

2023 Scholarship Winners



Avery Kuklinski Esko High School

Since Kindergarten Avery has been very passionate about basketball. It goes without saying that at her height, playing basketball is a challenge. She was told at a very early age she would have to work ten times harder than everyone else. Basketball has taught her to never give up on her goals, and never let her size dictate what she can and can't do. Avery has seen herself grow every day and accomplish things she never thought she could. She's done all of this while navigating a significant medical challenge. Throughout her teen years, Avery has persevered through, sometimes, debilitating juvenile rheumatoid arthritis. Her fortitude and tenacity empower others around her to achieve their best in the face of adversity. Avery plans on attending Valley City State University in North Dakota where she plans on playing basketball and softball. She will be majoring in Physical Education and Sports Leadership while also getting her coaching certification in hopes of coaching college basketball someday.



Luke Wilson Pine City High School

Luke is very involved with his school and community. He is the senior class president and promotes music, events, clubs, and activities throughout the school as an active member of the Dragon Club Phoenix. Outside of school, he works as a lifeguard, supports elementary students at basketball camps, and volunteers in the senior living community. Growing up Luke has always been a determined person. He set his goals high and put in the work until he achieves them and exceeds them. At an early age, Luke was introduced to the game of basketball and fell in love with it. His mindset is that there is always room for improvement both on and off the court. He would like to obtain a degree in business but is open to exploring other areas while completing his general requirements. Luke is undecided which 4-year college he will attend.



Ava Lamers Rhinelander High School

Ava is a three-sport athlete who has maintained a rigorous academic schedule, earning a 4.507 GPA and a class rank of 2/197. Basketball has taught her that success is about preparation. If you put in the unseen hours, your hard work will pay off. It has also taught her to not blame others when success doesn't happen. Instead, take ownership of your actions and ask yourself what you can do differently next time to ensure success. Beyond shooting and dribbling skills, basketball developed Ava's leadership skills. As team captain, she accepted the responsibility to help others believe in themselves and our purpose. She believed that responsibility should not end on the court or weight room but should extend into the classroom and beyond. She made good personal choices and worked hard in the classroom to provide a good example and gain the respect of my teammates. Her future career goals include pursuing an undergraduate degree in kinesiology at UW-Madison or the University of Montana in preparation for a graduate physician assistant or doctoral physical therapy program.



Charlie Morning Menomonie High School

Charlie has been playing basketball for as long as he can remember. He attended his first game when he was 6 days old and has been in a gym ever since. Basketball also has taught him teamwork and how to make sacrifices for each other, for the betterment of the team. Basketball pushed him to be a better person. Charlie demonstrates compassion for others by being actively involved in the community. Charlie will be attending UW-Superior and majoring in Exercise Science with a Business minor. He has also committed to play basketball for the UW-Superior Yellowjackets Men Basketball Team.