

meet 16-year-old
HUNTER MAHON



athlete of the month

Written by Hunter Mahon



I'm a junior at Fox Chapel Area High School. My sport is Crew. During the summer before freshman year, I attended a two-week rowing camp offered in Millvale. I immediately fell in love with the sport and knew this would be my passion. Since attending that camp I went on to row for Fox Chapel during freshman year where I had great times and participated in many events with my teammates. In the fall of sophomore year I changed to the Steel City Rowing Club in Verona. I became dedicated to pursuit of a college scholarship enabling me to work toward a coaching position in this sport, maybe one day, a chance at a seat in an Olympic boat. My first full season with Steel City Rowing Club, we traveled and participated in many regattas, both out of state and locally, gaining a great deal of experience.

The most memorable was when we won the Boys Varsity 1 Quad Gold Medal and Plaque at the 2016 Midwest Junior Rowing Championships, which granted the opportunity to row at Mercer Lake in Princeton New Jersey in the US Youth Rowing Nationals. Although it wasn't our year to bring home a medal, we gave it our all and are very proud to have reached such an achievement. I returned home with the realization that I have two more years to improve my technique and reach for that goal again before I graduate in 2018.

I love the competitive aspect of Crew as well as the camaraderie with fellow teammates and the friends that I have made. We spend long hours together training, rowing and traveling, and they're a great group of people.

Other things I love about the sport are the beautiful mornings and afternoons on the water when it's just me, my surroundings, the boat gliding through the water; it's very peaceful and it gives me the opportunity to focus and center on what needs to be accomplished.

Although Crew is very physically challenging, the lessons of teamwork, reliance and dedication are well-worth the sacrifices that need to be made, especially those made daily by my Mom, my coaches, and my teammates - all working for the same goal: our love of Crew.

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