

The Weekly Pineneedle



Camp Kawaga Newsletter

Volume 1 · Issue 7

Date: 8/2/26



Menominee Recap: By Jarett Goldblatt

Kawaga's biggest competition of the summer is consistently our annual competition against Menominee. The event is fierce, passionate, energized, and extremely hyped up beforehand. A pep rally is held by the CITs to build anticipation for the competition alongside countless cheers in the Mess Hall throughout the summer. Leading up to the competition, team tryouts and practices are held for the juniors, intermediates, and seniors for each sport we play against Menominee. These tryouts and practices are where teams are made and give campers and coaches the opportunity to see these teams in action. Team captains are elected, and teams have the opportunity to create chemistry and play together long before the actual game against Menominee. During the competition, all three age groups shoot archery and play basketball, football, hockey, volleyball or newcomb, soccer, softball, and tennis. These games are always high intensity, and this year was no exception. Many games came down to the wire, and the Kawaga Braves kept their heads held high throughout the whole competition. In the end, Kawaga won the competition with a final score of 39 games won by Kawaga to 34 games won by Menominee. Intermediate A volleyball got Kawaga the 37th win needed to win the overall majority of games and seal the competition. Great time had by all!

Campers of the Week: Sportsmanship



Chip: Ethan
Schwartz



Sioux: Ty
Pomerantz



Mohawk: Reid
Kinast



Oneida: Jacob
Stillman

Principle Summary

With Kawaga's biggest competition occurring this week, having proper sportsmanship and holding Kawaga to a high standard is a necessity. These campers went above and beyond to ensure this. They held their heads high and were constantly there for their teammates through wins, close games, and tough losses. Their behavior during the competition and the rest of the week was a true model of sportsmanship.

Competition Spotlight



Name: Eli Metz

Eli Metz is a 2023 CIT, and it is his currently his 3rd year on staff. He has been on ski staff for 3 years and served as the head of competitions this year. In this role, Eli was in charge of planning and executing all camp competition in collaboration with the other camp. This includes Kawaga's major competition against Menominee. Eli did a phenomenal job with this role and was the cornerstone of ensuring the competition ran fairly, smoothly, and enjoyably.

Q&A

Why is camp competition important?

Camp competition is truly one of the most important aspects of each summer. The Menominee competition in particular brings out a level of passion and camaraderie that is hard to find anywhere else. Campers are pushed to step out of their comfort zones and learn how to deal with both victory and defeat. Through competition, both campers and staff spend 3 long days bonding and working toward something bigger than themselves. It teaches grit, integrity, and how to be a good teammate.

What is your favorite memory from camp competition?

I have so many amazing memories from the Menominee competition that it is hard to pick just one. However, the one that stands out from all the rest is coaching the competition-clinching game last year. Entering the last block of games, where I was coaching Senior D Softball, we knew that Kawaga needed three more wins to take home the competition. As the game went on, we learned of two more games that Kawaga had won. So, as we entered the 7th inning with a one-run lead, over 200 people from both Kawaga and Menominee began to make their way to the field. With the competition on the line, we made the last out, and the celebration began. Getting to be part of such a meaningful game for everyone at camp is a memory I will never forget.

How does the Menominee competition impact camp every year?

In my opinion, the Menominee competition is one of the most defining events of each summer. From the moment second session begins, there is a noticeable shift in energy at camp. As we start team practices and cheers in the Mess Hall, it all starts to feel real. With everything underway, every camper from the youngest Chip to the oldest Oneida unites as one. Win or lose, the intensity of the rivalry deepens camp traditions and creates unforgettable shared memories that will last a lifetime.

What was being the head of the competition like?

Being head of competition this year was an amazing privilege and one of the most rewarding experiences I have had at camp. Beyond coordinating schedules and planning assignments, my favorite part of the job was helping to cultivate an environment that set our campers and counselors up for an exhilarating few days. Seeing the dedication and will to win from everyone involved made every hour of planning worth it. Leading such a historic tradition was deeply humbling, and being able to come out victorious is something that I will carry with me for a long time.

