

May Athlete of the Month: Leah Williams

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

Leah Williams of Wolsey-Wessington High School is an avid student athlete who has participated in volleyball, basketball, and track. She grew up watching her older brothers play basketball and joined the team in 5th grade. This season Leah reached her goal qualifying for state where her team placed 3rd. The Lady Warbird's also earned 1st team in the 281 conference both this season and last. Individually, Leah was named the Warbird MVP and Hanson Classic Player of the Game. Additionally, Leah has enjoyed competing in volleyball for the last eight years and was named team captain this past year. The team finished the season with a 3rd place win at the state tournament. Leah also has competed in track for four years, but is taking a break this season to prepare for college basketball. Coach Uttecht has trained Leah in all three sports and writes highly of her: "Her communication skills make her a natural leader and one of the top student athletes I have coached in my twenty-two years as an educator and coach." She also mentions Leah's personal and athletic growth over her high school years emphasizing her notable integrity and leadership ability. Leah plans to attend Mount Marty University to pursue a degree in math education while competing in collegiate basketball.

In the classroom, Leah has earned straight A's demonstrating her ability to manage a full plate of academics and athletics. Extracurriculars for Leah include National Honor Society, yearbook, Health Occupations Students of America, and student council (president this year). Leah shared navigating her hectic schedule can be challenging at times. Her solution to relieve stress is to make time for personal self-care rituals and remember to have fun amidst the seriousness of sports and grades. Attending Bible study with friends from school has been an important activity to help her maintain a healthy perspective and balance in her full and busy life.

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.



Getting to know Leah:

FAVORITE QUOTE:

"You are fearfully, and wonderfully made."
Psalms 139:13-14

FAVORITE FOOD:

Tacos

HIGHLIGHT OF YOUR SPORT CAREER:

Placing 3rd in state for both basketball and volleyball.

NICKNAME:

Everyone calls me LeWee including teachers and coaches. We made it up to play the Hayday game and it stuck.

FAVORITE CLASS:

Algebra 2, because I had a great math teacher who taught me how to do hard math and actually enjoy it.

SPORTS MEMORY:

A funny moment happened after basketball practice when I surprised my coach with the taser on my keychain.

FUN FACT:

Reading is my favorite hobby.







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