

January Athlete of the Month: Madison Jurgens

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

Madison Jurgens' passion for sports began early, growing up in a family where games of PIG and HORSE on the driveway were not just a pastime, but an integral part of life. What started as friendly family fun sparked a lifelong love for basketball. By the time she reached third grade, Madison joined her first basketball team, building skills and fostering a competitive spirit. She later discovered her talent for volleyball in seventh grade, further expanding her athletic pursuits.

Now a senior at Huron High School, Madison has excelled as both a volleyball defensive specialist and a basketball guard, earning varsity letters in both sports. Her name has become synonymous with resilience, leadership, and hard work—qualities she exemplifies both on and off the court. Madison's athletic success hasn't come without challenges. When she faced an ACL injury that her doctors said would sideline her for a full year, she had to dig deeper than she could have imagined. During her recovery, Madison realized just how much the game and her teammates meant to her. "The excitement of the game and the time spent with my teammates weren't things I could take for granted," she reflects. This newfound perspective drove her through grueling physical therapy sessions, marked by pain and exhaustion. Thanks to her relentless determination and work ethic, Madison beat the odds, returning to the court in just seven months.

Her basketball coach, Joshua Lien, was deeply inspired by her perseverance. "She is one of the toughest athletes I have had the privilege to coach," he says. "It was her work ethic, toughness, and insistence to beat the odds that allowed her to make her comeback." Madison's recovery taught her lessons that have reached far beyond sports. "Now, I try to face challenges with gratitude and determination," she says. "Whether it is school, friendships, or daily activities, I try to appreciate the moment and make the most of every chance."

Balancing her demanding sports schedule, Madison has maintained an impressive 4.0 GPA. She serves as the vice president of Student Council and treasurer for Future Business Leaders of America. Additionally, she is an active member of Huron Youth Leadership Council, Health Occupation Students of America, and the Key Club. Her strong work ethic and commitment to making a difference continue to fuel her ambitions. After graduating, she plans to attend the University of South Dakota, majoring in Health Sciences. Her goal is to attend Physician Assistant school, aiming to build a career in the healthcare field where she can continue making a positive impact on others' lives.



Pictures taken by
Craig Wollman



Getting to know Maddie:

LIFE LESSON: Don't take anything for granted because you never know when it could unexpectedly end.

FAVORITE FOOD: Any pasta!

FAVORITE LATE-NIGHT SNACK: Graham crackers and milk

HIGHLIGHT OF SPORT CAREER: Surpassing the surgeon's expectations after my knee injury last year, I made a remarkable recovery just in time to return for my senior year of volleyball.

FAVORITE HS CLASS: Math class

FUN FACT: I like watching true crime documentaries.

BUCKET LIST: Become a physician assistant and vacation in a foreign country.

HIDDEN TALENT: I cook at a restaurant on the weekends.

FICTIONAL PLACE YOU WOULD VISIT: Candy Land



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