



**AUSTIN NEACE**  
**NVHS BOOSTER CLUB FEATURED ATHLETE OF THE WEEK**  
**VOLLEYBALL PROGRAM**

*The NVHS Athletic Booster Club is proud to present the featured athlete of this week, volleyball player AUSTIN NEACE.*

**Booster Club Reporter:** *How did you get interested in playing volleyball? Do you play any other sports?*

**Austin:** I play every sport but just for fun. I grew up playing football, soccer, basketball, and baseball and decided to solely focus on volleyball my sophomore year.

**Booster Club Reporter:** *And why volleyball?*

**Austin:** I like all sports and tend to be pretty athletic. I chose volleyball because I liked it the most. It came easy to me. I wanted to play a sport in college and there was potential for me with volleyball.

**Booster Club Reporter:** *But was your decision that clear cut?*

**Austin:** I had focused on baseball after being on the Neuqua freshman basketball team because I had played it since I was three. Half way through try-outs, the freshman volleyball coach, who was my gym teacher, said I should try out for volleyball instead. I decided to continue the rest of the week of baseball try-outs and made the first two cuts but not the third. I immediately registered to try-out for the volleyball team and made Freshman A. At first, it was

disappointing to not have made into the baseball team, but I quickly realized my passion and love for volleyball. Had I made the baseball team, I would have never known about volleyball and the joy that it brings. Nor would I have had the chance to play D1 volleyball in college. I learned that through difficult times when you feel disappointed, you have to keep your head up and look at the opportunities that are available to you and make the most of them. I am grateful to Coach Fitz for seeing something in me that I haven't seen it yet.

**Booster Club Reporter:** *What a great lesson! What else have you learned from playing competitive sports?*

**Austin:** "No Pain, No Gain." A lot of times you will have to go through pain and frustration in order to reach the next level. But, once you do reach the next level, the happiness you feel is indescribable. I also have learned how to work together with other people. No matter where you are in life or how old you are, there will be others that you have to learn to work with in life.

**Booster Club Reporter:** *What do you think younger athletes could learn from you?*

**Austin:** I think younger athletes could learn about work ethic from me. Hard work will pay off in the end. My advice to younger athletes is to always work hard and make goals for yourself. Without end goals, it makes it much harder to have the work ethic to succeed.

**Booster Club Reporter:** *What does leadership mean to you?*

**Austin:** Leadership means encouraging others, routing them on, bringing the team to the next level, focusing on the game and learning each other.

**Booster Club Reporter:** *What does playing in a team mean to you?*

**Austin:** Playing on a team is being friends on and off the court; being able to work together, have similar end goals of succeeding, and willing to sacrifice for each other.

**Booster Club Reporter:** Do you have a favorite quote which inspires you when things get hard?

**Austin:** "I've missed more than 9000 shots in my career. I've lost almost 300 games. 26 times, I've been trusted to take the game winning shot and missed. I've failed over and over and over again in my life. And that is why I succeed."