



The NVHS Athletic Booster Club is proud to present the featured dance athlete, dancer Madi Kemerly. According to coach Rzeszutko, Madi “is a role model in and out of uniform.” Madi has been a team captain for the past two years. During this time she has helped her team win the grand championship with Team Illinois and take the 4th place in their first IHSA dance state championship.

Booster Club Reporter: *How did you get involved with dance?*

Madi: I’ve been dancing since I was 3 years old. I did competitive dancing for 8 years before I tried for the varsity team at the end of my freshman year.

Booster Club Reporter: *Was it sort of a natural transition, then?*

Madi: Not really. I thought poms would be easier than competitive dancing, but it takes a lot of commitment, discipline and strength to take a dance routine and make it the best it can be. It took me time to adjust to the change and I considered stopping after my sophomore year, but before the season was over I realized how much I really loved it. A big part of it are the amazing relationships I made with girls I wouldn’t have known otherwise.

Booster Club Reporter: *So what would you say to someone who is considering joining the team?*

Madi: Go for it! You may be surprised by the outcome. It is a great way to make friends and get involved with the school. Even if you don’t make it, you will receive feedback and learn what you need to improve so you can try again the next year.

Booster Club Reporter: *You are making an important point here. How do you deal with feedback, especially when you think you did great?*

Madi: It is hard to receive criticism when you think you just did an amazing job, but I try to make it a positive thing because I understand that the person took her time to give me a correction, and her interest is to help me to improve. There is a chance this person saw something in what I was doing that I didn’t even realize it was wrong. I listen, make more questions if I don’t understand the correction, and then I work on fixing what needs to be fixed.

Booster Club Reporter: *Was there a moment as a team when you had to resort to that spirit of resilience?*

Madi: Oh, yes. On our first IHSA state we made past the first day of competition in the top 10. By the end of the second day we placed 4th place overall. We had 14 seniors on the team and so it was their last time performing. It was hard to watch the top three teams walk across the podium knowing that we were just one place away from making up there. We all felt disappointed. But after our coach talked to us we realized that we gave the best we could have given, that maybe the judges saw something more in the other routines than in ours, so we accepted the fact that we did our best and that is all it matters in the end. Taking that 4th place was a huge accomplishment after all.

Booster Club Reporter: *Absolutely. It is something of which to be very proud. And going forward, what are your plans?*

Madi: I am not sure yet, but I am very interested in nutrition, so I will most likely study something related to health and science. I will miss my Neuqua family so much; it was a huge privilege to be part of it for four years. I hope I can be part of the dance team at the college I choose and be able to keep performing and competing.

Booster Club Reporter: *The coach had pretty nice things to say about you. Who is Madi Kemerly in your own words?*

Madi: I would probably be perceived as the typical Naperville girl, but here comes the twist: I drive a big truck. Driving a big car translates into my personality in that I like to be unique and I would say my truck stands out. I also love watching sunsets, sunrises, stars and thunderstorms; they are so peaceful to me. I have three dogs that make me happy when I am having a bad day. In all, I am just a happy friendly person.