

Playing Hard, Working Harder



Catherine Bitterman



Izzy Tot



Emmie Tiemeier

Special Olympians stretch athletic comfort zones

No one ever said playing a sport was easy. So what about playing three? Special Olympians spent all year practicing basketball, bowling and track, and it took a lot of work to get competition-ready.

Each member of the team struggled with something in their sports, even if they excelled at others. For students like **Catherine Bitterman ('21)**, aiming and throwing turned out to be the most difficult. "I just joined, but I would say basketball is the hardest because I can't make a single basket," said Bitterman, laughing.

Others disliked feeling out of their comfort zone. With each sport being extremely different, some of the athletes felt frustrated when picking up new skills. They often found their strengths in the sports that they had

previous experience with. "I think bowling is the hardest because it doesn't have any running in it, and I'm really good at running," said **Izzy Tot ('18)**.

Although success may have seemed far away, all of their hard work and dedication soon paid off. For **Emmie Tiemeier ('18)**, basketball turned out to be the hardest sport she had ever played. After competing against other teams, however, she discovered she was not as bad as she thought. "I thought I'd be bad at basketball, but I got first place," said Tiemeier.

Although some of the sports within Special Olympics came with challenges and hardships, the athletes did their best and performed well in the end. No matter how big the obstacle, each player worked hard to overcome it. (A. Lance)

Find Your Passion

"I like being on the team because I really like track and I'm really competitive."
-Jalynn Nunnally ('18)

"I like being on the team because I like all of the sports equally."
-Nick Laster ('18)

1. **SMILE!** Waiting for their track meet to start, **Jalynn Nunnally ('18)**, **Jon Lorber ('18)** and **Claire Bloom ('18)** pose for their coach to take a photo. Bloom won third place this season against other Special Olympics teams. "I like winning because it makes me feel really good," she said. (Contributed)

2. **Line Up** Representing the Special Olympics team, **Izzy Tot ('18)**, **Emmie Tiemeier ('18)**, **Claire Bloom ('18)**, **Nick Laster ('18)**, **Jonathan Lorber ('18)**, **Catie Bitterman ('21)** and **Jalynn Nunnally ('18)** pose for their team photos. Despite their obstacles, the athletes on the team worked hard to improve their skills. "I work hard, especially since I'm not good at basketball," Lorber said. (A. Lance)



"I love Special Olympics. I think it's good and has a lot of character-building. I believe in the mission that gives a lot of students the opportunity that others don't have."
-Mrs. Johnson, Special Olympics Coach

"My favorite memory ever was of my first day of Kindergarten." -Corban Brewer ('21)

"My favorite experience ever was spending my Sweet 16 at a Cubs game." -Halle Dreyer ('20)

Out with the

OLD?

Girls golf team deals with old uniforms

Most people appreciate getting a new, fresh outfit, and the girl golfers were no exception. Every year, the girls golf team had the option of buying another set of clothes for their uniform or using their old ones. Before the spring season even started, rumors swirled that the girls golf team would be getting an exciting new uniform design. However, the excitement quickly fizzled out once the team found out that they were sticking with the old uniforms.

Some girls did not believe that getting a new uniform was necessary if theirs still fit and was in good condition. "I can use my old uniform, and when I'm done I will donate it back," said **Sydney Stanger ('18)**.

Others liked the idea of a new uniform if

their old one became too small or faded, or if they just wanted a change. "I can't wait for a new uniform. The shirt from last year was boring," said **Isabelle Kern ('18)**.

Many of the golfers felt excited about the possibility of new uniforms, but using the old ones ended up being not so bad because "it is very good quality clothing," said **Sophie Lamantia ('18)**.

Even though many thought they would be getting new uniforms, they had to deal with the existing ones. The golfers had to purchase uniforms as well as clubs and equipment to be on the team, so the costs added up. However, the girl golfers felt it was worth it and put another season on the record books in their uniforms. (J. Ketelaar)

"I can't wait for a new uniform. The shirt from last year was boring." -Isabelle Kern ('18)

New to the Course

Why did you join the golf team?



"I joined the team because it's fun and I get to make new friends. I also wanted to try out a new sport." -Hanah Conger ('19)

"I joined because last year a lot of people liked it and recommended it to me." -Makenna Verdon ('21)



"I thought it'd be a fun new experience." -Kennedy Rowe ('21)

"I wanted to do a more independent sport and golf is a big sport in my family." -Alyssa LaRoque ('19)



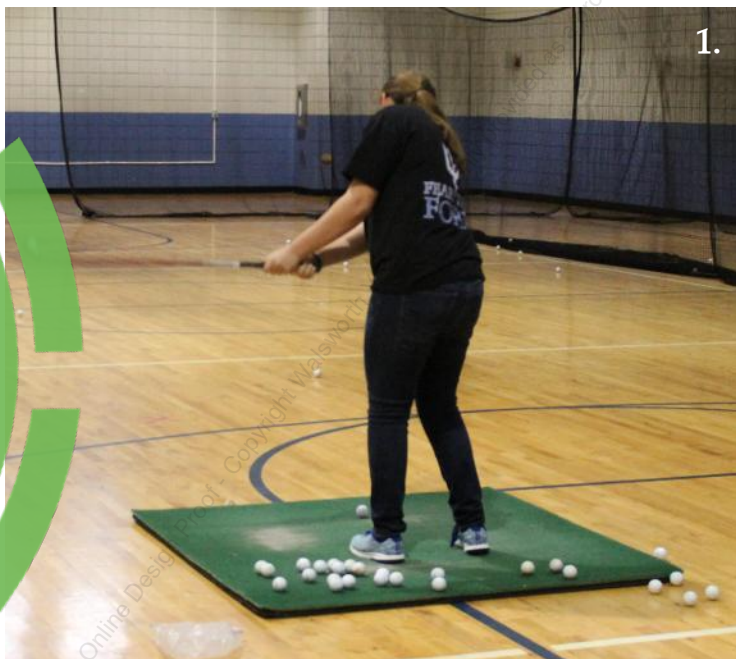
Sydney Stanger



Isabel Kern



Sophie Lamantia



1.



2.

1. **Sister, Sister** In George Marshall Gym, **Makenna Verdon ('21)** practices her swing. Her older sister, **Aubrey Verdon ('18)**, competed on the girls golf team as well; the sisters also shared spots on both the softball and girls bowling teams together. "I think it's a cool experience that I get to share this sport with my sister," Aubrey Verdon said. (I. Kern)

2. **Save It for a Rainy Day** At golf practice, **Madison Wheat ('21)** lines up her golf club. Cold, snow and rainy weather in April forced the girls to practice inside when they otherwise would have practiced outside at local golf courses. "My favorite thing about being new on the team is making friends," Wheat said. (I. Kern)

"I really just like being able to learn stuff." -Kylie Latham ('21)

"The best experience of my life was being able to meet my nieces and nephews for the first time." -Cody Stephenson ('18)

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