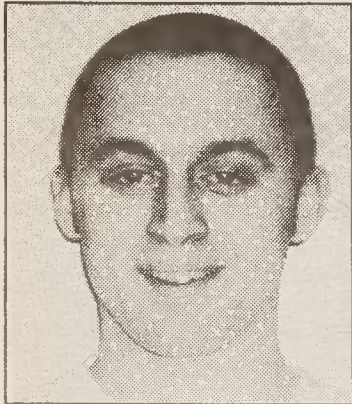


Up close with senior athletes

By Emily Durham
Staff Writer



Bartow photo

Phil Miller

Sport: Baseball

Position: Shortstop

Sports accomplishments: All-Conference; All-Area

How you became interested in your sport: "Watching it on television when I was younger."

Best sporting event you have attended while at GHS: "When we beat Page in baseball at UNCG last year."

Favorite sports drink: Gatorade

Favorite flavor of potato chips: Salt and Vinegar

Favorite cartoon:

"The Simpsons"

Scariest movie you have ever seen: "House on Haunted Hill"

Hot dog or hamburger:

Hamburger

Favorite website: sparknotes.com

Favorite candy bar: Rollo

Basketball team you think will win the ACC: NC State

Best way to eat peanut butter: "With a spoon."

Confidant(s): "My family."

Dark or milk chocolate:

Dark chocolate

Last book you read:

"Ender's Game"

Favorite TV channel: ESPN

Jeans or khakis: Jeans

What scared you the most as a freshman at GHS: "Everyone was taller than me."

Person(s) who encourages you the most: "My parents."

Words you say to yourself before a game: "Do whatever you can to win."

Job you could never hold and why: "A doctor because I could never give someone a shot."

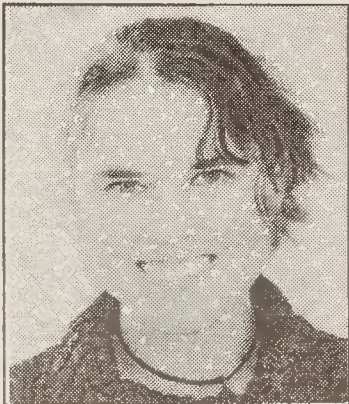
How did you spend last summer: "Playing baseball and spending time at the beach."

If you were granted one wish, what would it be and why: "To live a long and exciting life."

Top college choice: Virginia Tech

Farthest place you have traveled: Key West

President you would most like to meet and why: "Bush Jr. because I'd like to hear stories about him growing up."



Bartow photo

Mo Kessler

Sport: Softball

Position: Catcher

Sports accomplishments: Varsity team all four years; two-time rec. ball champion

How you became interested in your sport: "It started with tee-ball and it worked itself up from there."

Best sporting event you have attended while at GHS: "The Page/Grimsley softball game last year at Page. The score was tied with a play to home. The game could have gone either way. It was the closest we have to come to beating Page since I have been playing."

Pregame rituals: "Eating sunflower seeds and laughing."

Favorite sports drink: Water

Favorite flavor of potato chips: Friday's bacon and cheddar potato skins

Favorite cartoon: "Doug"

Scariest movie you have ever seen: "The Ugly"

Hot dog or hamburger:

Hamburger

Favorite website:

shockwave.com

Favorite candy bar: Butterfinger

Basketball team you think will win the ACC: Wake Forest

Dark or milk chocolate:

Milk chocolate

Last book you read: "The Love Artist"

Favorite TV channel: Disney or Bravo

Jeans or khakis: Jeans

Job you could never hold:

"An office job."

Best place to hang out with friends: "Tate Street Coffee because they know my name and what I get and that makes me feel all warm and fuzzy inside."

Words you say to yourself before a game: "To calm down and have fun, the rest will follow."

Person(s) who encourages you the most: "My father because he always pushes me to do better but constantly reminds me of the things I did right, and he's always there."

Beating the odds: Students take step to college level athletics

As the college search is in full swing, a select few seniors must decide where to continue a love for their sport.

