

Ornament says 'Merry Christmas, Go Warriors'

BY ROBERTA BAUMANN
MANAGING EDITOR

For many, keepsakes serve as tangible reminders of a significant place or event.

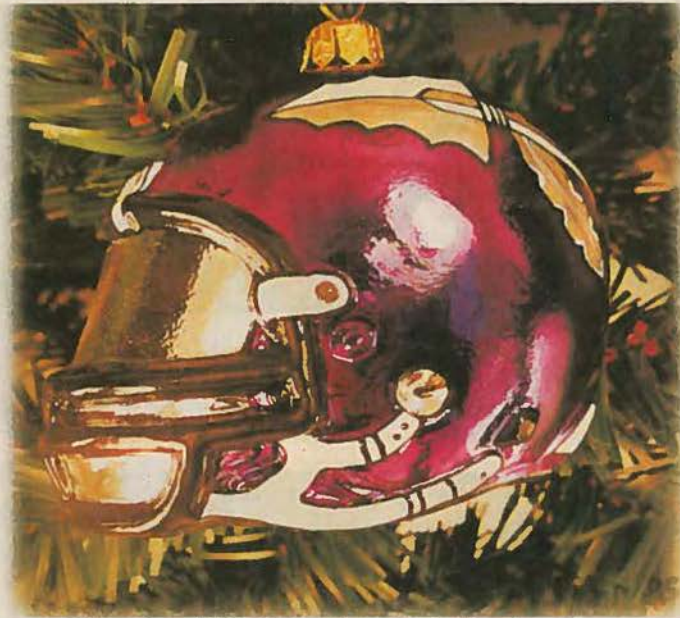
Waunakee High School graduate Brad Wipperfurth is hoping that a Warrior football team helmet Christmas ornament will remind fans of the team's many successes, including a historic 2012 season, when the Waunakee team recorded its 48th straight win.

Wipperfurth and his wife, Isa, began a hobby business manufacturing blown-glass Christmas ornaments. Their first ornament was produced in 2003, and since then, they have added blown-glass ornaments representing a destination or a home town, he said.

A 1991 graduate of Waunakee High School, Wipperfurth also played for the Warriors. The Warrior ornament was created in 2008.

"I've always been passionate about the sport and the team," he said. "With the great success they had, it seemed to make sense to go down that path of creating something really sharp and cool," he said.

Many of the other orna-



Waunakee High School graduate Brad Wipperfurth designed these blown-glass Warrior helmet ornaments.

ments depict locations in Isa's hometown, Okoboji, Iowa, such as the Okoboji Summer Theatre, Gull Point or the Inn at Okoboji.

Others have been created to depict the emblem in Middleton, where the Wipperfurths live with their three children. Another is designed around the Middleton Cardinals' helmet.

Wipperfurth said he considers himself creative, and he established a relationship to have the ornaments produced in Poland. He creates the design and color schemes, and then they are produced overseas and shipped to the United States.

Wipperfurth and his wife have always enjoyed the holidays, and the family loves decorating. The couple had traveled extensively before

their children were born, and they wished they had found more keepsakes to bring home, Wipperfurth said.

With keepsakes, unique products can be passed from generation to generation, and the memories they hold can be shared with others, Wipperfurth said. Unlike other souvenirs, Christmas ornaments are put away for the year, then taken out for decorating and reminiscing, he added.

"It hits home when you can tie it in with something people are passionate about, like places they've traveled," Wipperfurth said. "It's something they can get out every year."

The ornaments are available by going to the website, Wipperwillow.com.