

# June Athlete of the Month: Elizabeth Heinen

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

Huron High School senior Elizabeth Heinen is a multi-sport athlete who has competed in basketball, tennis, and track and field throughout her high school career. She has proven herself to be a strong competitor for her school by lettering in all three sports. Elizabeth comes from an athletic family. She initially joined the track team as a high jumper to follow in the footsteps of her mother, and her passion for tennis was ignited after playing a friendly game with her family in seventh grade. Elizabeth's athletic prowess did not go unnoticed by her teammates and coaches as she was elected the captain of the tennis team. Additionally, she has earned notable awards including Most Improved for basketball, Academic All-State, the Sportsmanship Award, and the Spirit of Max nomination for tennis.

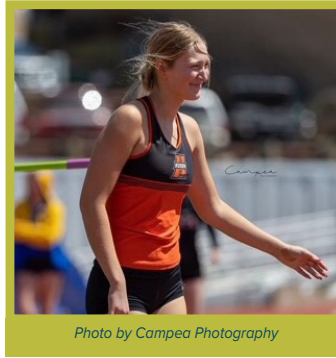


Photo by Campea Photography

In addition to strong leadership skills, Elizabeth has demonstrated true sportsmanship. She strives to always keep a cool head on and off the tennis court. Head coach Rachel Kary commented, "[Lizzy] maintains composure when the match isn't going her way and congratulates her opponents on good shots and wins when they occur during the match." Mental toughness is an important tool she has used to stay positive and help her improve her athletic performance. Elizabeth shared, "When I'm on the court, I have to tell myself that I can push through whatever I'm feeling and that I'm strong enough to handle whatever the game throws at me."

Elizabeth's passion for sports translates into the classroom and beyond. Throughout high school, she has maintained exemplary grades while participating in numerous extracurricular activities. Elizabeth serves as the vice president of the Pep Club, volunteers her time as an active member of the Backpack Program and the H Club, and competes in the FFA for Career and Leadership Development and Vet Science. Her dedication and strong organizational skills will serve her well as she moves onto the next chapter. Still deciding whether to attend Dakota Wesleyan University on a track scholarship to major in business or attend Lake Area Technical College for cosmetology, Elizabeth is excited for the future and to pursue her dream of starting her own business one day.



Photo by Craig Wollman

The application process for our scholarship has ended. You may look for our scholarship recipient announcement in the July edition of Prairie Tracks and on our social media.

## Getting to know Lizzy:

**FAVORITE QUOTE:** "If we don't change, we don't grow. If we don't grow, we aren't really living." - Gail Sheehy

**FAVORITE FOOD:** Chislic


**FAVORITE LATE-NIGHT SNACK:** My mom's chocolate chip cookies

**SPORTS CAREER HIGHLIGHT:** Qualifying for Howard Wood meet in high jump my senior year.

**FAVORITE CLASS:** Art 1. I love being able to sit down, listen to music, and create art.

**FUN FACT:** I'm the tallest girl at my high school at 6' 1"!

**FICTIONAL PLACE I WOULD VISIT:** Bikini Bottom because SpongeBob has always been my favorite cartoon and I really want to try a Krabby Patty.




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