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Orange & White.

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THE WOODLANDS CHRISTIAN ACADEMY

Homecoming

2021

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#TWCAHOMECOMING

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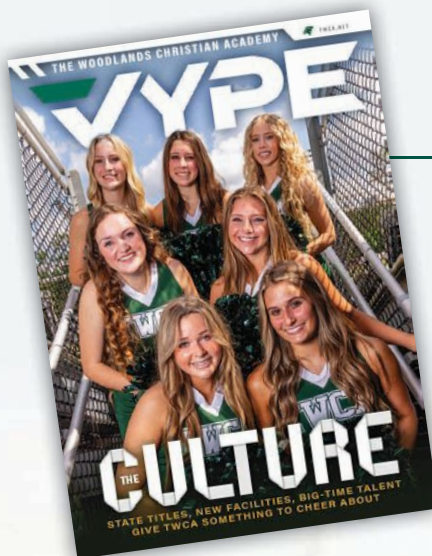
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ON THE COVER

Photo by **BRADLEY COLLIER**

There is a new vibe at The Woodlands Christian Academy as the Warriors have plenty to cheer about.

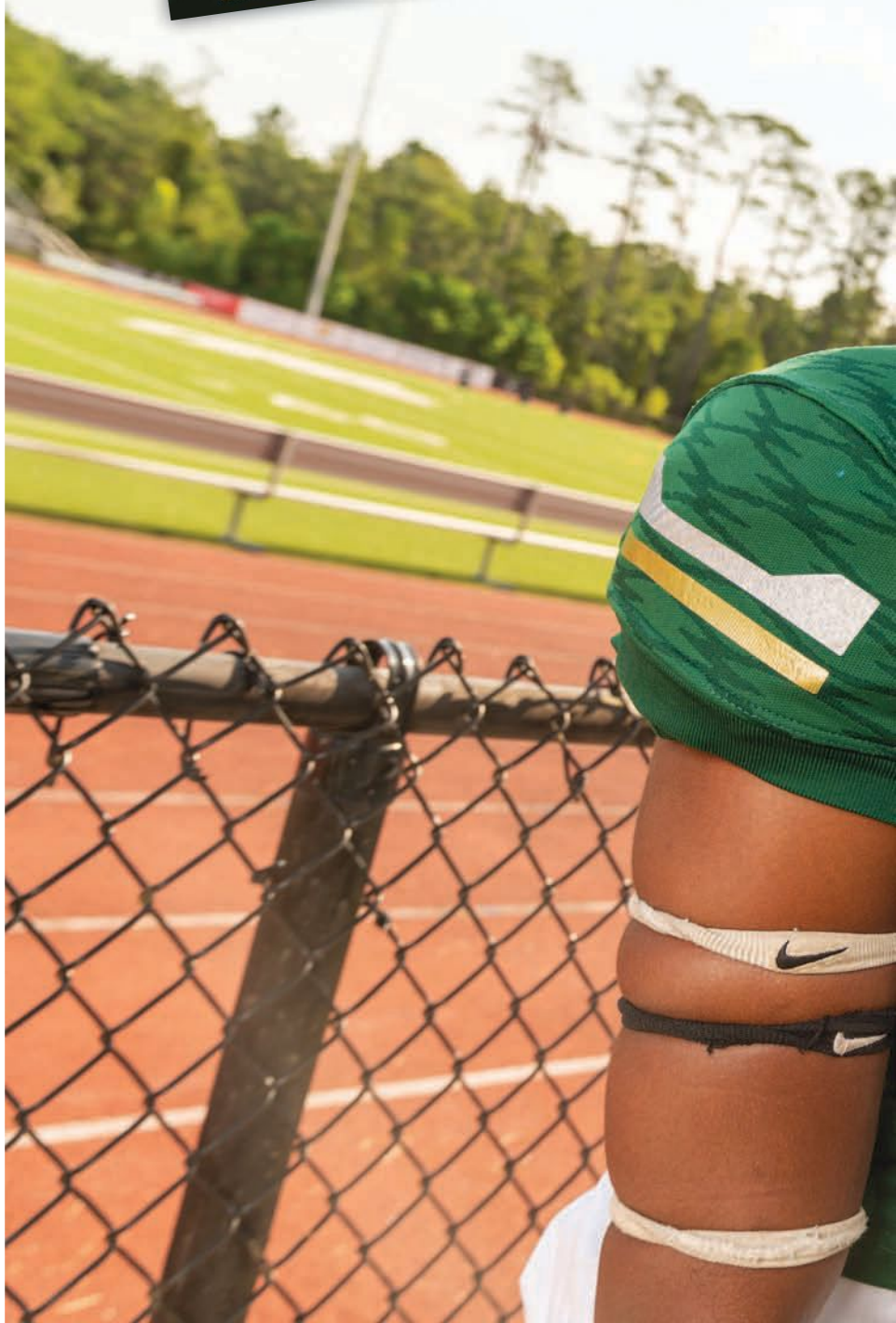


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Roric Hawkins, Jr.

NEXT LEVEL FACILITIES



TWCA Invests in New Boys' and Girls' Locker Rooms

By Joshua Koch

EVEN IN HIS 13TH YEAR WALKING THE HALLS OF THE WOODLANDS CHRISTIAN ACADEMY, RANDY HOLLAS IS STILL TAKEN ABACK AS HE WATCHES A FACILITY UPGRADE COME TO FRUITION.

From the roughly 27 different iterations of the design to transforming what used to be a hallway with offices, into a new-age boys and girls locker room — the newest upgrade has arrived at TWCA.

"I think our kids are going to feel like we've arrived," Hollas, the TWCA athletic director, said. "We've got great facilities in baseball, football, basketball and softball. It was our locker room that needed that upgrade. So, we're very fortunate that we were able to put that together this year.

"I'm very proud of what we came up with because it honors the athletes, their efforts to be successful and to have high standards for themselves and our community. It has been a really cool thing to watch."

In the boys' locker room, there is a section of sit-in wooden lockers with a green seat pad and a locker for storage above their head. On the front of each locker down low is a metal plate with the Warrior logo emblazoned on it. In the girls' locker room, there are also new-age lockers and a massive vanity area as well.

