



SCOOTING AROUND WITH HANNAH DEWITTE

By Elsa LaFollette

Imagine waking up with a terrible pain in your leg, it is it so bad that you can't feel anything. Then having to get out of bed, ready for school, and make it through the day with the pain. This doesn't sound like fun but is a daily reality for Hannah Dewitte.



Hannah Dewitte

Dewitte is a sophomore who is missing the iliac and femoral veins in her legs. Dewitte found out about the missing iliac vein in 2017, and the femoral vein in late 2018 during a venogram test.

The reason for the missing veins might be from Dewitte being a premature baby and a PICC line having to be used to give her nutrients. She had to stay in the hospital for several months, but ten days before leaving, the PICC line migrated and caused scar tissue to form.

Pain is also a daily struggle for Dewitte. She says that the pain "hurts so bad you can't feel anything and is similar to pins and needles." Ways she deals with the pain are elevating, taking Advil, lay in bed, and using a heat pack. Dewitte also wears a compression stocking on her left leg 24/7, which helps pain and regulation of blood flow.

Dewitte can be seen in the hallway using a red and black mobility scooter. She has had the scooter since Dec. 13, 2018, and has named it "Carlos." Dewitte doesn't normally have problems getting through the hallways, but there are some for getting into classrooms. The scooter was hard for her to get; there were notes from vascular surgeons, walking tests, talks with physical therapists, and test runs with a scooter. When getting the scooter she was "really happy but at the same time stressed about others getting adjusted to it."

While using her scooter and on days where she is in pain Dewitte often uses the school elevator to get to her classes. The elevator is really small and one day during freshman year Dewitte got ended up getting stuck in the elevator after lunch. "I went to get out of the elevator on the second floor and I accidentally turned my scooter and got stuck on the elevator panel. I couldn't turn to get unstuck so I had to ride the elevator about three times so it would stop beeping. While I was stuck Emily Baker told Mr. Timm, 'Hey Hannah's stuck in the elevator,' and he thought that the elevator was stuck between two floors," said Dewitte.

Dewitte is involved in archery and speech. Last year she was experiencing a lot of pain from having to stand through archery practices. This season she is going to be shooting from her scooter and is excited and also nervous to rejoin the team.

For people going through similar things, Dewitte said "the pain is only temporary, bad days only mean good days ahead."



Piper Price



Elizabeth Quam



Vaun Remerowski



McKenzie Rentschler



Sara Rhomberg



Jacob Russell



Cooper Schoff



Brooke Schurbon



Brady Siders



Connor Spencer



Natalie Spinsby



Jenna Sprague



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Lauren Swartzendruber



Nadia Telecky



Matthew Tijerina



Diego Torres-Roe



Brody Ulch



Saqua Werling



Grady Wheeler



Ethan White



Kasia Wiebel



Taylor Wilson



Steven Wolfe

Sophomores absent from portraits: Devin Brenke

THE GIRL WHO LOVES TO HIKE

By Matthew Erlandson



Elsa LaFollette

The wind blows through her hair as she flies down the trail with her father.

Elsa LaFollette is a sophomore girl who loves to hike. She tries to hike every weekend in Palisades Park. She usually hikes with her father but sometimes she'll hike with her mother and brother, Colter.

Elsa has been hiking for roughly six years going on an estimated 150 hikes total. She didn't hike much at first but it soon became one of her favorite hobbies, she enjoys the relaxation of hiking and the great views you can find. Elsa wants to hike to a part of Palisades where a valley opens up exposing a field of flowers and beauty. "We don't know if it exists but people say it opens up to a flat area with lots of flowers," said Elsa. Getting to this spot is Elsa's biggest goal for hiking in Palisades. Elsa and her father are experienced hikers who hike trails in Palisades all the time, some hikes even taking up to an hour and a half. Elsa's tips for new hikers are to bring good and comfortable shoes to hike long distances in. She also says to look out for roots that you could trip on, weather can also be bad for hiking so people should check the weather before going out.

Elsa will be moving to London next year for her father's work but she hopes to make new hiking experiences there. The place where her family is going is meant to have good hiking places for new and experienced hikers so she hopes to enjoy hiking in London as much as she enjoys it in Iowa.