

November Athlete of the Month: AnneClaire Rubish

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

AnneClaire's passion for tennis began at an early age, inspired by her siblings, and nurtured by her parents who enrolled her in summer lessons when she was just six years old. Over the past 12 years, she has blossomed into a formidable player, representing Huron High School in flight one singles and doubles since her freshman year. She earned the Tiger Award in 9th grade and has held the number one spot on her varsity team for four consecutive years, a testament to her skill and dedication.



Yet, for AnneClaire, tennis is more than just a game. It has taught her invaluable life lessons, particularly the profound impact of mental strength. "The power that the mind has over everything else," she explains, is her greatest takeaway from sports. She emphasizes the importance of self-encouragement, maintaining positive body language, and focusing on the basics, even in the face of setbacks. Her coach, Rachel Kary, describes AnneClaire as not only an outstanding athlete but also a role model. "Teams enjoy playing against AnneClaire because she is a competitive, tough opponent, but at the same time, she is so nice and fun to play against," Kary notes. AnneClaire's reputation for sportsmanship and kindness extends beyond her teammates to her opponents and their coaches, making her a beloved figure in South Dakota's tennis community.

AnneClaire's excellence is not limited to tennis. She maintains straight A's in the classroom while balancing a host of extracurricular activities and leadership roles. She serves as President of both the United Way Huron Youth Leadership Council and her school's Student Council, and she is the editor of the school newspaper. Her commitment to her community is unwavering, as she finds time to volunteer with Meals on Wheels, fill backpacks for local children's food programs, and serve on the community United Way Board. Her involvement extends to Key Club, Madrigals choir, Book Club, German Club, orchestra, and her local church. AnneClaire is a true leader, consistently demonstrating kindness, respect, and a drive to make a positive impact wherever she can. She plans to pursue a degree in history, though she is still considering which university to attend. With her exceptional track record, both academically and athletically, there is no doubt that AnneClaire will continue to excel and inspire those around her.



To obtain an application for the Athlete of the Month Scholarship program email bfast@vfpanning.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 AnneClaire:

FAVORITE QUOTE: "Humility is not thinking less of yourself but thinking of yourself less." -C.S. Lewis

FAVORITE FOOD: Pasta

FAVORITE LATE-NIGHT SNACK: Popcorn and chocolate chips

SPORT HIGHLIGHT: In my sophomore season, I defeated for the first time a longtime competitor from Mitchell during a home match, an exciting and memorable victory for me!

FAVORITE HS CLASS: I enjoyed Honors LA 10 & 11 because I love to read and discuss ideas.

FUN FACT: I'm left-handed.

BUCKET LIST: Travel & successfully bake macarons!

FICTIONAL PLACE YOU WOULD VISIT: Hogwarts

HIDDEN TALENT: Cooking



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