"It's an energy like I haven't felt in a long time," TWCA volleyball coach and Compliance Coordinator Kori Parker said.

"The newness of it all. It's an ownership of this space from our administration to the coaches to the players. We are truly blessed, and it's not taken for granted. It's a really fun time at TWCA."



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“

I'm very proud of what we came up with because it honors the athletes, their efforts to be successful and to have high standards for themselves and our community.

”



HOMECOMING

Gray Returns to Lead Warrior Cheer

By Matt Reese

FOR THE BRAND.

As The Woodlands Christian Academy embarks on a journey to build their brand and enhance the school's culture, one group on campus will play a major role in the process — TWCA Cheer.

School spirit is a major component of building a "culture" on a school campus and with a new head coach,

Hannah Gray, the Warriors cheerleaders are ready to take TWCA to the next level.

It's also a homecoming for Gray.

A 2015 graduate, she cheered for all four years (of high school) and was a competitive cheerleader for Woodlands Elite. Gray then went on to Abilene Christian University where she was a Division I cheerleader during her time there.

Now, Gray is back on the 40 acres of TWCA to share her knowledge, spirit and skill with the current Warriors.

"This was a total God thing," Gray said. "After college, I worked for Disney, but came back to The Woodlands during the pandemic. I helped coach TWCA middle school volleyball which led me to get in touch with Susie King, who remembered me as a student from a few years back."

King and Gray are both a part of the Fellowship of Christian Cheerleaders and through that connection, the head cheer coaching position was offered to Gray.

Even in the few years she has been away, Gray immediately noticed a difference on campus.



"So much has changed [at TWCA] since I graduated, it feels like an entire new campus with the football stadium/track and all the new buildings," she said. "It's very neat to see how much the school has grown in the past few years and what potential it holds for the years to come."

Gray understands that some of the school's growth potential falls in her lap.

"I hope to help this year's squad grow in all aspects of cheerleading," she said. "Not just with stunts and routines, but learning how to be good ambassadors for the school, how to engage with the crowd, and of course, glorify God in all that they do...we want the Warrior

community to notice a difference in the [cheer] team's showmanship."

As a successful and experienced cheerleader herself, Gray has a wealth of knowledge that she can impart on her team to help them reach their potential.

"It's not always about tumbling or stunting ability, but being able to perform well, being good teammates to each other, and lead by having those leadership characteristics on and off the sidelines," Gray said of what makes a good cheerleader.

"My squad now remembers me from when they were in lower school and I was in high school," Gray added. "It's a good

reminder to them that they are role models for the younger girls so it is important to lead by example and be kind."

It will be a busy year for TWCA Cheer, with athletic events from football to basketball to pep rallies and all-school events like Warrior Nation Night, but with a growing program (there are currently over 50 students participating in Lower School Cheer) the Warriors will be ready to lead.

VYPE GO TO **VYPE.COM** FOR ALL YOUR **TWCA COVERAGE**

It's not always about tumbling or stunting ability, but being able to perform well, being good teammates to each other, and lead by having those leadership characteristics on and off the sidelines.



Hannah Gray
CHEERLEADER COACH

Madeline Maggert



Katie Melber



Raquel Vaisman



Lindsay Smith





**MOTHER-SON
PAINTBALL
BATTLE**



Nov. 13, 2021



Grand Days

Join us
as we open our campus
and honor our Warrior
Grandparents and Grand
Friends. Come experience
sporting events, performances,
classroom activities and get
a glimpse of student life at
Woodlands Christian.

November 18 & 19, 2021

FALL O R W A R D



The Fall Will Happen in the Blink of an Eye.

ENJOY THE EXPERIENCES OF FRIDAY NIGHT LIGHTS. THERE IS NOTHING LIKE IT. THE GREAT PLAYS, THE CHEERLEADERS, THE EXHILARATION OF WINNING AND THE AGONY OF DEFEAT.

How about the morning dew of a cross country meet at dawn as kids stretch in attempts to beat the clock? The squeak of shoes on a volleyball court should be made into a ring tone so we can hear it all year long. The next three months will be full of memories, so get in the game.

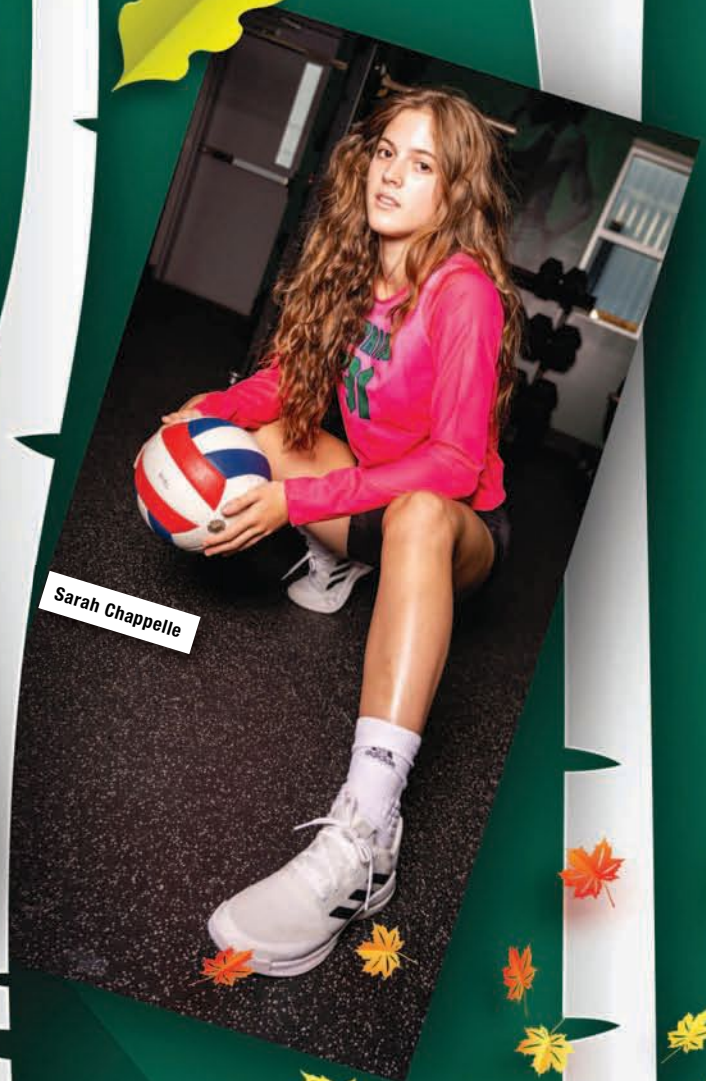
Welcome to the 2021-22 TWCA Fall and Winter preview powered by VYPE.



