

Can you dig it?

Junior boys try volleyball



by junior Caroline Mitchell

More and more girls are playing sports that were traditionally meant for men. In fact, in the past five years, Hudson has had a female wrestler and a female football player. Now

it's time for two junior boys to break gender boundaries. Juniors Zander Larson and Jake Yoder have both played a variety of sports since they were in elementary. But, this past fall they decided to take on something a little different—volleyball.

Aside from the annual Macho Match during homecoming, volleyball has been a traditionally female sport for Hudson athletes. Larson and Yoder, who spent their free time playing sand volleyball in the spring and summer months, never thought they'd have a chance to play competitively. That changed when Larson's mom saw a post on Facebook, inviting males to October tryouts for club volleyball.

Larson and Yoder tried out for, and got invited to join, not one but two club volleyball teams—Smash and CIA. The duo chose Smash, which is just starting its male team over the veteran male team of CIA. They believed it was the best place for new players like them to learn and would provide them with more court time.

Although Larson, who first got interested in the sport by watching the Olympics, doesn't think they'll be bringing home any gold medals their first season, both are certain they will have fun.

photos by senior Halle Haack

Four Hudson girls currently compete on the female teams for Smash Volleyball Club.

Ready to rumble

by freshman Talia Simmer

The first female in five years is taking the mats and joining Hudson High School's wrestling team.

As a kid, freshman Emmalee Sharar went to every meet to watch her brother, Justin Huey (Hudson Class of 2015). It peaked her interest in the sport.

"When I watched him wrestle, I felt like I was in his shoes," said Sharar.

She continued to love wrestling through her childhood. "I thought about joining a team a couple times, but it's a really intimidating decision," admits Sharar. "Once I even joined..."

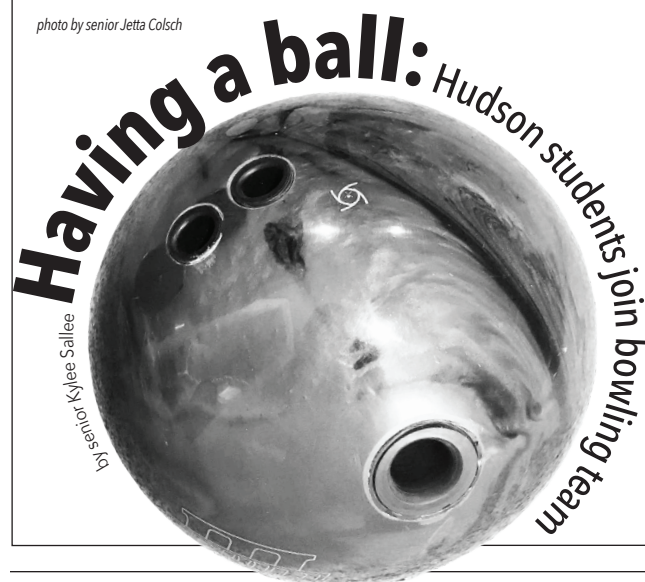
Read more about Hudson's female wrestler at www.hudsonpiratepress.com **piratepress ONLINE**

According to Iowa Public Radio, bowling is the fastest growing high school sport in Iowa. Following this rising trend, Hudson High School students have decided to see if bowling is... up their alley.

"Sophomore year, my friends and I joked about starting a bowling team at Hudson," said senior Ashley Starr. "Now that we have the opportunity, we all decided to join and see what happens."

Starr is one of seven Hudson students that will unite with 25 other students from Waterloo West, LaPorte City, Waterloo Christian, and Expo to form a high

photo by senior Jetta Colsch



school bowling team under Waterloo West's name this winter.

According to Kevin Wurzer, who has been the athletic director at Hudson for the last 20 years, students have always had this opportunity, but few have taken advantage of it.

Waterloo West head coach Brandon Steen emailed the athletic secretary, Dee Sallee, asking her to make students aware of this opportunity. When the office made an announcement over the intercom, students' ears perked up.

"When we made the bowling announcement, there was immediate interest," said Sallee, who cited a dozen students that showed up interested in learning more. One of them was senior Cassidy McCormick.

"I joined bowling because I thought it would be a good opportunity to meet new people and step out of my comfort zone," said McCormick, who has only bowled occasionally with friends on the weekends. The other five female bowlers also have very little experience.

Freshman Drew Britson, on the other hand, has been involved in middle school and league bowling for the past five years.

"My grandma would take my cousins and I bowling about every six months, and it was always really fun," said Brit-

son, explaining why he first joined. "I wanted to do it more."

In addition to the fun, bowling has also provided Britson with financial support. After placing well at a tournament, the directors are not allowed to hand out cash. Instead, they deposit the money into an account for the athlete that can later be used towards college.

As Britson transitions to the high school level, he is excited for more than just the prize.

Nonetheless, according to Steen, regardless of the bowler's previous experience, all athletes will have the opportunity to compete at either the varsity or junior

varsity level.

"I look forward to overall improving my ability to play and to be part of a team," said Britson. "I also look forward to more exposure to tournaments."

Steen is excited to have Hudson students joining the program. Said Steen, "I am an ambassador for bowling in general. So, anytime we have a chance to expose more kids to the sport we love... I will take that opportunity!"

On Nov. 9, the team began practicing Mondays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays from 3:30- 5:30 p.m. at Cadillac XBC in Waterloo. The team hopes to conclude the season at the state finals on Feb. 21.