

THE CHARGER

'12-sport' athletes participate every season

Jacob Meseke | sports editor

Two Charger seniors have been a constant presence in athletic events for the last four years. Eli Mumpower and Jace Reves are this year's 12-sport athletes.

To be considered a 12-sport athlete, students have to play three sports each year for all four years. These athletes have no break between seasons. When one season ends, the other is often already underway.

Reves participated in football, basketball and track and Mumpower participated in cross country, wrestling and baseball.

Head football coach Jess Rutledge said athletes who compete year-round are extra valuable to high school coaches. "Generally, they are in better shape and less prone to injury," Rutledge said.

Head track and cross country coach Roger Alderman coached both Reves and Mumpower. He described Reves as a "hard-nosed competitor who finds that little extra when needed." He said Mumpower "changed from just leading by example into being a

more vocal leader."

Basketball coach Christian Ulsaker praised Reves' effort in his senior season. "Jace was a key glue guy for us this year. He knew his role and had key plays during the season to make us successful. My favorite memory of Jace was him having to step up and become more of a focal point in our offense during the Royal Valley Tournament. I believe that experience gave him more confidence as a player, the rest of the season," Ulsaker said. "I only got to coach Jace for two years, but his basketball IQ grew significantly from his junior year to his senior year. I felt that once Jace got into a system he understood, we could put him into positions to be successful."

Baseball coach Jeron Weishaar said Mumpower has been important to the program. "He's a good vocal leader. His even-keeled nature has been great since the beginning and he's always willing to do whatever the coaches ask of him."

Why did you play 3 sports all four years?

Eli: "I've always had fun and want to be that senior that leads the team."

Jace: "It was fun and I wanted an upperclassman leader."

Was there at any point that you almost stopped playing?

Eli: "No there wasn't."

Jace: "No, there wasn't a time I didn't play a sport, but there was a time I almost played a different sport. I was about to wrestle."

How has one sport helped you in other sports?

Eli: "They build on each other. Allow you to be a better athlete through all three of them."

Jace: "It has made

me a better athlete and helped me battle adversity."

Would you encourage underclassmen to be a 12 sport athlete?

Eli: "Yes, it makes the year go by faster, makes it fun, and allows you to do something you might not be able to again."

Jace: "Yes, because you will probably not be able to after high school. Might as well to most you can while you can."

What did your parents think of you playing all three sports?

Eli: "They've always pushed to do as much as possible, to try new things, and to stick out whatever I've tried."

Jace: "They've always been encouraging and telling me to work hard."

What were the highlights of your career?

Eli: "Qualified for state three times for cross country and getting 6th in wrestling."

Jace: "Sophomore year of track, this year getting second place in state for basketball, and for football this year getting our first playoff win in 37 years."

How have you changed mentally since you were a

freshman?

freshman?

Eli: "Confidence, just knowing I can do it."

Jace: "Stronger mentally and have more confidence in myself. Just knowing that I'm a senior now and not a little guy."

Could you think of anytime you were a leader?

Eli: "Leading the team that the other three years have taught me. Helping the underclassmen learn new stuff."

Jace: "Track, I'm the only senior that's done it all four years. I'm the only one that really knows the system. I have to lead through the exercises and stretches and make sure everyone's not goofing off."

How would your coaches describe you?

Eli: "Hard-working and reliable."

Jace: "Hard-working."

RECENT 12-SPORT ATHLETES

Class of 2020

Laurel Barber
Jackson Frank
Alexis Hafenstine
Keaton Johnson
Autymn Schreiner
Megan Strait
Luke Stuhlsatz

