

# The Shoreline

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## YOUTH CORNER

### Peyton Wheeler, Gifted Athlete

Throughout his youth, Pine Knoll Shores resident Peyton Wheeler was committed to travel soccer, and he dreamed of becoming the next Lionel Messi. It was in 2021, when he moved from Morehead Middle School to his freshman year at West Carteret High School, that he shifted his emphasis from soccer to running track. That's where this story begins because run he did—and not only did he run, he ran really fast.

He started his first indoor track season running the 300M and then moved to the 400M during the outdoor season. Throughout his freshman year, he continued to improve and soon became the fastest freshman in the 400M in the state of North Carolina. He was also an anchor on the 4x200M and 4x400M relays. At the end of his freshman year, his times had not only qualified him for the state meet but also his first national event, the Adidas Nationals held in Winston-Salem, where he medaled by coming in fourth place.



Peyton Wheeler at the SPIRE indoor track in Geneva, Ohio.

—Photo courtesy of SPIRE Academy

During his sophomore year, Peyton continued to improve his times, setting West Carteret school records in the 300M, 4x400M and 4x200M relays. His 400M time improved to a personal best of 48.6 that ranked him as the fastest sophomore in North Carolina, and he was honored as the MVP on the West Carteret track team. This led him to participate in both the New Balance Indoor Nationals in Boston, MA, and the New Balance Outdoor Nationals in Philadelphia.

It was in Philadelphia that Peyton's story took a dramatic turn. He was participating in the meet after suffering a hip avulsion fracture at UNC—

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### K4TW Presentation



Mayor John Brodman presented Danielle Rose of Hope For The Warriors (second from left, front row) with a check for \$91,600 that represented the proceeds our three Kayak for the Warriors events generated this year. This was a banner year that brought us close to the million dollar mark over the last 16 years. Thanks to all who supported this important town effort. We couldn't do it without you.—Photo by Charlie Rocci

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