# Winter X-Games:

## Just Like the Olympics, Only More Dangerous

**Sarah Leip**
Business Manager

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**Tanner Hall of Montana competed in skiing super pipe competition at Aspen Ski Area in Colorado in the X-Games. He had the best ski trick of the day.**

Every two years every country comes together and competes in series of events to try an win metals. Gold for first place, silver for second place, and bronze for third place. Just like we have the Olympics we have the Winter X-Games and Summer X-Games, but we have them every single year. The X-Games is the premier action sports event in the world.

For four days every January some of the most extreme athletes in the world compete in skiing, snowboarding and snowmobiling events. These events are held in Aspen, Colorado at Snowmass, a world known ski resort.

Snowboard super pipe is a half-pipe in a semi-circle ramp that goes down hill. The height is between 12 to 21 feet. The snowboard competitors perform tricks while going from side to side and going above the sides of the half-pipe.

Boarder cross or boarder x is when several riders, usually 4 to 6, race a track that is made like a motorcycle motocross track with jumps, berms, and other difficult obstacles while going downhill. There are several heats and two people from each heat advance to the next round.

Snowboarder slope style is when the rider is able to choose what way he or she wants to go down the course. The course consists of many terrain features such as rails, bumps, jumps and boxes. Judges decide who the winner is based of the difficulty of their tricks.

Snowboarder big air is a new competition at the X-Games. The boarder speeds down hill and they do one huge, difficult trick. They get scored for how difficult the jump is. The snowboarder takes three runs.

Shaun White is probably one of the most widely known snowboarders worldwide. He has competed at the winter and summer X-Games. He also competes in skateboarding events. At the winter X-Games During the big air competition, Shaun White broke his board during practice. White rode his board during the first run and put a target decal over the crack. Then White's second and third run he used his superpipe board. Superpipe boards are waxed so that they are slick, so the snowboarders can go really really fast down the pipe. In the end White got third place.

Whitney Weaver,homeschooled, goes to one of the local ski resorts, Bittersweet. When it comes, to snowboarding she said, "It doesnt matter what day it is or how I feel I have to go boarding."

Weaver has gotten injured three times this year, she has bruised her tailbone, strained her musscle in her knee and messed up her back.

"Towards the end of the season I really don't care if i get hurt. I think of it as if I get hurt I have all summer to recouperate." said Weaver. All of Weavers injuries are on the box rail or in the terrain park.

Skiing big air is a new Competiton at the X-Games. It is when the skier takes up to three runs and the skiier goes off a jump and in the air, about twenty feet off the ground, and they do a really difficult trick or flip.

Skiing slope style is when the skier performs tricks while going downhill that has terrain features. The course consist of boxes, rails, jumps and jibs, and also a quarter pipe.

Skiing cross or skiing x is when many skiiers race down a course similar to a motocross track with jumps and other difficult obstacles.

Skiing super pipe is when the skiier goes downhill while on a half pipe. The skiier does a series of tricks off the top of the the super pipe usually ten to twenty feet in the air.

Snowmobile speed and style is a new Competition at X-Games. It is when the snowmobiler is on a huge race track and they race to a jump and there are five or six jumps. The round is timed and they can go around the track as many times as they want in the time. The person with the most points wins.

Snowmobile freestyle is when there is a huge jump and they take two or three runs. The person that wins is the one with the best trick.

Snow cross is a big race to the finish. There are two heats with 25 to 30 people and the person with the best time advances on to the the next round. Only two to four people from each round advance to the next round.

Not many people watch the X-Games but most people that do these sports watch them. The X-Games is like the Olympics for extreme sports. You never know somebody from Loy Norrix could be in the X-Games in a few years.

"I watch the X-games every year to see all of the sweet new tricks," said Weaver.

# Varsity Softball Team Anticipating Improvement

**Anne Brown**
Photo Editor

With last year's record of 7-28 overall, the Loy Norrix Varsity Softball team is hoping for improvement and positive changes that come along with the beginning of the new season. The Lady Knights will be led by a new coaching staff this year, Head Coach Samantha Conley and Co-Coach Duane Knight.

Although the girls struggled through last season, they now know their strengths and weaknesses, and are anticipating becoming more successful this year.

Starting off her third season on the varsity team, junior Raven Richmond knows what it takes to be successful.

"Our biggest struggle is togetherness. But when we work as a team, we do good," said junior Raven Richmond.

Senior and first baseman, Katie Therkildsen, agrees with Richmond that teamwork is the hardest part. "It's hard getting the team focused and getting into the game. But I love the feeling when things go right, when we work hard," Therkildsen said.

The girls worked hard together to finish second in last year's Greater Kalamazoo Invitational, and are proud of their accomplishment. Junior Erica Roselip described the win as her most memorable moment.

