

MEET RYNE VANDER LEEST

Ryne Vander Leest is a triple threat as he plays football, basketball and baseball. He finds passion in competition. "The best part about competition is competing alongside my teammates. When there are

two teams fighting for a common goal, it gets very fun and intense, especially when I am doing it with my friends." What pushed Vander Leest into sports was his family. Ever since he was little, he saw the potential in playing sports. "I started playing all three when I could start to walk and [playing] competitively around the age of six." Being in a

pandemic has taken a toll on many people, but Vander Leest likes to see the brighter side of things. "COVID has allowed me to not take certain things for granted, such as sports and going to school in person," Vander Leest said. "It has also allowed me to get a lot closer with my family, which I am very thankful for."



Ryne Vander Leest looks on to the field at a football game. Photo used with permission

IN LOVING MEMORY OF
DYLAN SALGE
CLASS OF 2023



SOPHOMORES

NOT PICTURED: Helena Wa Kalala, Momina Wako, Alicia Walker, Sophia Wang, Bonheure Wankana Masengo, Ephraim West, Matthew Westen, Danique Williams, Zyria Williamson, Moneeb Yagoub, Jenny Zhang, De'Kaylah Zims

Anel Vukovic
Ava Waddilove
Darek Wahe
Hebah War
Nate Weimar



Jaxon Wells
Sofia Wells-Lu
Erik Whittaker
Loren Wolf
Miles Wood



John Woodward
Haoran Wu
Catherine Yang



MEET MEENA TATE

Meena Tate has been playing basketball ever since elementary school after her friends convinced her to try it. She instantly fell in love with the team aspect of the sport. "Team sports are definitely my thing because when you mess up, you have your team to pick you up," Tate said. With the extra

challenges the year has brought on, Tate says that the circumstances have really affected her mindset more than her involvement. "This year has made me think about how four years of high school basketball seems like a lot, but it really isn't," Tate said. "Last year, I was just a freshman, but next year, I'll be a junior and close to my last season." She also mentions, "You

never know when the season could be over, so you have to play every game like it could be your last." Tate's involvement in basketball over the years has caused her to better understand it. Throughout it all, Tate loves to see her teammates excited because of the joy that overtakes the whole team when playing.

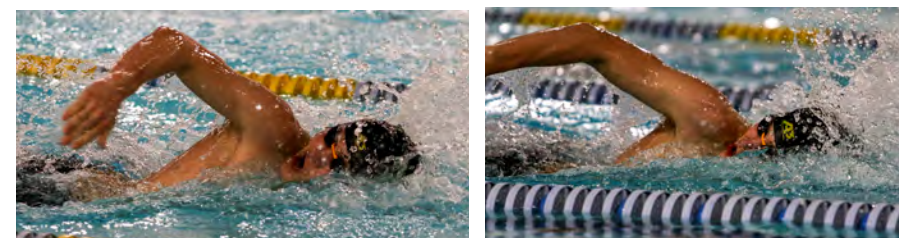


Meena Tate plays basketball against Linn-Mar at West High School. Photo by Alyssa Skala

Dylan Salge was a sophomore at West and a member of the boys swim team. No matter the circumstances, Dylan was always there for his friends. "Dylan was such a bright light in so many people's lives. He could always tell when something wasn't right with me, when not even my own family could really tell," said Abbey Schley '22. "He constantly would check on people and genuinely cared that people were okay. When he asked you how you were or what was wrong, he really meant it, and that was something so special about him."



While some remembered him as a caring friend, others remembered him as a dedicated teammate. "As a teammate he was willing to do anything," said boys swimming head coach Byron Butler. "The priority is always scoring points for the team, and I think that was always in the back of his mind, and it says a lot about who he was and the type of teammate he was. He wanted what was best for everyone else, but he also wanted to beat everyone else."



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