Ryan Rohrich



Max Abernathy



Sarah Chappelle

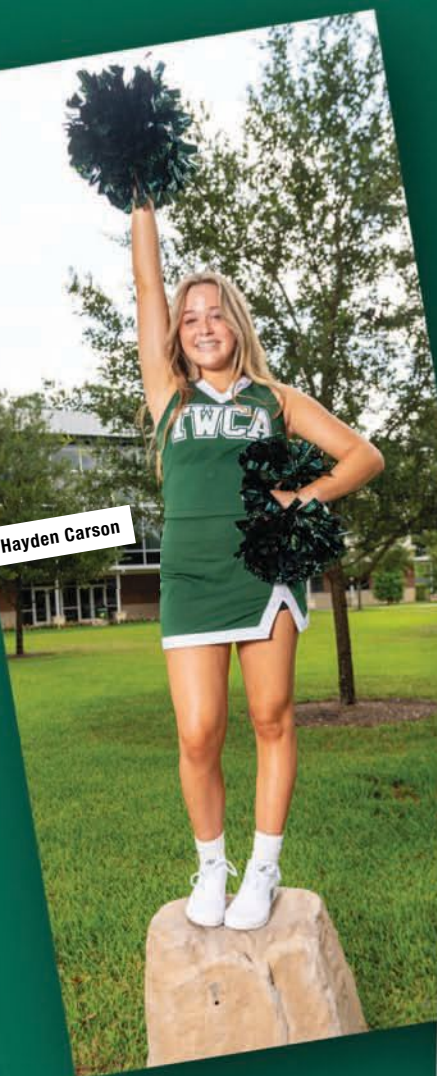
Gio Awasum



Carley Welch

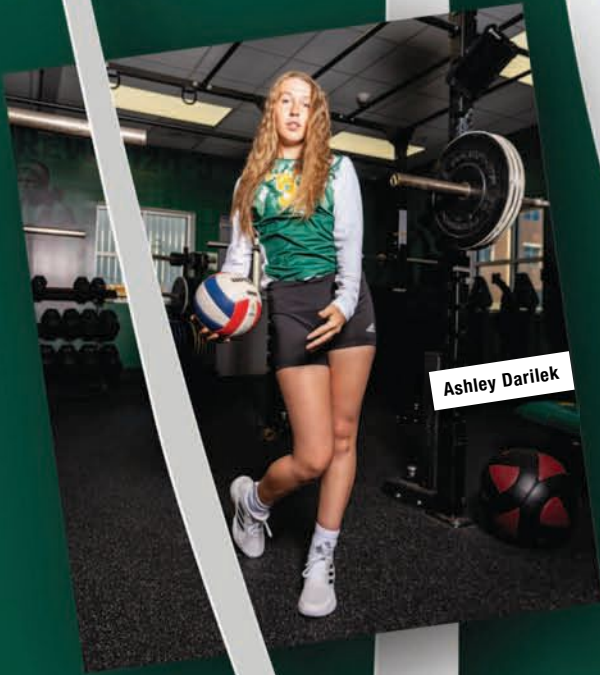


Hayden Carson



Bella Rios





Ashley Darilek



Lucas Trevathan

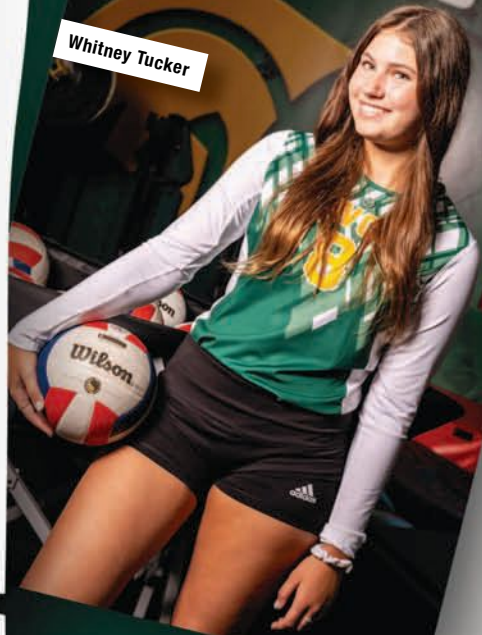


Lauren Edone

Elijah Tocabens



Whitney Tucker



Keller Davis





Lacey Holloway



Lily Jadlot



Bree Stowell



Flo Shirley

FOOTBALL

By Matt Malatesta

DEPTH is NOW a STRENGTH

McClanahan Seeing Impressive Gains Across TWCA Program

TAKING THE LEAP FROM TAPPS 4A TO 5A IN ATHLETICS IS A BIG JUMP, ESPECIALLY IN FOOTBALL.

The Warriors of TWCA took a few lumps in 2020 but gave some out too, finishing third in an extremely tough district and reaching the postseason.

So, what does this year look like under coach Chris McClanahan?

"The biggest improvement is our depth," he said. "For several private schools, us included, we have to play so many guys both ways. Now, we have 11 starters on offense and 11 starters on defense with no overlap. Sure, we will have some players go both ways at times, but our depth is becoming a strength."

Did you say strength?

With the help of Warrior strength and conditioning coordinator Tim Walker, the football team looks a little different.

"We have the best in the business and he's really a big part of our special sauce," McClanahan said. "The confidence he is building in our kids is incredible, because they are seeing gains in the weight room and in their sports performance with speed and agility."

He talks nutrition, hydration and injury prevention. He's legit.

"With the depth and conditioning, we are deeper, fresher and stronger when it counts."

TWCA has some players, too.

The defense looks stingy with seniors Ezekiel Jurado and Eli Tocabens manning the line. All-state returner Sean Kane and Ryan Leslie patrol the middle of the field with Jacob Rios and Dereck Felder locking down the secondary. Gio Awasum came off the basketball court to get in the mix and is a 6-foot-2, 210-pound corner, who could emerge as a star this season. Sebastian Bryngelson is also a playmaker in the back seven on defense.

