



December Athlete of the Month: Ryan Karst

Submitted by Sharie Sinson

Ryan Karst, a senior at Brookfield East High School, has been playing soccer and baseball since the age of five. His dad, a former college athlete, fostered Ryan's love for sports by coaching his youth soccer teams and helping him develop into a talented pitcher. As the varsity captain of the Brookfield East soccer and baseball teams the past two seasons, Ryan understands the fortitude and dedication it takes to lead by example and to be an elite athlete. After experiencing disappointing losses and sustaining setbacks due to injury, Ryan persevered through adversity to become an all-state soccer player and a top ten ranked Wisconsin baseball player for the class of 2022. His high school soccer coach commented, "Ryan is always the first to arrive and always the last to leave practice. He constantly asks questions on how he can improve . . . and teaches others to do the same. His tremendous leadership qualities as well as [his] hard work . . . elevates everyone on the team to become better players." Overcoming disappointments and injuries has made Ryan a stronger and more confident person. He expressed, "I have a belief in myself that no matter what aspect of life throws a challenge at me, I will be able to overcome it."

Ryan's commitment to excellence extends to his academic studies where he has earned exemplary grades. Additionally, Ryan is committed to giving back to the school community as a tutor for National Honor Society, member of student council, Best Buddies mentor, and volunteer and fundraiser for Coaches vs Cancer. Ryan is looking forward to the next chapter and the opportunity to compete at the collegiate level. His coachable, honest, and positive nature will undoubtedly make him a great asset to any team on or off the field.

Getting to know Ryan Karst:

Future Plans: I will be attending the University of Illinois-Chicago to study engineering. I was recruited to play baseball at UIC and hope to have the opportunity to play professionally in the future.

Favorite Quote: "Do you know what my favorite part of the game is? The opportunity to play." - Mike Singletary

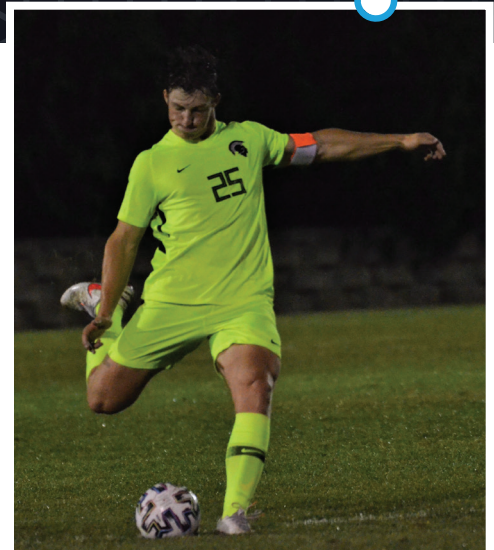
Favorite Food: Lasagna

Favorite Pre-Game Song: "The Stroke" - Billy Squier

Ryan's High School Soccer Highlight: Sophomore year we made it to the state championship for soccer. Our win in the sectional final and the atmosphere of playing at state was my favorite athletic memory.

Ryan's High School Baseball Highlight: Pitching in a close game during sectionals freshman year and competing against the best players in the country at a Florida tournament with hundreds of professional and college scouts in attendance.

Fun Fact about Ryan: I have had the privilege of traveling to England, France, Scotland, and Italy. My favorite place was the Amalfi Coast in Italy.



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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