



**JULIA HUEBNER & JESSICA BOUDREAU
NVHS BOOSTER CLUB FEATURED ATHLETES OF THE WEEK
SOFTBALL PROGRAM**

The NVHS Athletic Booster Club is proud to present the featured athlete of this week, best friends and softball players Julia Huebner and Jessica Boudreau.

Booster Club Reporter: *what made you girls choose softball over other sports?*

Julia: Softball requires so much mental and individual toughness. When you're up to bat, it's a one on one battle against the pitcher. You can't stall and run the clock out, you have to stand up there and fight until you get on base or get out.

Jessica: Yes, It's a tough game to play, and not many people take that into consideration while watching it. I decided to play softball over anything else because of the pressure it places both on the team and each individual player, along with the mental aspect of it.

Booster Club Reporter: *What have you learned from playing competitive softball?*

Julia: Sports have taught me to always persevere. I've played in games where we've been down by 5 or 6 runs and it's seemed like the game was out of reach, but we've managed to come back and win. Times like these have helped me learn to never give up and to rely on others to help pick me up.

Jessica: Softball has taught me discipline, hard work, sacrifice, teamwork, striving for goals, overcoming adversity, and the value of practice and preparation.

Booster Club Reporter: *What role do your coaches play in your life?*

Julia: My coach sophomore year used to tell us to "roll with the punches". I think this is such a valuable phrase to live by because there are many times that things occur that are out of your control and you have to learn to deal with them and make the most out of any situation.

Jessica: The Neuqua softball program is an unbelievable, loving family and I have been blessed to be apart of it for the past 4 years. My coaches are so caring, influential, and passionate. They've always pushed me to be a better person and player, and have taught me more than just the fundamentals of softball.

Booster Club Reporter: *What do you wish you knew back when you were starting?*

Jessica: I think I took the little things for granted because I played softball for so long, not realizing it would eventually end. I never really got to take it all in and realize how much the game really meant to me.

Julia: For me, it is the realization that the game doesn't define you. I used to let games get in my head and make me believe I wasn't a good player. I know now that the more important thing is to bounce back and be better the next day.

Booster Club Reporter: *What does "team" mean to you?*

Julia Playing on a team, to me, means that you're never alone in a win or a loss. You always have at least eight other girls to lean on for support.

Jessica: I think the best part of being apart of a team is dealing with different personalities and styles, because everyone is different, and it can be challenging sometimes. A lot of times that's the hardest thing to overcome, and it plays a big role in the team's success.

Booster Club Reporter: *And as individuals, what do you bring to the team?*

Jessica: I believe what sets me apart is my attitude. I am a dedicated, hard worker player who loves to lead and be the best teammate I can be. Bonding with each individual player and knowing how each teammate likes to be talked to during a game helps an unbelievable amount with being a successful team.

Julia: I am hard on myself. I think that this pushes me to be a better player and not blame others for mistakes that I make. This keeps me humble and also helps me push myself to improve.

Booster Club Reporter: *Who are your role models?*

Jessica: I have many role models, but my #1 role model I will look up to for the rest of my life is my mom. She is such a dedicated hard worker, and always puts others before herself and does what she has to do in order to get the job done. She pushes me to be the best I possibly can be, but is also there when things take a turn for the worst. I love her so much and I truly appreciate and admire everything she works for and what she does for everyone else around her.

Julia: My parents are my role models. They've supported me my whole life and also helped me grow into the person I am today.