Offensively, it also starts up front. All-stater Kolby Gorman and Max Abernathy (Lake Creek-transfer) are massive at 6-foot-5, 290-pounds each. Keller Davis complements them in the trenches.

They lead the way for QB Josh Johnson and backs Ryan Leslie and Roric Hawkins on the ground. The playmaker is Blake Wiley, who must have the ball in his hands. Johnson has a pair of big-time receivers in Jake Cole (6-7) and Keaton

Harvey (6-2), who can stretch the field.

"Josh does a great job managing the offense and we have some playmakers, who could start at some big public schools," McClanahan said. "The running game opens up the offense for us down field and that all starts with blocking and protection."

With the right pieces in place, TWCA is in the conversation for a district title.

"We know Second Baptist is the measuring stick," he said. "Fort Bend Christian took it to us last year and has several move-ins, but we are right there. The goal is to be more gap-sound, especially on defense to hold down the score."

"Let's get to the fourth quarter and compete."

Sounds like a plan.



Ryan Leslie



Dereck Felder



2021 FOOTBALL TEAM



Blake Wiley



Sean Kane

VOLLEYBALL

THE JUNIORS

Class of 2023 Stars Headline Volleyball Season **By Matt Malatesta**



THE WOODLANDS CHRISTIAN ACADEMY'S VOLLEYBALL PROGRAM SAYS GOODBYE TO THE LIKES OF CLAIRE DEWINE, ABIGAIL ADAMS AND MADISON STEED FROM THEIR 2020 DISTRICT CHAMPION SQUAD, BUT THE CUPBOARD IS FAR FROM BARE.

"It feels so different this year," co-coach Whitney Wofford said. "The competition level at each of our positions is really high and our program just feels really together. It's like a breath of fresh air."

A new state-of-the-art locker room doesn't hurt either.

"I feel like some of our kids who were in the background are ready to step up," co-coach Kori Parker said. "Yes, we have some new faces, but we also return five girls who can really play and

have a lot of experience. We also have others who have developed all the way from our middle school teams and will really contribute to the varsity program this year."

Parker and Wofford have a special junior class, who have been playing in huge games since their freshman seasons.

Second-team, all-district setter Katie Wise will run the offense and find first-teamer Jordan Booth. They have been playing together for years. Avery Buck was an honorable-mention pick and will need to play big on the outside in 2021 along with sophomore Whitney Tucker.

On defense, another junior runs the show in Brooke Harris, a second-teamer

in 2020. She will be joined by budding sophomore Sarah Chappelle as a defensive specialist.

Other junior up-and-comers include hitters Kirstyn Montgomery and Katelynn Holloway, while Lily Jadlot and Carley Welch will play in the middle. Seniors Ashley Darilek and Lacey Holloway could also provide offense on the outside.

"This district is going to be neck-and-neck," Parker said. "It's really up for grabs but with that being said, it will get us ready for the playoffs."

Where they hope to build on their Area Round appearance last season.



FOR MORE PHOTOS, VISIT US ON INSTAGRAM: [@TWCA_Sports](https://www.instagram.com/TWCA_Sports)

Avery Buck



Brooke Harris



Katie Wise

VOLLEYBALL COACHES
Whitney Wofford & Kori Parker

CROSS COUNTRY

PACK MENTALITY

Cross Country Has “Different Look” in 2021 By Matt Malatesta



2021 GIRLS CROSS COUNTRY TEAM



2021 BOYS CROSS COUNTRY TEAM

THE WOODLANDS CHRISTIAN ACADEMY'S CROSS COUNTRY PROGRAM IS JUST THAT... A PROGRAM.

Coach Tom Earle is one of the best in Texas and has the hardware to prove it.

The Warriors have four consecutive TAPPS state titles even while moving up the private school classifications year after year. They have been on the state podium each of the past six seasons.

But this year will be a little different as super-freak Ben Shearer is off to the University of Arkansas. Shearer was the undisputed leader of the pack in TAPPS and throughout the country as a national recruit.

"We are ranked No. 1 again going into the season, but our team is going to look a lot different," Earle, who has a combined 10 state rings between cross country and track at TWCA, said. "We

don't have a star like Ben Shearer, but remember, we also had three guys finish in the Top 10 a year ago. They all graduated as well.

"This year we will have more of a traditional pack-running style. We have guys from our No. 2 to No. 6 who are finishing a minute apart. That is great for scoring as a team."

Zach Turner and California move-in Will Bennett look to set the pace in 2021. Bennett is the only senior in the group.

So, how about the girls?

Well, TWCA's ladies have been on the podium nine-straight seasons.

"We usually carry 12 to 15 girls but this year we are under 10 runners," he said. "I'm challenging them to get on the podium for the 10th time in a row.

"Our seniors have been around a while and know what the workload looks like

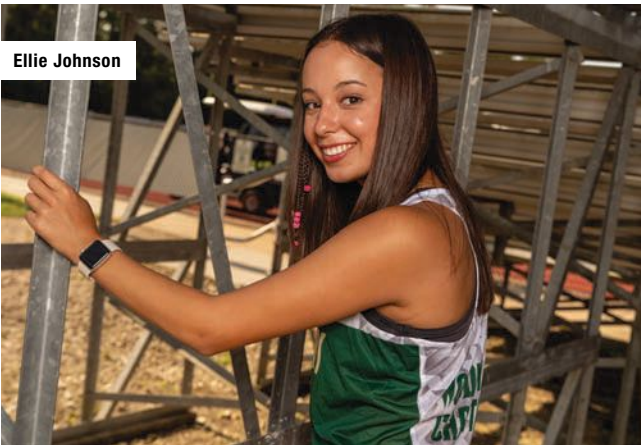
getting ready for the season. I'm going to do my best to keep them healthy so they can peak at the right time."

Seniors Lindsay Worthington and Ellie Johnson have a ton of experience and will be the voices in the locker room. Worthington has verbally committed to Samford for soccer.

Zoe Calimani had a breakout freshman season and is emerging as the top harrier in the bunch.

