

180° turn

Athletes at Hudson face lots of change

by senior Kylee Sallee

March 15th was a day I'll never forget. Track, which has always been my best sport, was postponed. Forty long days later, the entire season was cancelled, and my heart sank.

I physically and mentally had no clue what to do. None. I hadn't taken more than a week off of group training since I was 12. Little did I know a break away from sports was only the first of many changes to come.

I continued track workouts until what would have been state track. During that time, I learned exactly how much I appreciated leaving the house to go for a run.

I was happy I could still run with my teammates, but that's when the governor threw another hurdle into our 2020 season. She declared Iowans could only be with immediate family. I then turned to my 21-year-old sister. She not only made a great running partner, but she was also great at holding me accountable.

All spring I held onto hope and thought to myself, *Surely this will all be over by summer, and we will have a softball season.* I was right... Well, sort of.

“I really missed playing sports. Sports are my life, and that just went away overnight. So, I got really sad, and I just wanted to get back into the gym... I went four months without getting in the gym, and I missed it a lot.”

-sophomore Macey McKenna

In late May, the state announced Iowa could play ball. I was so excited! But just like everything else, the 2020 softball season looked much different.

Besides the rules like dugouts being off limits during practice, masks being required on the bus, and no concession stands at games, the restrictions put a huge dent in our team bonding.

We were no longer allowed to go out for our traditional Taco Tuesdays and gather at Clear Lake after the Newman Tournament for a potluck. My favorite traditions were gone—just like that.

Later in the season, we had enough and agreed we weren't going to let COVID-19 ruin any more of our fun. We decided to make a new tradition and enjoyed a drive-in movie on the softball field.

I thought to myself, *Surely this will all be over by fall and I will have a volleyball season.* I was right again... Well, kind of.

Volleyball season came around, and we were able to play. It still just wasn't the same. In some tournaments, we were given a limited number of tickets for the Hudson fans. We also had sanitizers cleaning the volleyballs after every few points, or after someone who wasn't playing touched the ball. Like many others, I was thankful to be playing, and I did not complain.

Clearly, the past year has been nothing like anyone could have imagined. I find myself asking if we will ever go back to our old ways, or are we living the “new normal”?

I don't know. But what I do know is that I am never going to take a game or practice with my teammates for granted because I never know when it will be my last.

HUDL Sideline

Head coach Justin Brekke utilizes HUDL sideline to review plays with senior Trey Jochumsen and sophomore Devon Liddle on the sideline during the game against East Marshall.



photo by sophomore Jayda Rodriguez

Read more about the HUDL programs at www.hudsonpiratepress.com **piratepress. ONLINE**

photo by senior Jetta Colsch



photo by junior Mac Kelly

Senior Sara Hansen sets senior Ashlynn Kuhn the ball during Senior Night vs. Union on Sept. 15. This was the first time Senior Night, where they celebrated 10 seniors, occurred at the first home game rather than one of the last. It was also the first varsity event in the new-

ly renovated gym. After six months and \$130,000, the competition gym remodel is complete. Some highlights include new paint for the first time in nearly two decades, 35-year-old bleachers replaced, and the purchase of an entirely new volleyball net system.

Winter sports outlook

by senior Kylee Sallee

Although we have made it through summer and fall sports, winter sports draw new challenges.

“Ironically, wrestlers get penal-

ized for staying away from their opponent during a match,” said head coach Wayne Haskovec. “As much



Haskovec

as I would like to conduct our wrestling season as usual, I am not sure how wrestling can take place given all of the current protocols for

schools and COVID.”

Although Haskovec believes it does not look promising, both he and the team are really hoping for a season. The team returns with two conference champions, as well as nine other varsity wrestlers.

Did You Know?

40% of wrestlers are considering playing basketball if there's not a wrestling season.

The girls basketball team, which went 14-8 last year, also hopes to return with a very competitive group of athletes. They are more hopeful than the wrestlers moving forward.

“I believe we are going to figure out ways for our students to compete,” said head coach Jeff Curley. “I am very optimistic about there being a winter girls basketball season.”