Menominee Competition Photos



Menominee Competition

Senior E Volleyball By: Max Hockenberg

A few days ago, the mighty braves of Kawaga faced Menominee in volleyball by their lake. This was the first game of Day 2 of the Menominee competition, so the tension was very high. The starting rotation for us included guys like Avi Boymel, Connor Clerk, Vinny Colianni, Eli Fay, Harry Steiner and many more, all coached by Joe Patey and Eric Gandelman. Their team was pretty tall, so they were able to get some hard spikes off the bat, but the braves dug in and started strong, starting off the first set up a few points due to great setting from Vinny Colianni and amazing spikes from Avi Boymel. Menominee began to come back a little, using our mistakes against us. Even with them making it close, we still took the first set 21-18, making the score 1-0. The second set started off a lot better for them, and we just weren't able to bounce back in that set, even with guys like Eli Fay and Harry Steiner playing out of their minds, they took the second set 21-14, making the score 1-1. Before the 3rd set, we huddled up with our coaches, and Joe Patey gave a great pep talk, helping us take a lead at the start of the 3rd set which we were able to carry through to a 15-9 win and a 2-1 victory in Senior E Volleyball! Great time had by all!

Intermediate A Volleyball By: Benji Goodman

Going into this game, Kawaga needed 4 more wins to clinch the competition, and the suspense was through the roof the whole game. The game started off strong for Kawaga, going up 7-2 with great serving from Chase Adair and amazing spikes from Alex Alimi, before we learned from those watching that we only needed to win 2 more games to clinch the competition. After some great setting and one absurd diving save from Benji Goodman, The braves went up 15-7, before Menominee went on a run, bringing the score to 16-12, however Kawaga got them right back, going up 20-17, and a great return of serve from Chase Adair won us the first set. In the second set, however, we just couldn't get the ball in play and Menominee won the set 21-10. When the 3rd set began, we were told Kawaga only needed 1 more game to clinch the competition. Every point was extremely competitive with neither team giving up easy balls and every point was a battle, with Kawaga ending up 10-9, before they score again on a great set to tie it up. Then, Kawaga wins 2 straight, and they win 2 more, before Kawaga brings it to 14-12, match point, and Benji Goodman serves it, Menominee's returner shanks it, and Kawaga wins 2-1 to clinch the competition, and everybody celebrated and laked it!

Senior E Softball By: Max Noren

On the 3rd day of the Menominee competition, Kawaga's Seniors played Softball, and Senior E played on Woody's Pitch, which was turned into a makeshift diamond and field. For Kawaga, Eli Fay was on the mound, Chase Donahoo was behind the plate, Joey Goodman at 1st, at 2nd was James Papadopoulos, Joel Stuart was locking down at 3rd, Ari Feinberg at Shortstop, Chris Bickers at Short Center, Max Noren in Left, Grant Levison in Center, and Max Hockenberg in Right. The game started off hot for the braves, with Eli Fay and Joel Stuart having great rips to get on base, before Max Noren absolutely ripped a ball down the 3rd baseline, getting past both the 3rd basemen and the left fielder for Menominee, and resulting in a 3-run homerun. Kawaga closed out the bottom of the 1st inning with a quick 1, 2, 3. In the 4th inning, Menominee got on the board due to some errors, making the score 3-2 Kawaga, and we struggled to hit for the next two innings. In the 5th, Menominee got a very favorable call, allowing them to continue the inning and go up 5-3. In the top of the 7th, Kawaga battled back scoring 1, but we were unable to finish out the rally and lost 5-4. However Kawaga still ran off celebrating, as we had learned that we had already won the competition near the start of the game. Great time had by all!

Blue Gold Cup Begins

To end of the week, the Blue Gold Cup formerly began. Blue, led by head coach Frank Kaplan, and Gold, led by head coach Ethan Levine, will battle it out over the next few days to determine which team will take home the Blue Gold Cup. The two teams competed in sports and will compete in Tug-O-War, the Super-Duper Relay, and many more events. Tribal hunts are one of the best parts of the competition, with the Oneida All-Nighter being a summer highlight for all campers. The Cup will be fierce, and the winner will soon be declared.