By Ashish Sharda
Staff Writer

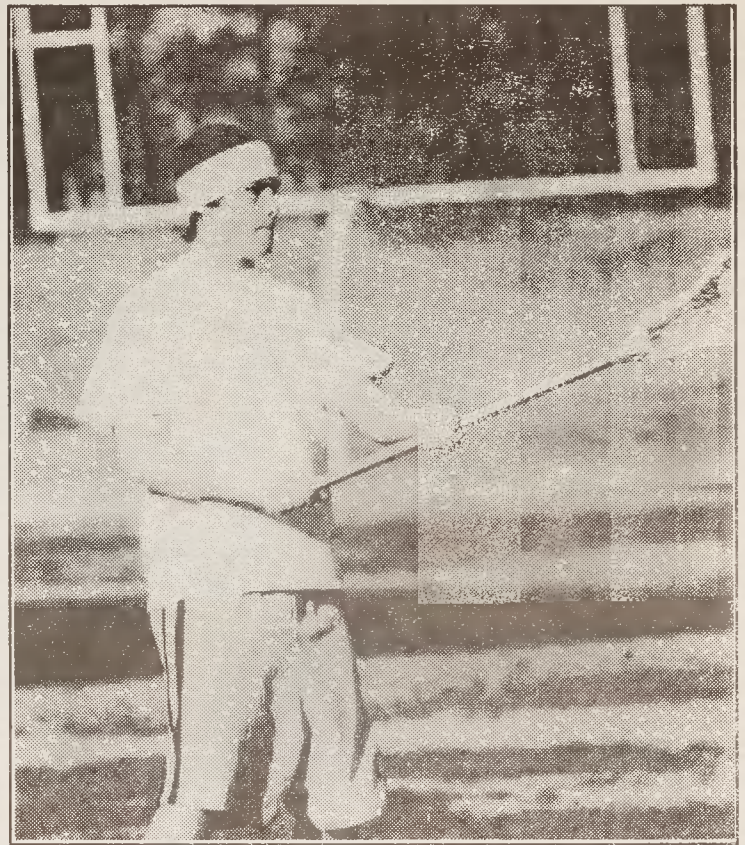
For many senior student athletes, high school sports mark the end of a short race. For a select few, however, high school athletics are the first leg of a long marathon.

According to the Michigan High School Athletic Association, one out of 12,000 high school athletes will go on to play a college sport. On average, only one athlete in ten high schools will play sports in college. Moreover, less than one percent of high school athletes receive money to play sports in college.

These numbers denote the truth on the rarity of playing sports on the next level after high school; not many people are skilled enough to do so, but there are a select group of Grimsley athletes who will be attaining this feat.

Seniors Michael Troutman and Chris Pinnix plan to tackle through the college football ranks, while seniors Charlie Rieron and Patrick Ferrell aspire to reach their goal of playing on a college soccer team. Senior Stephanie Permar is shooting for a spot on a college basketball squad, and senior Doug Rozelman wants to grapple his way onto a wrestling team. Senior Amanda Rutherford will try to make a splash on the college swimming scene, and senior Chris Leath attempts to cradle his skills towards a college lacrosse squad.

"Most people want to go to college, but aren't able to play sports once they get there. However,



Leung photo

Senior Chris Leath, attack for varsity lacrosse, is one of the few athletes preparing to play a sport at the college level. This step is only possible with hard work and an understanding that their competition is much higher.

there are some of us who want to reach a higher level of competition. It's going to be tough because it's a whole new level. [College athletes] are stronger and faster than people in high school. Our coaches told us that high school is the time to have fun on the field, but to play in college is completely different. You have to work for everything; almost like a job," said Pinnix. When colleges recruit these athletes, they look to see that the student is working hard, not only athletically, but also in the classroom.

"Next year I will be playing division III soccer. I received \$11,700 as an academic grant, but was recruited to play soccer. I have to

maintain a certain grade point average in order to keep that money. We have to do everything everyone does academically, and then we have to perform athletically. People don't realize that student athletes are some of the hardest working people on campus," said Rieron.

With all these factors combined, according to Rieron, a hopeful college athlete must be more than just an athlete. They must be able to balance the different facets of everyday college life in an orderly manner. If they do so, then they may allow their sports talents to propel them to the finish line of a long marathon.

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