Class of 2019

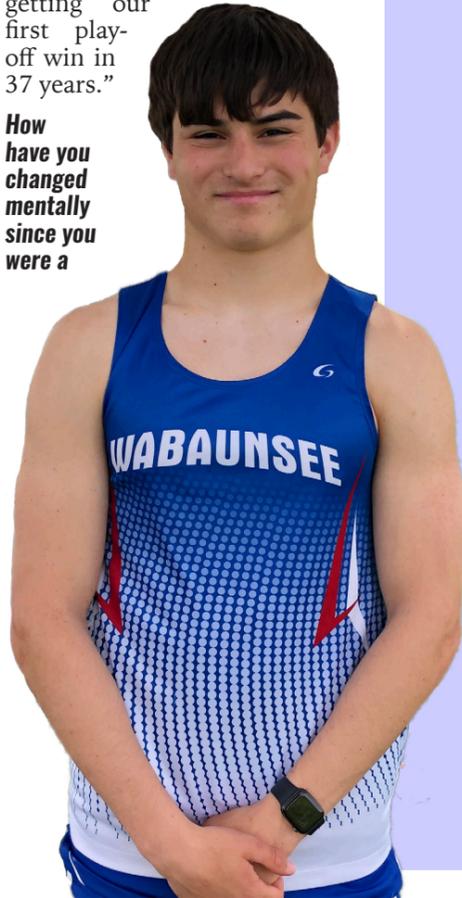
Austin Magette
Sean Duggar
Abby Oliver

Class of 2018

Kolby Droegemeier
Riley Tubbs
Evan Hutley
Chase Nelson
Kyle Schmitz
Karsen Schultz
Josh Wurtz

Class of 2017

Heath Hier
Cooper Imthurn
Rayann Johnson
Cameron Wurtz
Britt Michaelis
Mitchell Wertzberger
Luke Swicegood
Louis Vopata
Braden Tharman



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Some students eligible for COVID vaccine

Emma Alderman | news editor

With Kansas lessening the restrictions on who can get the COVID-19 vaccine many students may be wondering how they can get it.

Currently Wabaunsee County is in Phase 5 of the COVID-19 vaccine distribution plan which means any person over the age of 18 who wants the vaccine can get it. So far all the people who are 65 years old and older and wanted the vaccine have gotten it.

"The reports are very promising so we should see the age lowered sometime soon. As soon as we get the OK we'll

move into doing younger than 18 year olds with parental approval. I hope we will be able to announce this soon," said County Health Administrator, Ray Finley.

One of the vaccines, the Pfizer, is available for people who are 16 or 17 to get but Wabaunsee County has not received any shipments of it from the state. A couple WHS students who are eighteen or older have been able to get the vaccine in the county, such as senior Madisyn Wertzberger.

"I got the vaccine because the rest of my family got it and I wanted to keep them safe," Wertzberger said.

Other options of getting the vaccine for students under 18 is to look at different clinics outside the county or talk to your family's health care provider. Brady Bayless, a junior at WHS, got his first COVID-19 shot at Stormont Vail.

If someone wants to get the COVID-19 vaccine in Wabaunsee County they need to make an appointment either by calling the district office or going to the Wabaunsee County website. This is due to the vaccine being contained in multiple dose vials and only able to be used within 6 hours or it no longer works.

Question of the Week

What's an item on your high school "bucket list" that you still need to do?

"Graduate maybe, I don't really know."

Senior Jayna Keller

"Ace a test."

Freshman Heather Baker

"Be first in line for lunch. Like the very first person to show up."

Junior Lauren Schutter

"Use my locker."

Sophomore AJ Grutsch

"Win a championship."

Sophomore Logan Clark

"Be able to do a standing back flip before the end of my high school career."

Sophomore Kwinton Willier

What special or exciting plans do you have for the summer?

"Making money and getting ready for college. I'm excited to go dorm room shopping."

Senior Lily Ogden

"I have road trip plans with friends, and hopefully a new job on the way."

Senior Jayna Keller

"Traveling to Texas and Michigan to judge cattle shows."

Ag teacher Danny Davis

"Driver's Ed, since it was canceled last year."

Freshman Heather Baker

"Grandsons Galore!!!"

Science teacher Lisa Hull

"Committing somewhere to play volleyball in college."

Junior Lauren Schutter

"I will ride my bicycle as much as I can and watch my son play baseball and basketball."

Music teacher Jamie Rogers

"Vacation in Gulf Shores, Alabama."

Junior Jacob Daley

"I will go on vacation, attend dance intensives, and camp."

Freshman Eliza Barton

What is one change that school or society made due to COVID-19 that you hope continues after the pandemic?

"Meetings over zoom."

Ag teacher Danny Davis

"Being spread out and not having to show my face everyday."

Junior Lauren Schutter

"Making people wash their hands more."

Senior Madisyn Wertzberger

"Virtual learning."

Sophomore Kwinton Willier

Honestly, I thought that all of the changes were pretty bad. I would hate to keep any of them.

Freshman Eliza Barton