

March 27, 2008

Girls' soccer: Preseason rankings announced

REGISTER NEWS SERVICES

West Des Moines Valley and Cedar Rapids Xavier, the state championship teams last season, start the 2008 season at No. 1 in the preseason girls' soccer rankings released today by the Iowa Girls High School Athletic Union.

Valley won an unprecedented third consecutive Class 2-A state championship last spring and returns a host of talented players including 2007 co-player of the year Whitney Sharpe and fellow "Elite" selection Emily Hejlik plus all-stater Elyse Galles.

Six other CIML teams are among the top 15 teams in the first poll. Johnston is No. 3, Urbandale No. 6, Ames is No. 10, West Des Moines Dowling Catholic is No. 11, Waukee is No. 13 and Ankeny is No. 15.

Xavier will be trying for its third straight Class 1-A championship this season. The Saints have a 41-1 record in the last two seasons. They return "Elite" midfielder Morgan Showalter and second team all-state selection Ali Schmitt.

Norwalk, a Class 1-A semifinalist last season, is No. 2.

CLASS 1-A

1. Cedar Rapids Xavier; 2. Norwalk; 3. Sioux City Heelan; 4. Waverly-Shell Rock; 5. Dubuque Wahlert; 6. Davenport Assumption; 7. Nevada; 8. Pella; 9. Dallas Center-Grimes; 10. Bondurant-Farrar; 11. Waterloo Columbus; 12. Newton; 13. Council Bluffs Lewis Central; 14. Mount Vernon; 15. Denison-Schleswig.

CLASS 2-A

1. W.D.M. Valley; 2. Cedar Rapids Kennedy; 3. Johnston; 4. Sioux City North; 5. North Scott; 6. Urbandale; 7. Pleasant Valley; 8. Cedar Rapids Jefferson; 9. Muscatine; 10. Ames; 11. W.D.M. Dowling Catholic; 12. Sioux City East; 13. Waukee; 14. Cedar Falls; 15. Ankeny.
