

Running legacy

By: Jaquan Matthews
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For school, sports is a huge part of our image. We have football, basketball, baseball and then there is track. At Marion High School football is not going well for us. But people can say differently about our success when it comes to track. So far we've had kids qualify for state since 2003! That is when the assistant principal and track coach Chad Zrudsky has been here and he has some things to say about our success.

In 2002 Zrudsky was the assistant coach for track. Then he became the head coach in 2005. He stopped in 2011 then became the coach again in 2015. He always coached the boy's track. Zrudsky loves to coach the hurdles events because it involves a lot of support and self-confidence. When he was younger he loved to participate in the high jump. He went to Marion High School and did track here. He has big goals and thinks we will be successful in track over and over again. "Different goals each year is based on who is out. Always have a goal to finish high," said Zrudsky. All he wants is the best out of kids. Zrudsky's goals include winning two state titles and one district title. "Marion has kinda always had decent success in track and field. Over the years has been a matter of building on past success and not worrying about winning a championship. I just want athletes to perform their very best," Zrudsky said. Marion has always had success in track. "To make that success happen we were focusing on competing and preparing to do our very best," said Zrudsky. Our biggest competition includes Williamsburg, CCA, and Benton. At the state level, our competition is Debuque and Wahlert. Z thinks going to state will make a big impact on people that is in track. "It is a good opportunity for kids to experience success and it will give a positive promote," That is why he thinks going to state is a good outcome for track members. Z



Garret Wagner, a junior is stretching and working on his form before he throws.

thinks it will be good for everyone to go out for track. "It will help you get better for other sports and you will see improvement for yourself by the end of the season. You can see growth and that you got better from the hard work that you put in," Zrudsky said. He thinks track can be a sport for everyone and can benefit in many ways. He thinks you should go out for track just like a bunch of other kids have.

Just like Z who loves track another person that does track is a student, Garret Wagner a junior. He does shotput for track. He loves track and loves to compete in it. His longest throw is 49 ft and 6 inches. "I wanted to stay active throughout the year," said Wagner. Wagner has great senior leadership and he is trying new things that worked. That is why he did track. Going to state is good for both the school and the student. "It is a good representation of the school," Wagner said. To upcoming runners, Wagner said, "it is hard at first but keep working hard," Wagner thinks people should join track because it is fun and you compete all year long. We have two very influential people who say that people should join track. It is fun and if you like competing then this is the sport for you.

Aiming for success

By: Jacob Shaffer
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Hobbies are like opinions; everyone has them. Hobbies are a great way to meet new people, experience something new, and have fun doing something you enjoy or find interesting. A great way to possibly find a new hobby would be extracurricular activities offered at the school, and with activities ranging from football to theatre to esports gamer club, there's an activity for everyone. New activities and opportunities are being added all the time, and a new activity that's about to start is sure to pique a lot of student's interests.

Gunnar Lacy, junior, has started a new trap club at Marion High School, and for those who are unfamiliar, the sport of trapshooting is firing a shotgun at clay targets, most often clay pigeons. Lacy has been shooting trap for four years now, ever since he first heard of the sport. Lacy figured it would be a good opportunity for students at the high school to have a chance to join a trap shooting club in Marion, as there were already three kids from Marion on the Jefferson High School trapshooting club, Lacy included. Being a high school activity, a staff member must be present to oversee practices and meets. The staff member that has signed on to oversee the trap club ironically has no experience at all with shooting trap. Mr. Fleege has decided to help with the trap club, and despite the lack of experience, Fleege is still going to help out and learn the sport to make sure the club runs as smoothly as possible.

Students will have to buy their own supplies however, but the team will be supplying jerseys, and if enough people sign up, they will also supply shooting glasses, ear protection and shell pouches. The rest of the supplies like ammunition will have to be purchased by the students. There are valid concerns

about having firearms on the school campus, but these concerns have been addressed thoroughly already. "Trap practice is very safe, practice is organized so there is never any ammunition in the gun until right before shooting, and there is an adult present at all times," said Lacy. Accidents can happen, although they are rare in the sport of trapshooting. "Jefferson has never had a problem, and we don't expect any problems because we know the type of kids that are at Marion," he said. Similarly, Fleege has high expectations and little worry for the club. "I wasn't too worried about it. The nice thing for the school is they have to leave their weapons at home and go pick them



Jace Burmeister, junior, takes aim with a shotgun preparing to blast clay targets

up for practice," said Fleege.

A slightly controversial sport, especially in a school environment, trap shooting is still gaining popularity around the country. The new trapshooting club is a great opportunity for all students if they have ever shown an interest in the sport, want to try a sport they've never heard of, or just want to find a new hobby. Initial costs and standard gun safety protocols and any student at Marion could be a part of this new group.