

April Athlete of the Month: **Damon Wilkinson**

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

Damon Wilkinson is a senior at De Smet High School who participates in many sports including football, basketball, track and golf. He led his team as captain this fall as he completed his eighth and final football season earning All State Honors, Academic All State, and All Conference. Currently, he is enjoying his ninth basketball season where he has recently helped lead his team to victory with an impressive 3rd consecutive State B Title. Damon's mom was a collegiate basketball player, so it's no surprise that with her encouragement and regular trips to the gym, Damon started his athletic journey at a young age. With a height of 6'10", Damon is a strong presence on the court and an asset to the team. Head Coach Jeff Gruenhagen acknowledges, "Damon has always had a competitive drive and been a team player taking advantage of every opportunity to do whatever it takes to help his team win." His coach also notes Damon's mental toughness and motivation to improve his skills as well as those of younger players, which makes him an excellent leader. Damon's talent on the court has been recognized with various individual basketball awards including the Valley Fibercom Player of the Game the last two years, 2022 Hanson Classic Warrior of the Games, and 2022 Taco Johns Player of the Game. Due to the significant changes to Damon's height and weight over his high school years, he shared his greatest challenge has been mastering his coordination and skill to become the best athlete he can be. Through conditioning and sports, he's learned to stay positive while working to overcome these challenges.

In addition to sports, Damon is active in other school activities including National Honor's Society, the Fellowship of Christian Athletes (founded this year at his school), and student council (senior representative). He has completed various college level courses exemplifying his drive for excellence and motivation to prepare for future studies. Damon attributes much of his academic and athletic success to the support of his family. With three younger siblings, Damon also enjoys being a supportive older brother. He is currently undecided as to which college he'll attend, but plans to pursue a degree in Precision Agriculture, while also playing basketball.

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
JENNIE LEONE PHOTOGRAPHY

Getting to know Damon:

FAVORITE QUOTE:

"It's the one thing you can control. You are responsible for how people remember you-or don't. So don't take it lightly."
Kobe Bryant

FAVORITE FOOD:

Pizza

HIGHLIGHT OF YOUR SPORT CAREER:

Winning three State B Basketball Championships

FAVORITE CLASS:

World History

FAVORITE HS MEMORY:

We threw our coaches in the pool after we won the State Tournament

FUN FACT:

I was shot in a hunting accident in the abdomen, and I still have 70+ BBs in my body



VANTAGE
FINANCIAL

MATT NIEDERBAUMER, CFP®
Partner & Senior Wealth Advisor
ADAM WALTER
Advisor & Planning Strategist

1712 Dakota Ave. S | Huron, SD 57350
P | 605-352-4124
E | info@vfplanning.com
W | vfplanning.com

YOUR PARTNER. YOUR SUCCESS.

INVESTMENT ANALYSIS | ACCUMULATION GOALS | RETIREMENT PLANNING | RISK ANALYSIS | ESTATE PLANNING | INSURANCE REVIEW
Committed to comprehensive and transparent fee-based financial planning for hard working families.