

Winter with derecho

Heavy snow + damaged roofs= distaters

By: Allison Steffen
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Since the derecho hit Marion, many families have been struggling. Houses were destroyed, trees were ripped from the ground, and families were left without protection from the dwindling temperatures.

Ella Van Weelden, senior, experienced severe house damage due to a 70-foot tall tree falling on her house. The tresses were damaged, the entire roof, and all the siding needs to be replaced. On the inside of the house, a majority of the drywall/studs also need to be replaced. Same with the flooring, carpet, foundation of the house, front porch, and the entire gutter system. Because of all this destruction, Van Weelden is nervous about the first heavy snowfall.

"Because of the amount of damage our roof has, we don't know how the weight of the snow will impact the stability of the roof, which is why we are trying to fix the roof before then," VanWeelden said. Her family is hoping to fix the roof in the following few weeks, hopefully before the first snowfall. However, she explains that all the repairs are estimated to take up to seven months.

Van Weelden didn't lose any of her belongings, but her sister did. She describes that her day-to-day life has indeed changed due to some of the damage. Instead of her using her bathroom, she has to use her parents', but, other than that, it's only a matter of staying out of some of the living



A room in the Van Weelden house after the debris was taken out.

areas.

Van Weelden is trying to get as many repairs done before the first heavy snowfall. She disclosed that her family is under a lot of stress but is learning to "roll with the punches" and adapt. Many people in her community are helping Van Weelden's family. She also says that looking for a bright side and blaming 2020 is a big helper.

Her advice to others is to be positive even though it's hard and to be sympathetic to those around you because you don't know what they're going through.

As the community continues to rebuild and repair, everyone has been helping one way or another. Every little bit helps, and we're slowly becoming the Marion that we were before the derecho.

Divided yet united

By: Mila Van Weelden
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COVID-19 appears to be everywhere. It has affected everyone's lives one way or another, and it seems as though there is no escape. High school sports fall into this category of uncertainty and unease.

On November 9th, the high school announced it was returning to the hybrid system. Students were separated according to where last names fell on the alphabet. Most expected this change was bound to happen, but what most didn't foresee is the major effect it would have on sports.

With the cohorts came many emotions for athletes. One of the feelings that flooded athletes' minds was fear. Madison Crawford, freshman, is on the girl's wrestling team. She said, "I am worried about the sport I am participating in right now getting shut down because wrestling is a close contact sport, so there is a higher risk of COVID being spread." There is no current mask mandate for the girls wrestling team, and the wrestling room is smaller in size which allows for less room to social distance.

The chemistry of teams is also called into question when it comes to the hybrid change. After the team was split in half for school, the opportunity for teammates to create bonds during school hours was put on hold. Crawford said, "I think not being in school full time affects the team's chemistry. All

of us not being in school together and not seeing each other affects the chemistry because

a lot of teammates are friends, and they talk or hang out during school hours and only seeing each other during practices could affect that and maybe even their friendships."

During this time of uncertainty, it is crucial for athletes to have a backup plan in case their sport were to shut down. Crawford said, "If my sport gets shut down the way I would try to practice on my own would to maybe contact my team members to figure out a workout we could all do or go for a run on my own, or maybe with my teammate and try to socially distance ourselves." It is vital to stay in shape, so there will be no setbacks once practices return.

Another sport that has been affected is archery. While other sports continued their practice schedule as normal, Archery followed the cohort system. Most archers feel less worried about the pandemic because of this. Lilly Rompot, sophomore, said, "I'm not too worried about my sport being shut down because our practice is split. We also all wear masks and are spaced far apart."

While some think the cohorts took a negative toll on their team, Lilly thinks the bonds within the team improved. "Overall, I think the effect of COVID on our team has actually helped because normally we all practice together with a big group so everyone just stays in their own little group but since we split practice and the groups are a lot smaller. I feel people are talking and making new friendships with other people," she said.

The downside to being an archer during this time is if they were to get shut down, practicing isn't really an option. Rompot said, "I probably won't be able to practice on my own if we shut down because in archery we shoot from long distances and I don't have that much space in our house or garage. Also, you can't shoot a bow outside in the cold or the bow will break."

Overall, this pandemic has been tough on athletes. The unpredictability of situations can lead to stress and worry, but athletes have persevered and will continue to do so.



The archery team shoots in masks at the first archery tournament of the school year.