



# THE HERALD BULLETIN 2017-18 WINTER ATHLETES OF THE YEAR

## BOYS SWIMMING LUKE WIHEBRINK & CAMERON KORDES

Senior, Junior |  
Pendleton Heights

There was no separation between the top two area performers in this sport, so Pendleton Heights senior Luke Wihebrink and junior Cameron Kordes will share swimmer of the year honors.

The duo combined to help set school records in the 200 medley relay and 400 freestyle relay and were part of the sectional teams that finished fourth and third, respectively, in those two events this year.

Kordes also broke the school record in the 200 individual medley this season.

"It meant a lot to do the things we did and achieve a Pendleton Heights record, with all the great swimmers we've had,"

Wihebrink said. "It's nice to know that we had the best group of four to ever come through the program."

How close were these two this season?

In total points, Kordes edged Wihebrink 257.5-254.5. Both had 21 first-place finishes this season and had first-place finishes in all five events that each swam. In conference, Kordes placed second in both of his individual events and Wihebrink placed second and fourth. In sectional, Kordes was fourth and fifth and Wihebrink was fourth and seventh.

Kordes, who just missed advancing to the state meet, is using that as motivation to advance past sectional next year.

"I had a couple setbacks early this year with my shoulder," he said. "I'll keep the comeback going strong next year and be prepared."

Wihebrink will be attending the University of Arizona in the fall and plans to compete in the triathlon as a Wildcat.

"It's the closest thing to swimming there that I'll be able to do, because their swimming team is so strong," Wihebrink said.

## BOYS BASKETBALL LUKE RICHARDSON

Junior | Lapel

Boys basketball season ended sooner than usual for area teams. However, there was still no shortage of outstanding individual performances, with Lapel junior Luke Richardson edging out a crowded field of contenders for the THB boys basketball player of the year.

"This really means a lot," Richardson said. "I'm sure that my family is really proud of me in all that I do."

The 6-foot-5 forward was second in the area in both scoring and rebounding, averaging 19.7 and 8.9 respectively. He nearly doubled the output from a productive sophomore campaign and credits hard work with his breakout performance.

"This just shows how hard I've worked," Richardson said. "When I was younger, I wasn't very skilled. But I've worked hard in the gym and used some of the talent I do have to shape myself into a pretty good player."

With the long shadow cast by his older brother, 1,000-point career scorer Jon Ross, gone to graduation, Luke looked to score more this season. He shot 52 percent from the floor overall, including a solid 34 percent from beyond the 3-point line. He was a 77 percent free throw shooter and averaged 3.3 offensive rebounds, leading the team in that important category.

"I was definitely more aggressive offensively," he said. "Last year, I would look for Jon Ross and he always got the buckets, but this year it was me."

Luke was mainly a JV player as a freshman when his older brother helped Lapel win a state championship in 2016. He said winning sectional this year as a central figure on the team was very gratifying.

"It felt really great," he said. "I had my family supporting me the entire way. Both of my brothers were telling me that I could do it, and we did. It was the most amazing feeling. It was sweet."

## GIRLS BASKETBALL SYDNEY TUCKER

Senior | Frankton

When the calendar rolled over from 2017 to 2018, Frankton senior guard Sydney Tucker really heated up. With a 42-point performance against rival Lapel in the Madison County tournament and a stellar performance in the sectional championship win over previously undefeated Monroe Central, Tucker emerged from a crowded pack of talented players to claim this year's girls basketball player of the year.

"I feel like this is very special," Tucker said. "There is always going to be competition and the only way to be the best is to work hard at it. I know I'm not the best, but I put in the work. It definitely pays off."

After scoring 19.8 points per game this season to lead the area, Tucker finishes her career with 1,732 points, good enough for second place in school history.

This is her fourth straight year as a Herald Bulletin first-team selection, and she was selected to participate in the Hoosier Basketball Magazine's Top 60 workout.

The four-year captain scored 40 points in a game twice this season, including establishing a Lapel gym record with her performance against the Bulldogs. Her play in the fourth quarter against the Golden Bears helped seal Frankton's trip to regional, where they would knock off No. 1 Oak Hill on their way to semistate.

"(The Lapel) game was a big moment for me," she said. "That's probably the most threes I've ever hit in a game."

She connected on 7 of 11 3-point shots in that game, but is also an excellent defender, leading the Eagles with 3.2 steals per game.

She will be continuing her basketball career at the University of Evansville, where she will be studying to be a surgeon.

## WRESTLING SILAS ALLRED

Sophomore | Shenandoah

Shenandoah sophomore Silas Allred did not allow a football injury to derail a second consecutive successful season. Although he missed the first half of the season, Allred entered the state meet with an unblemished record for the second straight year, this time as a semistate champion, earning him the title of 2017-18 Herald Bulletin wrestler of the year.

"Mentally, it didn't really deter me," Allred said of the injury. "I was always focused and I knew what I had to do to reach my goals. I had to get strength back."

Allred was 22-0 when he arrived at the state finals, where he punched his ticket to the quarterfinals by fall. He lost by decision in the next round, but bounced back with a pair of victories to place fifth in the 182-pound division. This season came on the heels of a 44-1 freshman campaign that ended in the ticket round of state.

"Next year, I couldn't be more excited," Allred said. "My goal is to be ranked No. 1 going into next season and I don't expect to finish any less than that."

In just two seasons, Allred has racked up two sectional and two regional championships as well as a conference title.

Away from school, he has won back to back ISWA championships in Folkstyle, Freestyle and Greco wrestling and, in 2017, he placed fourth at the Cadet Greco Nationals.

In addition to being an accomplished athlete, Allred is also successful in the classroom, where he carries a 4.1 grade point average.

## GIRLS SWIMMING MCKENNA JULE

Senior | Pendleton Heights

She entered the season as the odds-on favorite to win this award and did nothing to disappoint. McKenna Jule qualified for the state finals in four events and established five school records this season, making the Arabians senior the runaway winner of the 2017-18 girls swimmer of the year.

"I'm very proud and it shows how much work I've put into this sport," Jule said. "Hopefully, people will knock those (records) down in the future, but I'd like them to stay up for a little while."

She set the school marks this year in the 50, 100 and 200 freestyle and the 200 and 400 freestyle relays and holds a sixth school record in the 100 butterfly, set during her freshman season.

Jule captured four Hoosier Heritage Conference championships this season (50 free, 100 free, 200 free relay and 400 free relay), bringing her career total to 11.

She is a two-time team captain and was a leading reason why PH won two conference titles during her career after the Arabians had accomplished that feat only twice in the previous 37 years.

"I think it shows that my class did its job," Jule said. "It shows that hard work, once again."

Arabians teams were undefeated twice and boast a 92 percent winning percentage during McKenna's career. She will be swimming the sprint events and studying pre-med biology next year at Purdue University.

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