

# The battle for practice space

By: Allison Steffen @thefightingsister

Many homes and buildings were damaged in the derecho, including our very own high school. The damage was extensive and repairs are still being made.

Among the damage that the high school received, the destruction of the Red Gym is perhaps one of the biggest problems. It is forcing sports teams to change their practice times, game schedules, and what gym they use. This is made even more difficult due to the coronavirus.

Throughout the year there are 17 sports which means gym space is limited as it is. Even more so with the loss of the Red Gym. Mr. Mike Manderscheid, the athletic director, said, "All

sports teams have been working together to make sure everyone has their practice time in the gym and are still able to have all their games."

Lynsie Lusk, junior, has been doing archery for five years now. Being on the Marion Archery team, Lusk said that it's frustrating having more sports in one gym: "It cuts down on our already limited practice time." All sports now have to deal with cut practice times, different game schedules, and mishaps where two sports are scheduled with overlapping times. Instead of two hours, Lusk's archery practices are now only an hour and a half and sometimes have to be delayed further to allow another team to continue to use the gym.

Due to the coronavirus, archery has been following a version of the cohort schedule. Lusk lands on the B-day schedule and therefore practices on Thursdays. This means one practice per week instead of two. Her least favorite part of the new arrangements are the required masks and the fact that only two people can watch her shoot at tournaments.

Manderscheid said that it isn't hard to schedule sports and that he uses the schedule from the previous years unless something needs to be changed. He says that the hardest thing to deal with this year is the unknown: "It's difficult to reschedule an event or cancel it without knowing if we'll have to redo it again."



The Red Gym undergoes repairs and is out of commission for months.

With COVID still raging and the derecho damage still being repaired, everyone continues to work together. Practice times are cut short, and games are at different schools, but at the end of the day, athletes will continue to push through to do the sports that they love.

## Practice precautions

By: Jaquan Matthews @22jamatt

This year has had rough times. People have had to quarantine, and we have to stay 6 feet away from everyone. COVID has affected us in many ways, but we have figured out how to stay safe from it. We use masks which allow us to go out and do the activities that we love doing.

There are a lot of sports shutting down because of COVID-19, but luckily school hasn't fully shut down because we are taking proper precautions. Even though we are doing a great job, people still have a hard time adjusting to the virus and the changes it's caused. One change that has impacted sports is the use of masks. Wes

Logan, sophomore, has done wrestling for four years and is adjusting to the use of masks.

The wrestling team only has to wear masks while warming up and can remove it once they move away from each other and are socially distanced. In practice, they do a little less strenuous warmups now because coaches know that it is hard to do everything in a mask. "It definitely wants to make me wear my masks more and follow guidelines. It makes me appreciate sports more," Logan said. Although the new mask rule makes things more difficult, the team still remains positive.

Wrestling is not the only sport that has been impacted by COVID-19. Basketball has also been affected significantly. Sadie Struchen, junior, is a member of

the girl's basketball team. She enjoys basketball very much but also struggles to participate in her sport with the mask mandate. However, she adapted quickly and would let nothing ruin her love of the sport she's been playing for the last seven years. "Playing with masks used to annoy me, but I got used to it," Struchen said. Just like wrestling, basketball players don't have to wear masks full-time. They must wear a mask during practice and while sitting on the bench at games but can take them off while actually playing at a game.

Earlier in the season most of the girls on the basketball team were quarantined because of the sickness. No matter how hard it gets, she stays determined and hopes that it will get better. She



Sadie Struchen, '22, practices shooting while wearing a mask.

also says to remember to wear your mask, so that she and the rest of the team can continue to play.

The most important factor to know when playing with masks is that it'll keep the season alive. It's not easy to look at the bright side of things when you're in a situation like that but it's worth it if you get too play.