

Passion for Sports

By: Molly Dunne
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Working hard every day, after a long day at school and doing homework just to do a sport outside of school that doesn't get much attention is what many students at Marion do. Ranging from gymnastics to swimming and basketball are just some of the sports students do. All of these student-athletes have a true passion for their sport.

What started out as something to do with his brother turned into the passion of soccer for Ethan Hangartner, freshman. Hangartner has been playing soccer for ten years and through AYSO (American youth soccer organization). Hangartner practices soccer 30 minutes to 1 hour each day and has games every Saturday and Sunday. He really recommends for anyone to try soccer because it is something to get you involved, make new friends, and be active. Hangartner says that "The rush you get when you stop someone from scoring," is his favorite thing about playing soccer. Hangartner is super excited about his first season of

high school soccer because he thinks he has a good chance of starting varsity as a center defender and will get to make friends with some of the upper-classmen. Soccer is becoming more popular in the United States, but what about horseback riding?

Since fourth-grade riding horses has always been something that makes Sydney Burlage, sophomore unique. Burlage does eventing with her horse which is cross country, show jumping, and dressage all in one. Burlage's horse, Cedric, gets taken care of every day with food, a bath after riding, getting a fly mask in the summer, and blankets in the winter. "My favorite part of riding is going fast to feel like you are flying," said Burlage. But horseback riding is really time-consuming and super expensive. So to be a horseback rider you have to be very dedicated. Riding is also a very dangerous sport. In cross country your horse can catch their leg on the fence and fall on you, you could also fall off the horse, and the horse could also buck you off. Burlage recommends for anyone to try horseback riding and keep an open mind about the sport.

Sports outside of school are a lot to handle with a new level of intensity and working harder, but new memories and bonds will be made. Students should not be afraid to do a sport they love just because their friends don't do it or because it's not a common sport. So encourage students to be unique and work hard in their sports.



Sydney Burlage, sophomore, is with her horse Cedric at their practice stable.

Future D1 athletes

By: Maggie Mcallister @Maggiee_23

Ending high school tends to be tough for many seniors, but when you have something to look forward to it makes it a little easier. Especially when that something is becoming a D1 college athlete. "I just love playing the game." Said senior at Marion, Jaffer Murphy. Jaffer Murphy is an aspiring D1 soccer player. Murphy plans to attend Drake University after he finishes his senior year at Marion. After getting offers to play football at South Dakota State University, another offer to play soccer at Valparaiso University and even offers in England and Spain, Murphy has decided he wants to continue his soccer career at Drake. "I knew I wanted to play soccer at the collegiate level, it was just a matter of finding the right school, and praying about it, and asking God to open the door to where he wants me to go." Said Murphy. Murphy has been playing soccer for 13 years and has had many accomplishments within these years. Outside of his school soccer team, he has been to the state championships four times. He has been on all state soccer and elite state for his freshman, sophomore and junior year in high school, and was even in the running for player of the year. As he is approaching last season of soccer at the high school level Murphy is excited about being in a new environment, meeting new people and of course getting to play the sport he loves at the highest level.

Another student athlete at Marion is also approaching her last season in her high school career. Kayba Laube, a future basketball player at the University of Northern Iowa has much to look forward to in the next few years of her life. Laube has been playing basketball since junior kindergarten. She loves how basketball relieves her stress and she has also made a lot of friends within the many years she has been playing basketball. Some of her biggest accomplishments include going to state all three years she has

been playing in high school, winning state her sophomore year and even winning a national championship outside of school. Laube committed to the University of Northern Iowa on Easter of her freshman year. "I love the coaches and the facility and the fans. I'll also be close to family." Said Laube. It wasn't a hard decision for her to make especially considering that she will already know some of her teammates as she goes into her freshman year at UNI.

Jaffer and Kayba have both had long journeys to get to where they are today but both athletes work incredibly hard, practice everyday and are excited about becoming D1 college athletes.



Jaffer Murphy and Kayba Laube, Seniors, get ready to take on college as D1 athletes.

