

December Athlete of the Month: Abby Hasart

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

Abby Hasart is a senior multi-sport athlete at James Valley Christian School (JVCS) in Huron. She joined cross country in seventh grade, wanting to try it since her sister also participated, and ended up enjoying it. She has been in cross country for six years now and just wrapped up her final high school season, placing 14th out of 113 individually earning her all-state honors for the fifth year and 4th as a team. Abby has an impressive array of awards and accomplishments, including 281 Conference Individual Champion for 2020-2022, MVP 2018-2021, and the women's 5k school record, among others. She has also been a member of the 200+ summer mile running club for the last five years. Head Cross Country Coach Tom Brantner remarks, "Generally only 3-4 runners will qualify [for summer club awards]," demonstrating Abby's dedication and work ethic. He goes on to say, "Abby continues to show a willingness to grow as a student, athlete and a member of our JVCS community." With her triumphs have also come challenges. Freshman year Abby struggled with hip pain for the first half of the season, but after taking the initiative to find strengthening exercises and improve her running form, she was able to overcome this. She mentions, ". . . Wayne Carr, my chiropractor, sent me a postcard encouraging me to go out and chase my dreams and never give up," which had a lasting impact on her. Abby also has competed in basketball for nine years and track for five.

Abby's motivation and drive has helped her to excel not only with her athletic ambitions, but also with her academic goals and extra-curricular involvement. Abby is an active member of her church where she volunteers in numerous activities including the Thanksgiving meal program which provides meals for those in need and as a group leader for young kids in bible school. She is this year's Student Body Treasurer, a member of the National Honor Society, and a coordinator for various class service projects. While juggling sports and extra-curriculars, Abby has been able to maintain an impeccable GPA. Abby is considering several colleges in the state to pursue either physical therapy or sports medicine. No matter what she decides, Abby's hard work and dedication will help her succeed in anything she chooses.

To obtain an application for the Athlete of the Month Scholarship program email bfast@vfplanning.com, visit Vantage Financial Partners website at www.vfplanning.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.



PHOTO TAKEN BY CRAIG LEE STUDIOS

Getting to know Abby:

FAVORITE QUOTE:

"To give anything less than your best is to sacrifice the gift."
- Steve Prefontaine

FAVORITE FOOD: Prime Rib and mashed potatoes

HIGHLIGHT OF YOUR SPORT CAREER:

Leading my team in the 2022 State Cross Country meet to finish 4th as a team. It is the first time the girls JVCS cross country team has placed at a state meet.

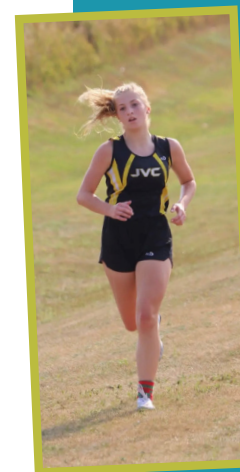
FAVORITE CLASS:
Anatomy

FAVORITE FAMILY HOLIDAY TRADITION:
Catch Phrase at Christmas at my Grandparents house.

SPORTS BLOOPER:
During one cross country meet my spike got stuck in the ground and I fell down a hill.

FUN FACT ABOUT YOURSELF:

Over the last 5 summers, I have run a total of 1,181 miles.





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