Blue Gold Coaches & Captains

Coaches

Blue

Frank Kaplan (Head)
 Eli Metz
 Levi Stein
 Sam Adelman
 John Menfi
 Tomas Occelli
 Santiago Miranda
 Jack Brouder
 Will Bott
 Guillermo Brandenstein

Gold

Ethan Levine (Head)
 Evan Gold
 Sam Simon
 Cam Watson
 Jordan Mokhtarian
 Jake Pollack
 Kol Leibowitz
 Franta Pultar
 Josh Rose
 Xander Zwart



Blue

Dean Menfi
 Jonah Nakisher
 Benji Goodman
 Aaron Weil
 Noah Fisher

Captains

Team
Oneida
Mohawk
Sioux
Chip

Gold

Hal Steinberg
 Paul Cascade
 Jonas Hirschfeld
 Ty Pomerantz
 Leo Merar

Notable Achievements

Birthdays
Landen Hutner (14)
First Bullseye
Casey Malach
Ben Wurtzel
Miracles
Max Muslin (Drop Ski)
Cooper Silver (2-Ski)
First Fish
Beckham Steinberg
Levi Harf
Reeve Daley

Chief's Corner

This past week has been an amazing week for the Mohawks as a tribe to come together and grow as a whole! The amount of pride I have for the tribe has gone through the roof and I can't wait to see how they finish this summer on a high note!

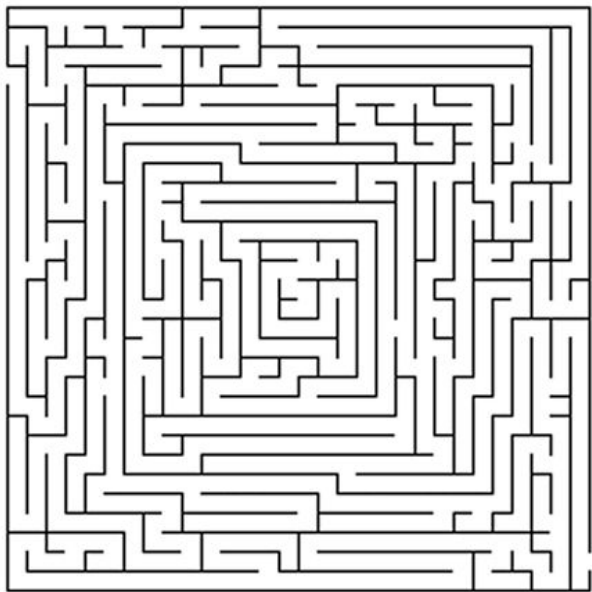
A lot of this pride comes from our yearly competition against Menominee which was the climax to this week. Last year, the Mohawks had a brutal stretch in the competition, only winning 5 games of their 21, putting a huge dent in their morale. The Mohawks knew that this year would be just as difficult, and instead of shying away from the challenge they banded together and rose up against it, ultimately winning the clinching game of the competition in their last match. It was awesome to see how they competed and the standard they held themselves to throughout the entire competition and I couldn't be more proud.

We ended the week with our final small Pow Wow, which included Whispering Pines, a collection of inside jokes and memories from the summer that are written down and read back to them the following year. It's a time where everyone gets to have a good laugh and remember what makes Kawaga so fun. We also had a discussion on gratitude following this, and the Mohawks reflected on someone who made their summer better that probably didn't know they did. It was cool to see them recognize the people around them and appreciate all that is camp. All in all, it was a phenomenal week for the Mohawks, and I feel so honored to have been their Chief this summer!

-Chance Kosner, Chief of the Mohawk



Kawaga Leisure



Funny Photos This Week



7-Day Forecast

Sun 02	 7%	Sunny
Mon 03	 7%	Sunny
Tue 04	 38%	Scattered Thunderstorms
Wed 05	 21%	Partly Cloudy
Thu 06	 24%	Partly Cloudy
Fri 07	 24%	Partly Cloudy
Sat 08	 30%	AM Showers



Editors

Editor-In-Chief: Jarett Goldblatt
Camper Editors: Jacob Stillman, Joey Goodman, Harry Steiner, Grant Levison