

November Athlete of the Month: AbbyKate Hamilton

BY MATT NIEDERBAUMER, CFP® Vantage Financial, Partner, Senior Wealth Advisor

AbbyKate Hamilton is a senior at James Valley Christian School competing in cross country. Her interest in running began in elementary school when she joined a club. After watching her first cross country meet in 7th grade, she was hooked. Over the past five years, AbbyKate has been pushing her limits and learning some important lessons along the way. She has come to understand the harder she works, the better she is able to perform and contribute to her team. This work ethic carries over into her academic studies and responsibilities at home. Maintaining a positive mentality has been key in helping AbbyKate run better and longer to help her achieve her goals. Coach Tom Branter describes AbbyKate as “consistent, dedicated and encouraging of her teammates” and highlights, “she constantly strives to improve herself, so she can contribute more to the team.” For the past three seasons, AbbyKate has earned the Viking Award which is given to the athlete who demonstrates excellent sportsmanship, character, kindness, and dedication academically and athletically. A top 10 finisher on the team, AbbyKate consistently places at the state tournaments.

AbbyKate is very active in the school community. She is this year’s student body President, a member of the National Honors Society, a trombone player in the band, and choir member. She spearheads the weekly student-led prayer group and enjoys giving encouraging notes and gifts to others, just to spread some smiles! AbbyKate has an impressive academic record and continues to challenge herself through her classes and senior cross country season. She plans to pursue a nursing career and is still deciding which college she will attend.

To obtain an application for the Athlete of the Month Scholarship program email bfast@vfplanning.com, visit Vantage Financial Partners website at www.vantagefinancialwi.com, or ask your high school guidance counselor. If you are a high school senior who plays sports, attends a SD high school, you are eligible to apply for a \$1,500 scholarship sponsored by Vantage Financial Partners.



Getting to know AbbyKate:

FAVORITE QUOTE:

“Make moments matter.” This quote is important to me because it is the motto of a camp I help with for foster kids. It encourages me to always make the most of every situation because I am so blessed!

FAVORITE FOOD:

Ham, mashed potatoes, and either green beans or corn. I love food!

SPORTS HIGHLIGHTS:

We have a tradition of writing our teammates notes and giving the seniors a gift the night before the state meet. My freshman season, we gave the five senior boys Christmas ornaments because our team and my coach love Christmas. My sophomore year I had the privilege of giving my senior teammate a blanket with pictures of our team! I love showing appreciation for my teammates and letting seniors know they will be missed.

FUN FACT:

I lived in Belgium with my family for three years when I was in preschool and learned to read and write in Dutch before English.



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