

Boosters strive to support Hudson Athletics

by senior Abby Lasbrook

New weight room. New scoreboards. New uniforms. New cheer mat. Whether it be new equipment or upgrades, the athletic booster club delivers.

The Hudson Athletic Booster Club, an organization made up of school employees, parents, and community members, meets on the second Wednesday of every month. Their sole purpose is to support Hudson's student athletes.

The booster club wants students to be the best they can be, so they invest a lot in equipment to help students meet their goals.

In the past year, the booster club has purchased a record board for the track team. The football team has received new uniforms as well as a new practice field and an equipment shed. The cheerleaders have been given a new cheer mat. A new scoreboard for the competition gym and a new scoreboard for the high school practice gym, as well as new software for the scoreboards, have also been purchased.

These upgrades are in addition to the uniform renewals which occur every three years for varsity sports, and more of an "as needed" rotation for middle school.

"It's important for student athletes to have quality equipment, uniforms and updates in order to stay competitive with surrounding schools," said treasurer Dee Sallee.

This, of course, requires money. The booster club

can make up to \$2,000 from concessions at varsity home football games. Other major fund raisers include Drive 4 UR School, the annual golf tournament, discount cards, and booster club memberships.

The booster club does not have a certain budget for each sport. According to activities director Kevin Wurzer, who has been on the athletic boosters since 2000, all funds raised go into a general account called "athletic funding"

Regardless of the revenue from a sport, every activity receives opportunities for upgrades. The amount of money given to each sport, however, varies- and for good reason.

Golf athletes, for example, are provided with warm-ups which cost about \$100 per player, while football equipment, including helmets, pads and jerseys, can cost up to \$1,000 per player.

Aside from the new uniforms every three years, additional purchases are often made.

"Coaches are always encouraged to come to the (booster club) meetings and propose the need for equipment for their team," said Sallee. Coaches can also give requests to Wurzer.

Upcoming additions to Hudson Athletics, courtesy of the boosters, include batting cages for the baseball and softball teams and goal posts for the football field. There are even plans of resurfacing the track in the near future.



The new scoreboard purchased by the boosters, seen here at the Oct. 3 varsity volleyball game, has been a welcomed addition to the competition gym.

Should the athletic boosters support cheerleading?

Yes

"I would like them to. We are there to support the football team and help get the students excited about the games so I feel like they should support us."

- sophomore Brooke Busch



No

"I believe the athletic boosters are fair in supporting the sports teams. They do not and should not have to support the cheerleading team because cheer isn't a sport. Instead, the school itself should help with the costs of cheerleading."

- junior Abi Henderson



Hudson junior joins Cedar Falls swim team

by junior Payton Sherwood

From diving on the court to diving in the pool, junior Morgan Kegebein has plunged into new waters.

Swimming wasn't Kegebein's first love. Since fifth grade, she has been excelling on the volleyball court as a libero and outside hitter.

"I love volleyball because I get to practice and play with the classmates that I've grown up with," said Kegebein.

After six years of playing her favorite sport, Kegebein soon discovered her days on the court were short lived. She was diagnosed with patellar chondromalacia, which is damage to the cartilage under the kneecap.

"The entire time in that hospital waiting room I remember thinking, *please no surgery*," said Kegebein. "When the doctor came back and told me there was nothing they could do, it was devastating knowing that I would have to live with the pain."

Just as her life as an athlete seemed to be ending, Kegebein remembered another place that made her feel at home: the water.

As a child, Kegebein was always drawn to the water, whether it be skiing with the Waterhawks Ski Team or splashing in the lake at the family cabin in Ponderosa.

"I couldn't play volleyball, and I didn't want to sit on the couch all year, so I realized swimming was my opportunity," said Kegebein.

Despite her excitement to dive back into swimming, it took some time for Kegebein to adjust.

"Swimming takes more endurance than playing volleyball. On the court you might run out of air but you are able to breathe. In the water, you work your lungs until you feel like they are going to burst," said Kegebein.

Although she struggled at first with her breathing techniques, she quickly built up an endurance, thanks to 18 hours a week in the pool with the Cedar Falls High School swim team.

"Once you are practicing six days a week for three hours per day, you start to build up your lung capacity to last you an entire race without feeling the urgency to take a breath," said Kegebein.

Kegebein has found a spot on the 35-swimmer team, racing in the 50 meter freestyle, 100 meter freestyle, 200 meter freestyle, and the 400 meter freestyle. At her first meet, Kegebein received second place in her heat. Even though it wasn't a first place medal, to Kegebein, it was a victory.

Said Kegebein, "It felt great being able to accomplish something with and for a team again."



Kegebein