investment paid off as Barnes finished ranked 11th nationally at the NJCAA level. He then transferred to Iowa Central in Fort Dodge for his sophomore year.

At that point he began working with Werskey on his craft.

"He's insanely knowledgeable, especially in the shot put. He himself trained under the best throwing coaches of all time. He knows how to push me and he knows what my goals are and is supportive," Barnes said. "He has done everything possible to set me up for success."

Part of that is getting physically prepared to compete with some of the strongest and disciplined athletes in the country.

Barnes said just before the Christmas break and prior to tweaking his groin, he pulled up 630 pounds in a dead lift and hit 600 pounds on the squat. Barnes said most of his throwing strength comes from his legs.

His emotional strength comes from his mother and his grandparents Dwight and Cindy Barnes.

"For most of my life she's been a single parent and raised

us with support from my grandparents," he said.

"She instilled in me that if you're going to do something, and not give it 100%, you shouldn't do it. Go out and try to be the best at it."

He said because of COVID, spectators haven't been allowed at any of the meets, but Sonja and his grandmother surprised him at a meet on the east coast last year.

Sonja said it's been grueling not seeing her son compete as she liked to make trips to the meets when she could.

"It's so hard. I'm a single mom and I'm not used to missing anything," she said. "But thank goodness for all the social media platforms and streaming because I've been able to stay connected to him that way."

She said she's also developed a good relationship with Werskey and has been able to keep tabs on Elijah's meets.

She hopes the outdoor season comes with spectators and the pandemic slips into the past.

Her son's success is met with astonishment by some, but not to her.

"I guess what I tell people when they say this is crazy, is that I see it in him. He's always been the kid who says, 'I'm going to do this,' and I've been the mom who says 'Nothing's stopping you,'" she said.

"And he goes out and does it."

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