

A Leading Eagle

Name: Lauren Mruk

Sport: Gymnastics

Position: Bars & Beam

Favorite Subject: English

What are your future aspirations?

I would like to become a teacher.

What colleges are you thinking of going to?

I think I want to go somewhere out west.

Are you going to play sports in college?

I would like to play volleyball.

What is your favorite type of music?

I like all types depending on what my mood is.

What is your favorite band?

I like so many. It depends on my mood.

What do you like to do in your free time?

I love to shop and hang out with friends, you know, the usual stuff.

How do you feel the team is doing?

I feel we are doing really well. We improved our team score by over 13 points.

What has been your biggest challenge this year?

Putting together all of the routines for every gymnast on our team.

The team's biggest challenge?

We take every meet as a challenge and we all really try hard at every meet. We work hard at improving our personal scores, as well as our team score.



Photo By Kimi Lillig

Sophomore Lauren Mruk concentrates during her routine on the balance beam. She also performs on the parallel bars.

Focusing on fundamentals

By Matt Styx
Staff Reporter

Approaching the end of a trying season for the Lakes girls' basketball team, the school wonders what is in store for the team next year.

Despite the team's winless year, spirits were kept up by Eric Vichnick, varsity head coach and assistant coaches Julie Sexton and Rebecca Holst. Even though it is toward the end of their season, progress is still being made. The team's defensive game has improved and they are coming together more as a team.

The current team goal is just to become better fundamentally and to possibly take home a win during the current season, which ends on Feb 11.

With only three juniors on the team this season, athletes hope next year will be promising season. The team is remaining optimistic and expects to win a few more games next season.



The varsity girls' basketball team is focusing on becoming fundamentally better.

Two of a kind

Two Lakes students share their love for the game of hockey

By Brian Zielinski

Sports Editor

Although the National Hockey League took the 2004-2005 season off, Lakes students Tyler Ruefer and Doug Ollendick did not.

Five years ago, Ruefer and Ollendick's paths crossed when they both played on the same in-house hockey team.

"I played with him my second year", said Ruefer, "...it was not at a very high level, but we were both still developing as hockey players."

Since the infancy of their hockey careers, Ruefer and Ollendick have parted ways, and now, they each play for different teams.

Ruefer is the captain of the Vernon Hills Glaciers, and plays first line center. The Lakes freshman said that the position enables him to use his speed, and always keeps him in the game.

He has also experienced success. In 2004 Ruefer and the Highland Park Falcons won a state championship.

Ollendick plays center and right wing for the Lake County Atoms. Recently Ollendick placed first in the Kansas City New Year's Hockey Bash Tournament. The Lakes sophomore had four helpers, assisting his team in winning the tournament.

"I like to go into the corners [of the rink] and I'm always in the game," he said.

Both Lakes students play on teams for more experienced players.

Both agree that experience sets them apart from other levels of area competition.

"The level of players that I play with and against are really good. The game is fast, and it is hard-hitting."

Even though their paths split, Ollendick and Ruefer share some of the same insights about their love for Hockey, and their disappointment over the year-long hiatus that the NHL endured last year.

"It pissed me off," Ollendick said, "...I just love watching the games, and they were not on TV."

These Lakes students also display the same excellent commitment to this physical game. Both Lakes students practice several times a week, and play approximately two games a week as well.

At their practices, as well as at their games, Ollendick and Ruefer can count on the support of family and friends.

"My parents support me a ton. They're there at every game and at every practice."

These two players love to play this exciting, fast-paced game more than anything.

"I don't care about winning. To play the game is great, but to love the game is the greatest of all," said Ruefer.

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