

# Field *and* String

When sophomore nursing major Maren Werth finishes the soccer season, she'll play the harp with the Augustana Orchestra.



**M**aren Werth's Augustana experience reads like a page from the liberal arts playbook. She is smart, a skilled athlete, and a gifted harpist. Her career choice is caring for others, and she is devoted to family.

The sophomore from Bloomington, Minn., is totally focused on whatever requires her attention at the moment. That she performs at a high level in all endeavors is no surprise to those who know her.

"Maren is an amazing young woman with a ton of talent," said Brandon Barkus, Augustana's head soccer coach. "She is constantly striving to get better, and I absolutely love that about her."

Dr. Christopher Stanichar, Augustana's director of orchestras, said: "It has been a huge blessing to work with Maren. She is respectful, kind, and immensely talented. Like many of our students, she is a model of a well-rounded individual."

Werth is a student of Anna Vorhes, principal harpist with the Sioux City Symphony and a member of the Augustana music faculty.

"Maren approaches the harp with intensity and joy," Vorhes said. "Her delight in playing the standards of harp literature with technical skill is matched with her delight in learning to arrange pieces that make the people around her happy."

### **Soccer**

As a true freshman in 2010, Werth inherited a starting role when senior Katie Shandri, arguably one of the best players in Augustana history, suffered a career-ending knee injury.

"I had played pretty well in practice and was getting a feel for game conditions," Werth said. "I was playing next to Katie when she got hurt. I was concerned about what was going to happen, but the next thing I knew Coach was telling me that I was taking her spot in the game. He told me to play like I know how to play."

Werth started 11 games and played in all 19. She led the team in points (11) and shots (39). She tied for the lead in goals (4), assists (3), and game-winning goals (2).

"Maren takes coaching points quite seriously," said Barkus. "If I give her something to improve upon she works tirelessly until she masters it. I admire her ability to be empowered."

Werth's passion for soccer was ignited at age 5. She has competed with the Bloomington Youth Soccer Club, the Edina Soccer Club, the Woodbury Soccer Club, and for Thomas Jefferson High School. She first met Barkus when he recruited her to play for Woodbury. Four months later, Barkus accepted the coaching job at Augustana.

The Werths were in Sioux Falls for a regional soccer tournament when they contacted Barkus and arranged a visit.

"I seriously fell in love with Augustana," said Werth. "It's a small school, but not confining. It was one of the few schools where I was allowed to play soccer, be in orchestra, and major in nursing. I knew it was where

God wanted me to be.”

### The Harp

“I played the piano for about three years and took up the harp when I was 8,” Werth said. “I watched a lady at church playing the harp and thought it was so cool. My teacher was 84 and the cutest lady you could imagine. I started with a Troubadour Lever Harp. I played basic pieces and would memorize them before moving on. I eventually moved up to the pedal harp that requires use of the feet and hands at the same time. That was an adventure.”

The pedal harp — also known as the concert harp — is a large and technically modern harp, designed primarily for classical music and played either solo, as part of chamber ensembles, as soloist with or as a section or member in an orchestra.

Werth joins the Augustana Orchestra at the end of the soccer season. A year ago, she performed in concerts with the ensemble in addition to playing solo at various functions.

“I think Maren could easily play harp as well as any music major, yet she has an equal love for soccer and nursing,” said Stanichar. “I suppose that a lot of other students with her schedule would choose to do other relaxing endeavors. Instead, Maren seeks to enrich her life with music.”

Playing the harp is a form of stress relief for Werth. This summer she per-



Sophomore Maren Werth goes for the ball during a game against Nebraska-Kearney.

formed at the wedding of Augustana assistant soccer coach Dale Weiler.

“Arranging the theme from ‘The Princess Bride’ for her coach’s wedding was a summer project that made her time at the harp very satisfying,” Vorhes said. “Whether it’s adding harp to the orchestra at Augustana, playing a solo for recital hour or adding the magical sound of the harp to someone’s special day, Maren loves what she can do with the harp.”

To hear Werth play, Stanichar suggests a recording of the Augustana Orchestra

performing Rimsky-Korsakov’s *Capriccio Espagnole* from a concert last fall. “She is playing the scintillating harp cadenza, which gives the impression of a fiery flamenco dancer,” he said.

### Nursing

Werth has been accepted into the nursing program at Augustana. “I can’t think of doing anything else,” she said. “I like the thought of taking care of people. Sometimes my teammates call me Momma Maren.”

## Morstad Gift Names Soccer Facility

Augustana’s soccer facility was officially named Morstad Field at a ceremony in September in recognition of a recent gift from alumni Kent and Judy Morstad, longtime supporters of the College.

“We celebrate the leadership and generosity of Kent and Judy Morstad, two of our own whose fond memories of their time at Augustana and their love of athletics inspired them to give back,” said Rob Oliver, president. “We are deeply grateful for this gift and we look forward to enhancing Morstad Field to serve the needs of our student-athletes, coaches and fans for years to come.”

After graduating from Augustana in 1958, Kent Morstad, a Sioux Falls native and a graduate of Washington High School, attended the University of Minnesota for graduate work in mortuary science. He joined Miller Funeral Home in Sioux Falls in 1968 and was named partner in 1972. He currently serves the firm as partner and funeral director.

He is an active civic volunteer and has served on many area boards, including the Sioux Empire Fair, Sioux Falls Chamber of Commerce, YMCA, Main Street Sioux Falls, South Dakota Lions Eye Bank, the Augustana Alumni Council and Sioux Falls Crimestoppers. He was twice past Potentate of the El Riad Shrine and is a past president of the South Dakota Funeral Directors Association. He currently serves on the board of governors for the Shriners Hospital of the Twin Cities.



Kent and Judy Morstad.

Judy (Lindekugel) Morstad, class of 1961, is a native of Spencer, S.D. She is an active community volunteer and has served as president of the Parent Teacher Association and president of the Shrine Auxiliary. She is a past member of the YWCA Camping Committee and the Our Savior’s Lutheran Church Choir. She is an active supporter of Volunteers of America (VOA).

The Augustana soccer field opened in September 2009 with no namesake. The facility allowed Augustana to move Viking soccer on campus for the first time in the program’s history.