"She's training with the guys and she really flipped the switch this summer," he said. "She wanted to compete in the Junior Olympics in the 800-meters and really realized what it takes to be an elite runner. She's doing things like tracking her sleep and hydration on a daily basis, which are things that older girls usually do. She could have a big year."

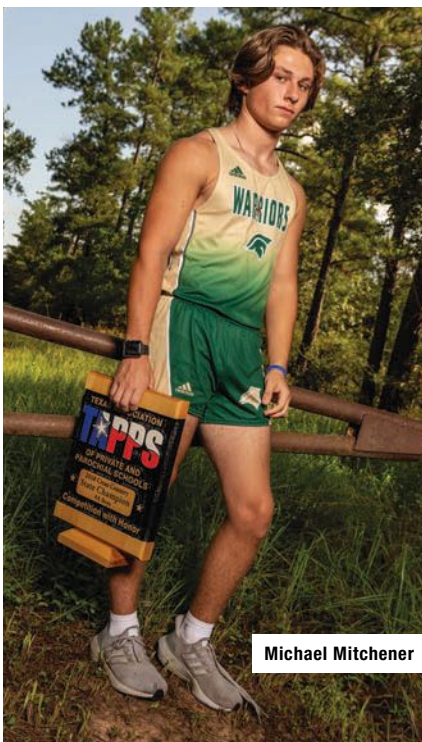
Ellie Johnson



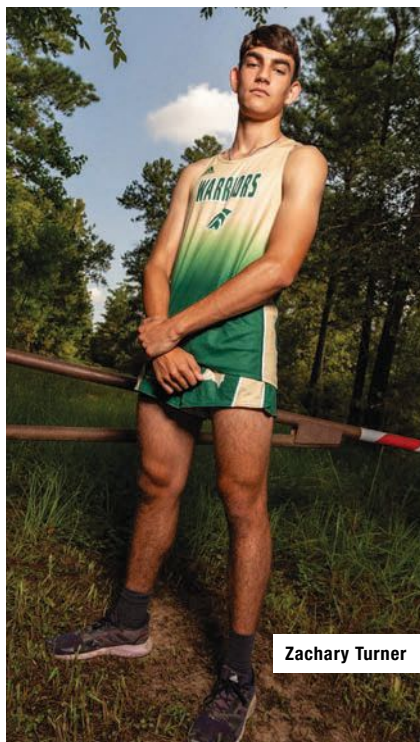
Lindsay Worthington



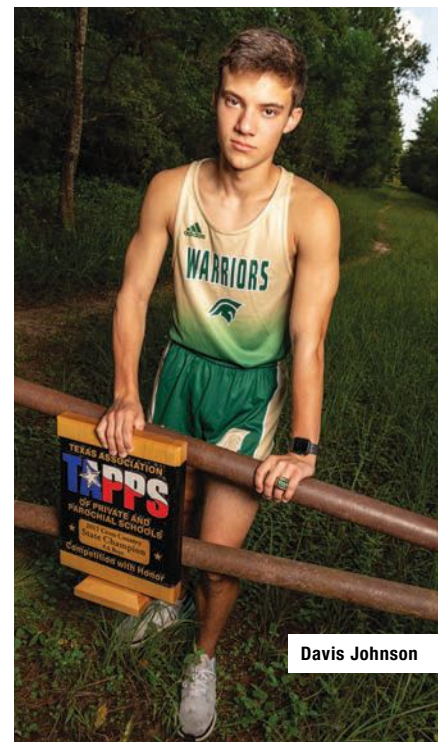
Michael Mitchener



Zachary Turner



Davis Johnson



BRAND

BUILDING

By Matthew Reese

New Sports Management Class at TWCA Providing Key Lessons in Sports Industry

NEVER BEFORE HAS THE WORLD OF SPORTS AND BUSINESS BEEN AS INTERTWINED FOR YOUNG ATHLETES AS IT IS TODAY.

New Name, Image and Likeness (NIL) rules and regulations in the NCAA has opened the door for young men and women to start building their brand, and make money off that, at an earlier age. Regardless of where you fall on the debate of paying student-athletes, the game is changing, and kids need to be prepared.

As a college preparatory school, TWCA is taking that mission to heart by introducing a new class for the 2021-2022 school year — Sports Management.

"The class has been something that both marketing and athletics have talked about for some time," Sports Information Director and head boys' basketball coach Tanner Field said. "As an established field of study at the university level and an ever-growing industry, we felt it would be a great elective for our students to gauge their interests in a sports career."

Field is leading the class, and plans to cover topics like Branding, Sports Photography, Digital Media, Hospitality, Journalism, Sports Psychology, etc. Each week, the students will cover new topics and actively participate in discussions about the various aspects that go into the business of sports.

"Discussion engages the mind in a different way and forces the guys to come prepared to think and provide input," Field said. "The goal is to not only put this information into a class project but always ask how does this apply to my walk with Christ and how can we use the information learned to grow our campus?"

Though only a few weeks old, the class is already making an impact.

In one of the first classes, a discussion about the "TWCA Brand" and the "culture" on campus took place. That same day, several of the students in the class — on their own accord — started a campus-wide text chain to promote the volleyball game that evening.

The student section that night was one of the best the school has ever seen, according to volleyball coach Kori Parker.

Clad in Hawaiian-themed outfits, over 100 students showed up to the game and brought a new energy to the event, all in the name of "building a stronger brand and culture" at TWCA.

"At the end of the year, the goal would be to have each student view the sports industry from a different angle," Field said.

"Instead of only seeing things from the perspective of a fan, they will start to see things from all the angles that are Sports Management. Most importantly, always asking the question: How does this affect the brand?"





The goal is to not only put this information into a class project but always ask: How does this apply to my walk with Christ?



TWCA Volleyball Crowd

ICY



WINTER SPORTS

That Fierce Warrior Spirit Gives Competition the Chills

AS THE LEAVES TURN IN THE FALL AND WE TRANSITION TO WINTER SPORTS, TWCA REALLY GETS IT ROLLING.

The boys' basketball team hangs banners...TAPPS State Title banners. The Warriors are one of the most feared teams in the state under the direction of Tanner Field. Girls' hoops return a ton of talent from a playoff team and girls soccer made history reaching the Area Round and going undefeated in district their first season. Boys soccer will look to build off of 2021 under a new head coach. Iron sharpens iron and the Warriors will be lethal in the Winter.



