



ELMBROOK STUDENT ATHLETE

ABBY WANEZEK

Submitted by Sharie Sinson, Vantage Financial

Abbby Wanezek, a senior at Brookfield East High School, comes from a family of swimmers. Her parents took her to her first swim lesson around the age of two and by the age of seven, she joined the Elmbrook Swim Club (EBSC) to train and learn how to compete. Over the years, Abby has become an accomplished athlete: she is the Wisconsin Division 1 state recorder holder in the 50 freestyle as well as the 200 medley and 400 free relays. She ranks as one of the top high school swimmers in the United States in the 50 and 100 freestyle and was a key part of the EBSC's National Champion women's team and two National 15-18 age group record relays. Her long-time coach expressed, "Abby is one of the very best athletes and people he has ever coached in his 39-year history; not only is Abby an exceptionally talented athlete who is incredibly dedicated and hardworking, but she is also a really nice person." Elected team captain for the Division 1 State Champion BEHS Girls Swimming and Diving team, Abby is also highly respected by her teammates.

Despite all these amazing accomplishments, Abby shared that she, like many athletes, struggles with her self-confidence. Through her coaches and mentors, she has learned "to believe in herself and trust that [she] has the power to do anything and everything she wants to achieve." On days when she struggles to motivate herself before a race, Abby said she focuses on the encouragement she has received and wisdom she has gained by learning from others.

In addition to her athletic success, Abby maintains excellent grades in challenging

coursework (three-year Wisconsin Scholastic All-American) and participates in Spanish Honors Society, student council, Key Club, Link Crew and the Principals Cabinet, a committee of students selected by the principal who meet to find ways to improve the school community. Abby also enjoys working with kids as a lifeguard and swim instructor at Westmoor Country Club. In the fall, Abby will continue her swim career with the NCAA Division 1 Wisconsin Badgers and major in kinesiology with the hopes of pursuing a career as a physical or occupational therapist.

GETTING TO KNOW ABBY WANEZEK:

Favorite Quote: "Use your smile to change the world, don't let the world change your smile."

Favorite Food: Chicken parmesan

Favorite Pre-Swim Song: Just Dance by Lady Gaga

Swimming Highlight: My junior year I finished first with a state record in the 50-yard freestyle. My sister finished right behind me at second. It was an incredible moment to finish top 2 with her in the lane next to me. I remember giving her the biggest hug after the race. Racing next to my sister will be one of the things I miss most in college.

Fun fact about Abby: A couple years ago, I learned how to slalom waterski.



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