

SportsMX/NDIAA

Athletes of the Month

March 2017



Austin Blair
Michigan School for the Deaf
Grade: Senior
Sport: Track & Field
Events: Sprints, Relays, Shot Put

Austin is known among his teammates as a humble athlete who lets his performance speak for him. His main event is the shot put but Austin also competes in the 100m dash and 4x100 relay. Over the course of his high school career, Austin has improved his shot put distance by three feet and he has plenty of time to improve on his personal best this season with seven more meets on slate. Much of Austin's improvement can be attributed to his ability to put his mind to achieve a certain goal and putting in the necessary work ethic to achieve that along with being receptive to coaching.

"Austin has been an excellent example to the athletes on his team and his coaches. He has been one of the most dedicated athletes who demonstrate enthusiasm and pride on and off the track. He performs well in competition and always throws further each time." - Michigan Track & Field Head Coach Michael Davis

Lily DeSimone
California School for the Deaf, Riverside
Grade: Sophomore
Sport: Softball
Position: Shortstop



Lily's growth as a complete player comes from her devotion to the game of softball. When practicing on the finer points of the game, Lily is often her own worst critic as she gets frustrated when things don't work out for her but her positive attitude as a competitor has rubbed off on her teammates. Lily is currently batting with a .545 average and has an on base/slugging percentage of 1.333. Lily leads the defense at the shortstop position and her youth is a bright spot for the team. Lily is also thriving as an excellent student and serves as an ambassador for ASBG.

"We admire her enthusiasm and passion for softball and she is a joy to coach. We are proud of her performance in practices and games." - Riverside Softball Coaches Tyler Bayarsky and Traci Price

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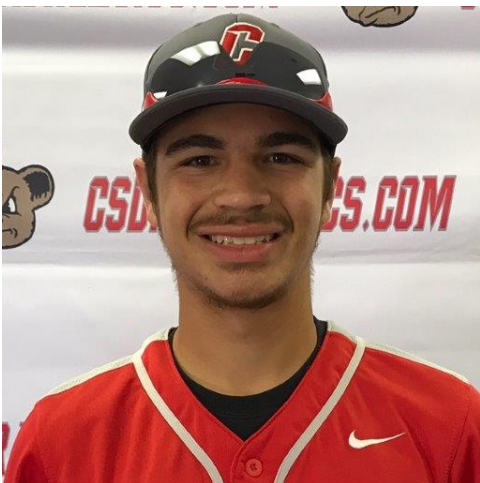
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Candace Fleming
Michigan School for the Deaf
Grade: Junior
Sport: Track & Field
Events: Sprints, Relays, Long Jump



Candace is a latecomer to Michigan's track & field program as this season marks the first time she has been part of the squad. Candace's contribution to the team was immediate as it was nothing short of positive with her being more than willing to put the team first ahead of her individual goals. Candace competes in the 100m, 200m, 4x100 relay, and long jump events. Candace's commitment to the program is evident with her continually showing up to practice prepared to work on getting better. Candace's dedication has paid off, as she has become a big part of the team.

"Candace is a tough competitor and exceeds to the best of her abilities. She shows great effort and intensity with solid effort. She has a wonderful radiant personality with integrity and I am truly proud to have her on our track team." - Michigan Track & Field Head Coach Janette Lyon



Jacob Weiss
California School for the Deaf, Riverside
Grade: Junior
Sport: Baseball
Position: Pitcher & Infielder

Playing in his first year of baseball, there was no learning curve for Jacob as he has made an immediate impact on the team. As a leadoff hitter, Jacob has an on base percentage of .590 along with being a terror on the base path with 21 stolen bases. Jacob usually anchors the infield at shortstop and is one of the pitchers. The team is taking advantage of Jacob's versatility to fill in other position when needed. He has pulled the team together with his leadership and dedication in honing his skills. Jacob's leadership traits do carry off the field as he holds the ASBG Vice President position.

"What impresses me the most is his leadership and without Jacob, the team will not maximize their potential." - Riverside Baseball Head Coach John Lawson