

Outstanding senior athletes honored by NU Club

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By Jeremy Behnke - Journal Sports Editor

Six local athletes were honored Saturday night as part of the 58th annual Athletic Appreciation Banquet at Martin Luther College.

The banquet honors a senior boy and girl athlete at each of the three New Ulm High Schools as the Athlete of the Year. Guest speaker was Minnesota State University, Mankato head football coach Todd Hoffner, who advised the student-athletes to take their academics seriously if they attend college next year and to get a good start on them so you don't dig yourself into a hole.

The following are the brief write-ups of the six athletes honored.

New Ulm High School

Tim Kehren

Kehren has been a key hockey player for the Eagles the past three years. His leadership skills on and off the ice lead to him being named Captain for his senior season. He was also chosen as the Hobey Baker Character Award winner this year.

"Timmy was one of those players that would do anything you would ask of him," coach Erik Setterholm said. "During the end of his junior year he was asked to play forward and even though this isn't an easy task for someone that regularly played defense he never questioned it and scored some key goals for us in the playoffs."

This spring, Tim will earn his third letter as a member of the Eagles Baseball Team.

In addition to his time on the ice and in the field he also was a member of the Eagles football team.

Jill Gareis

Gareis is a hard working and dedicated athlete and leader. She was a three-year starter and letter winner on the volleyball team. She ended her career by setting the single season and career set assist record and was named All-Conference and Academic All-State.

Gareis is also a standout softball player.

"I am honored to have had the opportunity to coach Jill for the previous five years as Jill is one of those special kids that you cannot find someone that has a negative thing to say about her," softball coach Kristi Andersen said.

Gareis has been the starting first basemen for the Eagles softball team for four years and has played in 72 games.

She has received much recognition as a New Ulm Eagle and has been named two-time All-Journal, two-time All-Conference, two-time All-Section and All-State Honorable Mention.



Outstanding senior athletes from New Ulm's three high schools honored by New Ulm Club included, L-R and top/bottom: Tim Kehren and Jill Gareis, NUHS; Nick Simon and Stacy Eckstein, Cathedral; Nathan Schoenherr and Alicia Evenson, Minnesota Valley Lutheran.

Journal photo by Steve Muscatello

Cathedral High School

Stacy Eckstein

Eckstein is a three-sport athlete who will earn seven letters during her high school career - one in volleyball, four in dance team and two in track. She is the daughter of Joe and Mary Eckstein.

Eckstein lettered in volleyball as a senior and was a co-captain of the team. She played the role of a defensive specialist and server for the Greyhounds.

"It has been an honor to have coached Stacy Eckstein," volleyball coach Stef Dietz said. "Stacy's hard work and dedication in the sport of volleyball ignited her teammates."

Eckstein was a four-year letter winner in dance team and was a member of the team's choreography team for four years as well. She was also a dance team co-captain as a senior. She earned two very prestigious honors as a dancer, as she was twice named All-State in dance team. Eckstein was named All-State in Jazz as a junior and All-State in High Kick as a senior.

Eckstein has earned two letters in track. She was a distance runner (1,600-meters, 800-meters, 400-meters), and also was a regular in the 4x800 and 4x400 relay events.

Nick Simon

Simon will finish his career with six varsity letters - three in football and three in basketball. He is the son of Bob and Vickie Simon.

Simon was a three-year starter in football, where he played safety and running back and was a team captain. During his three varsity seasons, Cathedral won 34 games and lost only three for a .919 winning percentage. The Greyhounds were conference champions in 2009 and 2011, section champions in 2009 and 2010, and won the State Class A Football championship in 2010.

Simon gained 1,524 yards rushing during his career with an average of 9.2 yards per carry. He recorded 132 career tackles, along with 10 career interceptions.

Simon was twice named All-Conference, was an All-Journal selection and recently was selected to play in the Minnesota High School All-Star Football Game. He plans to play college football at St. John's University.

Simon lettered three years in basketball and was a team captain. He averaged 13 points and six rebounds per game during his junior year. He was named honorable mention All-Conference, and to the All-Journal team as a junior. While an injury kept Nick out of all but one basketball game as a senior, he scored 13 points playing in the team's final playoff game.

Minnesota Valley Lutheran High School

Alicia Evenson

Evenson is the daughter of Jim and Naomi Evenson. Alicia is a three-sport athlete who has participated and excelled in soccer, basketball and track all four years at MVL. She earned 10 letters; four in soccer, two in basketball and will earn her fourth in this spring in track.

She is a two-time Academic All Conference Award winner in basketball as well as a two-time Academic All Conference award winner in track. She has also been Academic All State in basketball and a three-time Academic All State member. Alicia was an All-Conference selection in soccer her senior year and Honorable Mention her junior season.

In soccer, Evenson is a player and person that brought out the best in everyone around her, according to coach Jonathan Johnson.

In basketball, coach Dave Biedenbender said "Alicia set a great example for her fellow teammates while serving as a captain this past season. She always worked hard in practice. She was always ready to go when called upon during games."

In track and field, she holds the MVL girls' indoor High Jump record at 5-feet.

She had qualified for the section track meet each of her first three years in a variety of events. From the section she has qualified for the State Meet and finished 10th in high jump the last two years.

Evenson has decided to continue her education at the College of St. Benedict's next fall and will run track for them.

Nate Schoenherr

Schoenherr is the son of Jeff and Carol Schoenherr. He is a three-sport student/athlete who has participated in football, basketball and baseball all four years at MVL. He has earned seven letters; two in football, two in basketball and will earn his third in baseball.

His leadership has been recognized by his teammates who have voted him captain in both football and basketball. His postseason awards include representing MVL in the Tim Orth All Star Basketball Game and Honorable Mention All-Conference in both football and baseball.

Each fall for the past four years Schoenherr played football for the Chargers at the cornerback position where he compiled the following career stats: 90 career tackles, two sacks, three fumble recoveries and seven interceptions.

In basketball, he was a three-year varsity player and valuable starter his junior and senior years.

In baseball, he is a career .296 hitter in 26 games with 21 hits and two doubles.

Next year, Schoenherr plans to attend Wisconsin Lutheran College in Milwaukee, Wisconsin where he will begin his studies in business and accounting while playing basketball and baseball.