



September Athlete of the Month: Henry Irwin

Submitted by Sharie Sinson

Henry Irwin, a senior at Brookfield East High School, is a multi-sport athlete and fierce competitor.

Before Henry walked, his “parents placed a racket in [his] hand, a hoop in [his] driveway and a ball at [his] feet,” he shared.

At the age of five, Henry was enrolled in Brookfield’s Futbolito youth soccer and Western Racquet Club’s tennis developmental program. Henry has continued to train at WRC for more than ten years and participates in travel tennis. A four-year varsity member and senior captain of the high school tennis and soccer teams, Henry has achieved much success and received numerous accolades including: Wisconsin State Doubles Championship and Team Championship Titles for 2021, Wisconsin Team State Singles Runner-up 2019, Greater Metro Conference Tennis Champion freshman and junior year, Greater Metro Conference Scholar Athlete freshman and junior year for tennis and soccer, “Golden Boot” award (soccer team’s lead scorer) and 2nd Team Greater Metro All-Conference selection his junior soccer season. According to his tennis coach, Henry’s understanding of the importance of inclusiveness and his ability to make every player feel a valued member of the team is truly impressive. Henry also exudes an energy that can elevate an entire team.

In addition to a busy sports schedule, Henry is active in the school community. For the past eight years, he has honed his music skills becoming 1st chair trombonist of Brookfield East’s wind ensemble and jazz ensemble and qualified for solo state competitions multiple times. He is also a member of the student

council executive board and founder of Brookfield East PickEm, a sports pick platform that holds contests each week for students and staff.

Henry credits sports for his tremendous drive to succeed. According to Henry, his “parents saw youth sports as an important vehicle for building a child’s character and a necessary building block for success.” The same drive that fuels his competitive nature in sports also pushes him to excel academically. Henry expressed, “A low test grade is like a last second, game tying shot attempt, deflected by the crossbar . . . a punch in the gut...a loss.” Henry strives for success in all aspects of his life and is looking forward to his college journey.

Getting to know Henry Irwin

Future: I plan on attending a four-year university outside of Wisconsin. While the specifics are blurry, I am interested in Duke, Stanford and Northwestern. I will certainly continue to compete in both soccer and tennis in college, but I am unsure of the level at this time.

Favorite Quote: “I knew exactly what to do. But in a much more real sense, I had no idea what to do.” – Michael Scott (The Office)

Favorite Food: Kalamata Olives

Favorite Pre-Game Song: “300 Violin Orchestra” by Jorge Quintero

Highlight of Henry’s High School Career: Soccer - stepping up and scoring my penalty kick in the state final my freshman year. The game had remained tied at 1-1 after 2 overtimes,



so it went to a penalty shootout. I had played only 7 of the 120 minutes, but confidently volunteered to take a PK and thankfully knocked it firmly in to the back of the net. Tennis - Sweeping Marquette 7-0 in our dual match. My freshman year, we fell to Marquette 4-3 in the state final. Sweeping them was an amazing feeling--a little bit of sweet revenge.

Fun Fact about Henry: I am an avid golf ball collector. I search for balls while I play and make special trips to courses during major storms and during the winter. I have more than 1,000 golf balls in my room, roughly 350 of unique designs displayed on special shelves.

The Athlete of the Month Scholarship program application can be found on the Vantage Financial website www.VFPlanning.com or through your high school’s guidance and career counseling website. If you are a high school senior who plays sports, resides in Elm Grove or Brookfield, and attends a Wisconsin high school, you are eligible to apply for a \$1,500 scholarship sponsored by Vantage Financial Partners.



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