



DREW DVORCHAK
NVHS BOOSTER CLUB FEATURED ATHLETE OF THE WEEK
BOYS SWIM PROGRAM

The NVHS Athletic Booster Club is proud to present the featured athlete of this week, swimmer DREW DVORCHAK. To Drew, these honors are not any news. Drew has been nominated Team Captain and received a Leadership award, as well as Most Dedicated Award because of his contributions to the team. He was also the recipient of the Upstate Eight Sportsmanship Award for the year of 2011-12. Of course, the fruits of his dedication don't get limited to recognition by coaches, but are most evident in the pool. Among other accomplishments, Drew is the fifth Neuqua swimmer ever to win a IHSA State medal, finishing in 10th place in his favorite stroke, the butterfly. Not by chance his two strong strokes-, butterfly and backstroke-, require extremely powerful underwater kicking, which coach Allen says is his biggest strength. In the planning stages of the portrait, Drew brought in a suggestion, a pose he would like to try. Worried about its execution, I asked, "can you do it?", to which he sheepishly replied:"oh, yeah, I can". Little did I know...

Booster Club Reporter: For how long have you been swimming?

Drew:I joined the local neighborhood swim team when I was 5 years old, then joined a club team (Fox Valley) when I was 6 and have swam with the same club ever since. I've been on the Neuqua varsity team for all 4 years of high school.

Booster Club Reporter: Are you a one sport guy?

Drew: I played football, baseball and water polo through my sophomore year of high school. It was only at the beginning of my junior year that I decided to focus completely on swimming. Actually, during my freshman year I really got into football. I had so much fun playing with guys with whom I am still friends today, that I almost considered quitting swimming. But then Kevin Cordes, swim senior captain, took me under his wing and mentored me and I ended up staying. I am glad I did. I so value what I learned from Kevin-, he is one of my role models. He has gone on to break many American records and has been a national champion multiple times. He is in line to swim in the Olympics in 2016.

Booster Club Reporter: You have all these awards that speak of your dedication to swimming. What is your key word to keep up with such a demanding sport?

Drew: Both my club coach, Dave Krotiak, and my high school coach, Chad Allen, have taught me a key skill, which is to keep my priorities in line and crunch my time to accommodate my busy schedule. I've learned much more than swimming with those guys over the years; learned about life. I've learned what hard work is about, and that you only get out what you put in.

Booster Club Reporter: Mmm... ok, Drew, spill out. What's your secret?

Drew: With 9 practices a week I am at the pool over 20 hour a week. This makes it tough to keep my grades up. With swimming taking up so much time you have to focus on your grades in the time you have, or your grades will drop. It just comes down to getting the work in when you can and staying focused. My mom also plays a huge part in my academic success. She is always on me about my grades and keeps me motivated to do my best.

Booster Club Reporter: Yay to the moms! What do you wish you had known when you were just starting?

Drew: When I was just starting out I wish I would've known the impact confidence can have on you. If you believe in yourself you succeed more often than not.

Booster Club Reporter: What is it about competition that attracts you?

Drew: I love the adrenaline rush during a race, coming out on top in a close race is the greatest feeling in the world. Relays also get me so excited, your team has your back, and on the same time you don't want to let them down. My favorite quote explains it well: "it's not the size of the dog in the fight, it's the size of the fight in the dog."