Mattie Hopkins



Michael Mitchener



Cade Brickhouse



Jake Melber



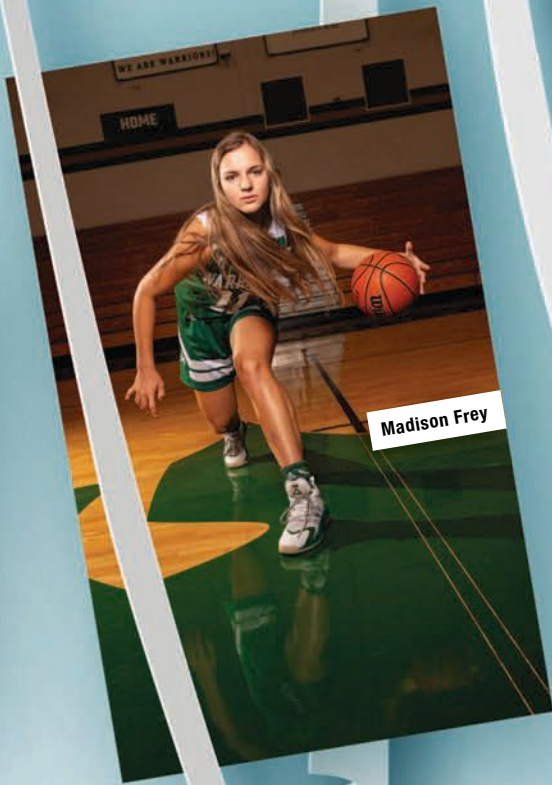
Abigail Stanosheck



Jack Cole



Maggie Smith



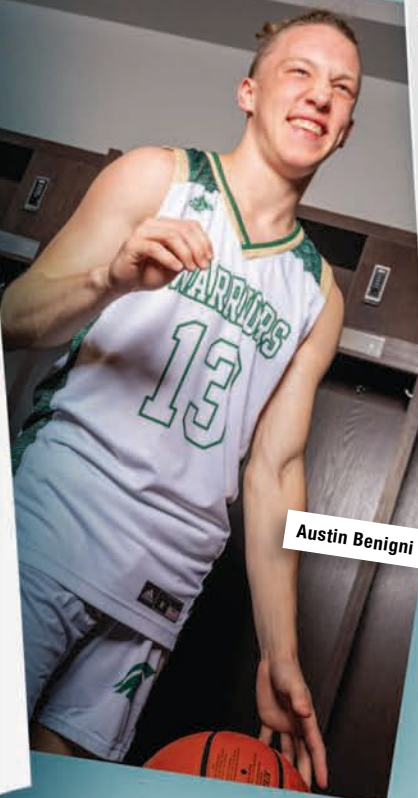
Madison Frey



Josh Bento



Aspen Butaud



Austin Benigni



Leah Francis



Kelly Gorman



Harry Catron



Danielle Mendoza



Zachary Turner



“

Defense is going to be essential for us this season. It's always a high priority, but this year we'll have to create offense from the defensive side of the ball.”

”

GIRLS BASKETBALL

THE BAR is RAISED By Matthew Reese

Zubke Focused on Keeping Ball Rolling on Hardwood

AN EXPECTATION HAS BEEN SET.

Last season the Lady Warriors made the jump to 5A competition like the rest of TWCA, and much like the rest of Warrior Athletics, they thrived.

The Warriors finished the season second in district play, with their only two losses coming to eventual state runners-up Second Baptist. TWCA also won their bi-district playoff game before falling in the area round of the 5A bracket.

Now, for head coach Kevin Zubke and his program, the expectation is to remain at that high level of play.

Entering his 9th season as the head coach of the Warriors, Zubke knows that this year's team will have a different look than last season's.

A good portion of the Warriors' scoring graduated, which means that TWCA will have to find different ways to win.

"Defense is going to be essential for us this season," Zubke said. "It's always a high priority, but this year we'll have to create offense from the defensive side of the ball."

TWCA returns a solid core of players in seniors Mackenzie Morris, Reagan Harris, Madison Frey and Danielle Mendoza, alongside junior Kelly Gorman. This group of five will be the leaders of the program, as the rest of the roster will be filled with underclassmen eager to make their mark for the Warriors.

To stay in that "upper echelon" as Zubke puts it, the Warriors will have to have balanced scoring from each player.

"Everyone is going to have to contribute this year," he said.

Morris, a two-sport athlete who is committed to play softball for HBU, led the team in assists and steals last season and will look to expand her role this year.

"She brings a toughness to the floor that we need," Zubke said. "We'll need every player to match her intensity and grit for us to reach the level we want to be at."

While the 2021-2022 squad will have a different composition, you can expect that the Warriors will be one of the toughest teams on the court in TAPPS 5A District 5.

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Mackenzie Morris



Reagan Harris



BOYS BASKETBALL

THE TRIFECTA

By Joshua Koch

TWCA Boys Hoops Eyeing Title No. 8 in 2021-22, Third-Straight

2021 BOYS BASKETBALL TEAM



WHEN TANNER FIELD AND COMPANY ARRIVED AT THE WOODLANDS CHRISTIAN ACADEMY A FEW YEARS AGO, HE KNEW SOMETHING SPECIAL COULD BE BUILT.

They wanted to be a storied program. One that hung a new state championship banner year after year. After winning crowns in 2018, 2020 and then 2021 to give the program seven overall crowns, the next mission is the three-peat.

season, which will see teams gunning to hand the back-to-back champs a loss on any given night, he admits this team will be different than past ones.

The Warriors don't have that 6-foot-8, 6-foot-9 kid to put down in the paint and have bang around for rebounds and interior paint points. They will run a five-guard system, which they haven't done before.

"I think this is going to be our best coaching year from a standpoint of winning another championship," Field said. "We definitely have the tools. It'll be a fun season and a challenge for us that we're ready to get started on."

With Benigni, who is the floor general for the Warriors seeking his third-straight crown, the Warriors have stability in the backcourt.

Sprinkle in Chanse Perkins, who Field believes is one of the best defenders in the city; with 6-foot-7 wing Wyatt Boeker, who is "super confident with ball-handling skills"; Josh Bento, whose older brother won a title at TWCA; and then Giovanni Awasum and Jack Cole, who will join the team after football season concludes – this group is loaded again.

