

May Athlete of the Month: Roger Puterbaugh

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

Huron High School senior, Roger Puterbaugh, has been competing in tennis at the varsity level since he was in eighth grade. Growing up, Roger's aunt and uncle lived across from the tennis courts so he would play there in the summer, and so his enjoyment of the sport began. His commitment and work ethic have helped his team earn the Team Sportsmanship Award twice in the last three seasons, as well as place third at the 2021 state meet. Individually, Roger has earned the Most-Improved Award twice, as well as All-ESD and All-State Honors as a freshman. Roger enjoys the one-on-one aspect of tennis; he writes of his experience, "There is nobody else on that court except me and my opponent...When I struggle, I must find the energy within myself to fight back and win." He aims to stay respectful and gracious in all that he does and shares, "It's easy to be gracious when you're winning, but it is a lot harder to do so when you're losing." Conversely, participating in basketball has helped Roger learn to work well with others and to know what it means to be a part of something bigger than himself. Throughout his busy athletic career, Roger has earned the recognition and respect of his peers and coaches alike through his hard work and dedication. Head Boys Tennis Coach, Tim Hedblom remarked, "Roger has been an instrumental part of our tennis program. He comes to practice every day with a great attitude and drive to continue to get better." Despite competing at high intensity high school sports, Roger maintains a level head and demonstrates good sportsmanship in his wins as well as his losses.

Roger balances a demanding academic and athletic schedule all while maintaining an exceptional GPA. Aside from basketball and tennis, Roger participates in H Club, National Honor Society, and Huron Youth Leadership Council where he currently serves as President. As President, Roger helps to raise money and award grants to various organizations every spring. Roger's passion and attitude will serve him well as he begins the next chapter of education at South Dakota State University pursuing a degree in Business next fall.

The application submission process for our scholarship ended May 1st. We will feature one more athlete in the June edition of Prairie Tracks to be considered for our scholarship. You can look for our scholarship recipient announcement in the July edition of Prairie Tracks and on our social media.



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Getting to know Roger:

FAVORITE QUOTE:

"Nobody who ever gave his best regretted it"
George Halas

FAVORITE FOOD:

Steak and baked potato

HIGHLIGHT OF YOUR SPORT CAREER:

Placing third at the state meet last season with my teammates.

FUN FACT:

In 2018, my family and I were asked to ride on the float in the Rose Bowl Parade in Pasadena, CA.



Photos taken by
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