



November Athlete of the Month: Helen Hicks

Submitted by Sharie Sinson

Helen Hicks, a senior at Brookfield East High School, picked up a tennis racquet for the first time her freshman year. Helen was a complete beginner to the sport, watching instructional YouTube videos when she decided to go out for the team. Fast forward to senior year where Helen is playing number one singles on the varsity squad! Never dreaming she would be in this position, Helen's athletic journey has shaped her in so many ways by helping her break out of her comfort zone and realize "no matter the outcome [of the match], hard work will strengthen one's character . . . and there will always be lessons to learn and improvements to be made." According to Coach Lied, Helen has proven herself to be "a driven, passionate and hard-working competitor who has performed tremendously." Her self-motivation is impressive, but what really sets Helen apart is "her loyalty and desire to serve the team, her friends and family," her coach shared.

In addition to pushing herself on the court, Helen excels in the classroom. She successfully juggles the demands of her studies, athletics, numerous school clubs and a job. At Brookfield East, Helen is an active member of National Honor Society, Spanish Honor Society, She's the First (an organization that focuses on gender inequality issues throughout the world), Key Club, and UNICEF Club, which identifies worldwide issues that threaten the safety and well-being of children and advocates for change. Helen is incredibly excited for what her future holds and where her college journey will take her. The next big decision for Helen is to decide which college she will attend.

Getting to know Helen Hicks:

Future Plans: I'd like to attend a college along the East Coast and participate in tennis at the collegiate level. I am interested in majoring in biology and starting down the pre-medicine path.

Favorite Quote: "The greatest glory in living lies in not never falling, but in rising every time we fall" -Nelson Mandela

Favorite Food: Pasta

Favorite Pre-Game Song: "Monsters" (feat. Demi Lovato and blackbear) by All Time Low

Highlight of Helen's High School Career: Winning at #1 singles against Arrowhead High School has been a highlight so far this season. The match lasted nearly three hours, and we played a set tiebreaker and a match tiebreaker. My opponent had very refined and technical skills, but we both



played well through the end. The final score was 6-6 (3-7 set tiebreaker), 6-0, (10-8 match tiebreaker).

Fun Fact about Helen: I've hiked from the South Rim of the Grand Canyon all the way down to the Colorado River and back in one day. It took over 12 hours!

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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