"We should be starting four Division I-type kids," Field said. "It'll be a fun season."

It really solidifies us as the only group to three-peat.

"It really solidifies us as the only group to three-peat," Field said. "I definitely feel like we should have done that going into 2019 but there's a lot of things that have to play into a title."

As Field prepares for the 2021-22

Led by Austin Benigni, they will "play with more pace," "press more" and "get out and outrun teams" as their main gameplan. And, if they can make them, TWCA will be more dangerous beyond the arc in 2022.



Gio Awasum



Chanse Perkins

GIRLS SOCCER

HISTORY-MAKER

TWCA Senior Makes History as First-Ever Girls' Soccer College Signee

By Joshua Koch

FEARLESS ON THE FIELD. PLAYMAKER. DISTRIBUTOR.

These are the words that The Woodlands Christian Academy girls soccer coach Paige Riley uses to describe senior center-mid Lindsay Worthington, who continues to make history for the Warriors program.

In August, Worthington verbally committed to Samford to continue her playing career and becoming the first-ever girls soccer player from TWCA to head to the next level.

"It's really exciting," Worthington said. "It's definitely rewarding because I've been playing soccer for almost 14 years. So, it's nice to know that I'll be able to go to the next level."

Riley added: "They are going to get a utility player. That girl can play any position as equal as the next. She is someone to be feared. She is a substantial player; she plays like it is a dance. It's just very natural for her."

It was in her freshman year, which was actually the first year of the TWCA girls soccer program, that Worthington realized she wanted to pursue a college career.

"I started working harder and that's when I felt like I had a chance at this," she said.

Going all-in on her soccer career four years ago has paid off for her and the program itself. Last year – the first full varsity season for the team – they went undefeated in district play and won their first-ever District Championship.

Being at TWCA for four years and helping build the program to where it is, is special, Worthington said but overall The Woodlands Christian Academy is special to her heart.

"It's a big family," Worthington said. "Everybody is so supportive, and the teachers always come out to your games. I just like the community of it."

Lindsay Worthington



FOR MORE PHOTOS, VISIT US
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2021 GIRLS SOCCER TEAM

COACH'S CORNER:

PAIGE RILEY, TWCA GIRLS SOCCER

By Joshua Koch

Riley Eyes to Build Off Historic Season

THERE'S NO HIDING ANYMORE FOR THE WOODLANDS CHRISTIAN ACADEMY GIRLS SOCCER PROGRAM. THE TARGET IS SQUARE ON THEIR BACK AND FOR GOOD REASON.

Last year as a first-year varsity program, the Warriors came out and went undefeated in district play, capturing the program's first-ever gold ball and District Championship and then advanced to the second round of the playoffs.

Paige Riley is back at the helm of the program, which enters its fourth season overall. **VYPE** caught up with the head coach in this Coach's Corner.

VYPE: That was a splash season for you all last year. What's it like going into this season?

RILEY: We have a big target on our back. We've got players who are here

to compete and we're here to make a second showing and hopefully go a little bit further in the playoffs this year.

VYPE: Is there a different feeling heading in?

RILEY: For our freshman group that we had last year; I think they've got that nervousness out of their system. So, they're going in with a little bit more confidence and an idea of what to expect in this 5A conference that we're in. We're ready.

VYPE: Before last year, Mattie Hopkins had never played goalie and then she earned all-state honors. Talk about her a bit.

RILEY: She's scrappy. When I say that this girl can give her all, she leaves it all on the field. She goes down for every

one of her teammates and just comes up really big. She's not scared of anything. She's fearless and has this energy that's unmatched amongst other teams.

VYPE: What's the biggest thing that this team needed to improve on from last year to make that deep playoff run in 2022?

RILEY: I think confidence. We have a ton of talent on this team. So, when you have a ton of talent, just working through that chemistry. Rather than shining as individual players and being able to develop that team camaraderie was our disadvantage last year. So, now understanding how we play alongside each other will be a huge benefit going into the season.

BOYS SOCCER

By Matthew Reese

A PASSION for COACHING

White Ready to Lead TWCA Boys Soccer into 21-22 Season

AS A FRESH FACE IN THE WARRIORS ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT, NEW BOYS' SOCCER HEAD COACH CHRIS WHITE IS READY TO TAKE TWCA TO NEW HEIGHTS ON THE PITCH.

White has been around soccer his entire life. He first started playing in 1994 when he and his family moved to the United States. He eventually played a few years of club soccer at the University of Houston after injuries derailed his college career, but he couldn't stay away from the game.

"I began my coaching career as an assistant coach with my father at Northeast Christian Academy," White said. "I worked multiple jobs before realizing that my real passion was in fact coaching."

White landed at St. Thomas Episcopal and started to work his way up the ladder until he was the school's soccer director. He spent eight years at STE before another opportunity presented itself to him — the head coaching spot at TWCA.

Family has always been a core value for White, and with his family — including a two-year old daughter and a baby on the way — already living in Spring, this opportunity was too good to pass up.

Now, the challenge that faces White is to bring the championship pedigree to TWCA that he built at STE, where he won over 80-percent of games played, went to seven Final Fours and won three championships in his eight years.

But first, he needs to get to know TWCA.

"Since arriving, my biggest challenge has been getting to know the kids at a level that I had with my old team," White said. "Obviously, being with a program for eight years you get to know kids, families, parents. You know how to push them and when you should stop.

You know how certain kids respond to different styles of coaching. Over time, I will be able to figure it out and understand the kids at a different level, it's just a challenge right now."

The next step for White is to get the entire program to buy-in to the culture and coaching philosophy he and his staff bring to the table.

after-school program for 1st-4th graders to learn the basics of different sports.

"Coming from a school which had a youth soccer program, Warrior Leagues will be huge for TWCA at all levels," White said. "Young athletes getting an opportunity to work with high school coaches who could possibly coach them later at that level is a big advantage.



Hard work beats talent
that fails to work hard.
That is what we are going
to bring to TWCA.



"Hard work beats talent that fails to work hard," he said. "That is what we are going to bring to TWCA."

