

Fox is Panthers' team mom

BY GEORGE BREMER
THE HERALD BULLETIN

One term kept coming up in submissions from Elwood coaches, players and fans supporting Emma Fox for the Heart of Sports Award: Mom. It's one thing to drive the team bus from town to town throughout multiple seasons. That's an often thankless job unto itself. But Fox goes the extra mile. And that's why she's been named the 2019 THB Sports Awards Heart of Sports Award winner. She bakes homemade cookies for the Panthers and has them ready when the teams board for the return trip home. She's also known to hand out candy for a little extra pick-me-up during practices and games or simply to

HEART OF SPORTS



provide a shoulder to cry on or a sympathetic ear to listen to whatever an athlete needs. Fox serves many roles in the Elwood athletic department including volunteer assistant coach and scorekeeper. But her most common title seems to be team mother. She's the pulse of whatever team she's serving at a given time, helping the coaches remember things like first-aid kits and extra uniforms all while tending to everyone's individual needs. Need some Tylenol or extra athletic tape? Ask Fox. She has a bag of supplies at

the ready for each event, and much of what it contains was paid for out of her own pocket. "We are very fortunate to have Emma as part of our coaching staff and wish we had more Emmas in the world," head softball coach JR Reese wrote in a nominee submission. It was a sentiment repeated again and again by players and parents alike. On top of everything else Fox does for the Panthers, she's also their loudest fan. She doesn't ask for anything in return for all the help she provides to her teams. "She loves the Lady Panthers," athletic director Marty Wells wrote. And it's clear the feeling is mutual.

SCHOLAR ATHLETE

BY ROB HUNT
THE HERALD BULLETIN

Green excels on, off field

Megan Green earned six varsity letters at Pendleton Heights, four on the soccer team and two with the Unified Track team. But her activities didn't sidetrack her academics, and Green is the 2019 THB Sports Girls Scholar Athlete of the Year.



The daughter of Bill and Kelli Green of Pendleton, Megan ranked third in her class of 335 with a 13.83 grade point average on the 12 point scale, which translates to a 4.75 on the four point scale. She graduated summa cum laude with Academic Honors and served as president of the National Honor Society. Green was the secretary on the student council and a member of the Math and Science Academic Teams, BETA Club, Prom and Steering Committees, Pendleton Players, and the National Society of High School Scholars. She served as her class president for four years and is a Best Buddy. Green is a 10-year member of 4H. She is a Horizon International Child Sponsor Leader and sponsors a child in Zimbabwe. Green is the 2019 Red Haven Award recipient and received the Lilly Endowment Scholarship. She will attend the University of Notre Dame, where she plans on studying to be a dermatologist.

BY GEORGE BREMER
THE HERALD BULLETIN

McNeal exemplifies leadership

Leadership takes many forms, and Preston McNeal displays them all. A three-sport athlete, the Anderson Prep senior was the quarterback of the football team and the school's valedictorian with a sparkling 4.527 GPA this year. He even found time to perform in the show choir and surprised his parents with his first solo prior to the school's graduation ceremony. It's an impressive bit of multi-tasking that did not go unnoticed by the school administration. "While participating in three sports for four consecutive years, Preston was still able to maintain his academic priorities and graduate as valedictorian of the 2019 class of 58 students at APA," athletic director David Bradford wrote in a nominee submission. McNeal also was a leader for the boys basketball team and earned honorable mention All-Pioneer Academic Athletic Conference notice in baseball.



MENTAL ATTITUDE



BY GEORGE BREMER
THE HERALD BULLETIN

Lohrey represents Raiders with pride

Hayden Lohrey became the first three-time state qualifier in Shenandoah wrestling history this year, and he finished a career-best seventh place at the IHSAA State Finals. But he's made at least as big an impact off the mat. Lohrey is a role model for the younger wrestlers in the program, many of whom he helped bring into the sport. And he willingly accepted a supporting role on the football and baseball teams, helping in whatever fashion the coaches thought best. That's not an easy thing for a superstar in another sport to do. But such is Lohrey's commitment to the Raiders. Because of his leadership, citizenship and willingness to sacrifice, Lohrey has been named the 2019 THB Sports Awards Boys Mental Attitude Award winner. Lohrey plans to continue his wrestling career at Purdue next year. He'll join a Boilermakers program that sent three wrestlers to the NCAA Championships last

season, where he can again serve as a role model for Shenandoah athletes hoping to follow in his footsteps. "He is an outstanding ambassador for Shenandoah High School," Lohrey's athletic director Todd Salkoski wrote in a nominee submission form. That will be his greatest legacy with the Raiders. Lohrey helped keep the Shenandoah wrestling program together through some very difficult times. And the Raiders found a way to thrive. In addition to Lohrey's seventh-place finish, junior Silas Allred claimed a state championship in his second state finals appearance. Lohrey served as Allred's sparring partner and savored his teammate's success. "If you didn't have a son and wanted a son that made you proud of how he has handled his success on a daily basis, you could not do any better than to pick Hayden Lohrey," Salkoski wrote.

Frankton's Lowe keeps things positive

Laikyn Lowe hasn't been difficult to find for the past several years. Just go to the nearest Frankton athletic event and look for the flaming red hair at the center of the student section. A three-sport athlete in volleyball, basketball and softball, Lowe always found the time to support her fellow Eagles. This even extended to the junior high teams, whose events she would often attend just to make sure the younger athletes knew their efforts were appreciated. Her constant positive attitude — even in the face of an injury that forced her to miss her senior basketball season — has helped Lowe be named the 2019 THB Sports Awards Girls Mental Attitude Award winner. "Laikyn is a player that is always positive, even when not having such a good day in the field or in the batter's box," softball coach Jeremy Parker wrote in a nomination submission. "She is a

leader on and off the field, she is a player that attends the junior high games to show support to younger players and she's always that person in the dugout picking up teammates when they are struggling." She's also that person in the bleachers wearing an outlandish outfit and making as much noise as possible to cheer on Frankton. Lowe was a staple during the boys basketball team's run to a regional championship, but she was just as energetic sitting on the bench and cheering on her girls basketball teammates after being sidelined this year. She also was a member of the sectional championship volleyball team. "Laikyn was our setter this year and an amazing team player," volleyball coach Beth Sperry wrote. "I could always count on her to bring the team's spirits up either in a match or practice."

Mayor Thomas Broderick, Jr. & City of Anderson

Congratulations to all the dedicated student athletes in Anderson and Madison County

