



MATT TOUT
NVHS BOOSTER CLUB FEATURED ATHLETE OF THE WEEK
SPECIAL ATHLETE

The NVHS Athletic Booster Club is proud to present the featured athlete of this week, special athlete MATT TOUT. Coach Gatto says she nominated Matt for many reasons! Matt has been involved in Special Olympics all 4 years at Neuqua and has competed in ALL five sports every year! Matt is an amazing leader on and off the court. He is always encouraging his teammates and making sure that everyone is staying focused on the task at hand. Matt's smile and laugh can bring joy to any situation. He truly is a fantastic teammate, leader, supporter, friend, and athlete!

Booster Club Reporter: *Matt, I heard that special athletes are talented multi-sports athletes. What sports do you play?*

Matt: I play Special Olympic sports throughout the whole school year. In the fall I play Unified soccer with my peers and peer partners, in the winter I play basketball and participate on the swim team, and in the spring I run track and do bowling.

Booster Club Reporter: *What made you decide to get involved in competitive sports?*

Matt: I have participated in Special Olympics sports since I was 8 years old with WDSRA. When I got to Neuqua Valley, I was so excited that I would be on a team playing for my school and that I would be a Neuqua Valley Wildcat!!

Booster Club Reporter: *What do you find most fun, and do you find harder, in competing in the Special Olympics?*

Matt: The best part of Special Olympics is being on a team with my friends and having coaches that teach me how to do my best. I love going to practice after school and dressing in my Neuqua uniform to play my sports. What is hard is sometimes even when our team works hard we don't always win.

Booster Club Reporter: *What is your strategy to deal with "difficult moments" such as these? Can you give me an example of something you've learned from a difficult situation?*

Matt: I try to understand why I'm feeling upset and share it with my family, teachers and friends. Sometimes people don't understand what I'm trying to say. I have learned to never give up and that what I have to say is important. I use my iPad and any other way I can to help people understand me.

Booster Club Reporter: *What have the Special Sports brought into your life?*

Matt: Special Olympic sports have shown me how much fun it is to be on a team. It has also taught me to work hard, never give up and to cheer on my teammates.

Booster Club Reporter: *Do you have a role model? Why is this person your role model?*

Matt: My dad is my role model. He takes care of me and I love spending time with him doing errands, watching TV and taking our dogs for a walk. He also teaches me how to take care of myself.

Booster Club Reporter: *Matt, tell me three things people normally don't know about you.*

Matt: Most people don't know that my favorite TV show is Full House, that I like to control the radio in the car and that I love water slides!

Booster Club Reporter: *What would you like people to know about special needs athletes?*

Matt: I would like people to know that special needs athletes are no different than any other athletes. We like to be part of a team, we work hard at practice and listen to our coaches, we like to go to games, we sometimes feel happy and sometimes feel disappointed. It's also great to have our family and friends cheering us on in the stands and routing for us!