"Every year we want to strive for a district championship and a long run in the playoffs," White added. "In soccer, anything is possible."

Long term, White wants to build TWCA into a perennial state championship contender.

"In five years, we should be competing for a state championship on a yearly basis and be recognized for that around the state," he said.

To do that, White knows that he needs to build a strong foundation throughout the entire school. Luckily, he's in a perfect position to do that.

In addition to his coaching role, White is also the director of Warrior Leagues — an

When I was at STE, I had kids come through the youth program who already understood my playing and coaching style, and that's huge."

For this season, it's all about buy-in.

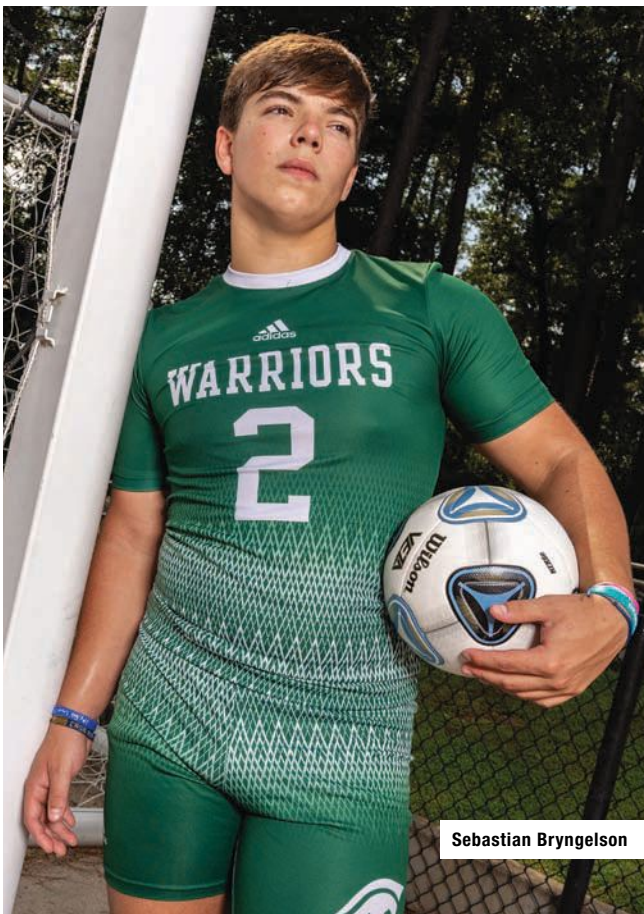
"Being that I have only been around for a few weeks and haven't gotten a real chance to get to know my team yet," White said.

"I do know that if the seniors buy into the culture change that anything can happen. On and off the field the seniors need to be the leaders and not the followers. If they buy into our philosophy, we have the possibility to have a very successful year and do something special."





2021 BOYS SOCCER TEAM



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SKIS UP

By Matt Malatesta

Muzny Found Passion in the Air



Reese Muzny

THE MUZNY FAMILY TOOK A LEAP OF FAITH OVER THE PANDEMIC, AND FOR DAUGHTER, REESE, SHE FOUND HER PASSION... WELL, LEAPING.

Dr. Carrie and Victor Muzny put their life on pause in The Woodlands and moved to Park City, Utah for a change of pace in 2020. The parents gladly accepted the challenge of running their booming dental practice remotely, in order to focus on family.

Park City is also home to the Utah Olympic Center, this facility allows elite winter sport athletes to train year-round. Thousands of tourists visit the facility every day, and it was here, that chance visit introduced Reese to the sport where she saw athletes performing multiple flips and twists while flying 30-50 feet into the air.

As an avid gymnast back in The Woodlands, she asked to give it a try.

"First, I love adrenaline," she said. "Growing up, my family loved to go skiing and with a background in flipping in gymnastics. It kind of came naturally. I just put the two together and went with it. I love the feeling of being that high in the air."

Mom, "covers her eyes", and dad "lives through me", Reese laughed.

It doesn't hurt that Reese is ultra-competitive and uber-athletic. She also balances volleyball, soccer, golf, track and cheerleading for the Warriors all while traveling to Utah to train in aerial ski jumping.

After that first encounter at the Olympic Center, Reese dropped into classes to

check it out. She learned the basics of skiing the ramp and a basic jump. The second day, she impressed her instructors by asking if she could try a flip and sure enough she nailed it.

"The coaches told us that it is not uncommon for an athlete to train six months to do what Reese was doing in a week," Vic said. "After they saw her willingness to attempt these advanced jumps, she was invited to try out- and joined the Park City Ski and Snowboard Women's Aerial Team."

"Because Park City has the only Aerial Facility in the US, this is the only developmental team that produces aerial athletes that go on to the US National Ski Team and the Olympics."

"We thought she was late to the sport, but actually for aials, it turned out she was really early. At first, Reese was very intimidated and self-conscious as a 13 year-old training and jumping alongside older athletes who were in their late teens and early 20s."

After training into a pool all summer, she was cleared to attempt her jumps on the less forgiving snow when winter rolled around. Eventually she gained her first experience by participating in two competitions where she really started to "dig in" with the sport.

"We asked her coaches if this is something we should really pursue, or if she had enough talent to continue with the sport. We didn't really know much about the sport," he said.

"Her coach was emphatically encouraging, even laying out a "road map" that was just a few years from competing in the world cup tour and eventually a possible Olympic birth as soon as the 2026 Olympic Games in Milan, Italy...Of course, that is if everything goes as planned."

It was a whirlwind season for Reese, but she was on the clock. Before all of this, as a family, the Muzny's committed to one and only one year full-time in Park City. They have a son Grant (13-years old), who was ready to get back to his buddies and Texas football. That was the deal... one year.

"It was truly the best year of my life, meeting new friends and skiing with this all the time," she said. "Our school even had early release, so we got to ski most days."

She will return this winter and continue the pursuit of her goal.

"Of course, my dream is to make the Olympics someday," she said. "But I'm ready to compete. That's just my nature. I'm ready to get back up to Park City and practice. I'm really excited to travel to places like Canada and New York for competitions and have those experiences."

She will have to work around school and miss a few Warrior soccer games, but she knows the sacrifices it will take.

"It's a lot, but we will just figure it out. If you love something, you will always find time for it," she said.

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