"We never really did well in a tournament, so it was good we came in second at the invitational," said Roselip.

This will be Roselip's second year on varsity, where she plays second base and right field.

Having just come from Martin High School where they built a successful softball program from the ground up, Coaches Conley and Knight are ready to start the season off right.

"We wanted to move on to a bigger school. Martin is a very small school, and we won 7 district titles there," Coach Conley said.

Both Conley and Knight are not expecting change to happen overnight, but are ready for the challenge.

"We hope to bring our hard work ethic [to Norrix] and want to start a firm foundation," said Conley.

Roselip is excited for the change in coaching.

"I'm looking forward to the new coaches and their coaching style," said Roselip.

ANNE BROWN / KNIGHT LIFE

**Warming up for their match against Marshall, the Junior Varsity girls practiced batting. Both the Varsity and JV teams went on to win their games that evening.**

# Loy Norrix Baseball Setting the Bar High

**Barrett Kelpin**
Copy Editor

This year's varsity baseball team is comprised of many new faces and also returning varsity leadership from last year. After winning five games last year, the team as a whole agreed fifteen wins out of thirty games is a good goal at the start of the season. Competition will be stiff against rival teams such as Portage Northern, Portage Central, and Kalamazoo Central.

"I want to beat both the Portages," said junior John Simpson Jr., a first year varsity player with high expectations for this years' team.

New varsity players this year are Jack Stankewicz, John Simpson Jr., Mykul Platt, Trey Wilkerson, J.R. Reece, and Nikk Gillespie. These players are hoping to fill some of the spots left open by last year's seniors.

Returning to varsity this year is Alex Foti, Antwon Fox, Jordan Vandyke, Mitch Miller, Alex Schmidt, Tyler McGrail, Billy Rogers, and Zach Owen. With all the returning varsity leadership, expectations are high this year from the coach and the players.

"After getting a lot of experience from last year, we should have a pretty good season this year," said junior Mitch Miller.

Those returning to varsity as seniors are going to try and make their last year on the Loy Norrix baseball team a memorable one.

Second year varsity player and senior, Antwon Fox, said, "I'm Just looking to have a good time playing baseball my last year at Norrix."

Coach Neal is the Varsity Head Coach and expects a lot from this year's group of players as he does every year. The team agreed that there are many things they need to improve on this season, such as reducing errors that make it easy for other teams to score runs and making sure that they play hard for a full seven innings.

MADISON KAY / KNIGHT LIFE

**Senior Alex Schmidt steps up to the plate against Comstock in a game on Thursday April 3.**

# Peak Performers in Sports

**Sarah Mills**
Staff Writer

Name: Clinton Buell
Grade: Sophomore
Sport: Varsity Golf

Clinton Buell started golfing five years ago. He was 11 years old when he started golfing in tournaments.

Buell made the Loy Norrix Varsity Men's Golf team last year as a freshman and made a significant contribution to the team.

"I got 4th place at the Loy Norrix Invitational and 2nd place at the Battle Creek Central Invitational at Bedford Valley," Buell said.

Buell has high hopes for this season as well. His goal for the team is to make it to the State tournament, and he thinks that with the other strong golfers on the team this goal is definitely possible.

Some people tend to think of golf as a hobby rather then a sport, but this does not irritate Buell.

"It does not really bother me. Golf is just a fun way for me to get into college and make money," said Buell.

Buell said that he is definitely planning on continuing his golf career in college.

Name: Grace Kinnison
Grade: Senior
Sport: Varsity Softball

Grace Kinnison has been playing softball since she was seven years old. She started her softball career by playing Milwood Little League.

This year will be Kinnison's fourth year on the Loy Norrix Varsity Softball team, and she thinks her greatest accomplishment last season was making the All Conference and All Division First Teams.

In this spring season, Kinnison has high hopes for both herself and her team.

"My personal goal would be to make the All State team, and our goal as a team for this season is to get double digit wins," said Kinnison.

With the new varsity softball coaching staff, Kinnison thinks this goal is definitely attainable.

"They push us hard and want us to play more as a team," Kinnison said.

When she is not playing for LN's team, Kinnison is working har

"I am still considering playing in college. If I have the opportunity I will, if not, I will continue to play travel softball," said Kinnison.

Name: Michael Bruny
Grade: Senior
Sport: Varsity Track

This is Michael Bruny's third year on the Loy Norrix Men's Track team. He joined track his sophomore year when Coach Duckett approached him about pole vaulting.

Last year Bruny had a very successful season

"I won the Greater City meet and last year my personal record was 11 feet 3 inches," said Bruny.

Bruny is the only pole vaulter on the track team and he admits that pole vaulting can be intimidating at times.

"I fell on the box once and hit my ribs. I was apprehensive to jump after that, but I just had to keep going," Bruny said.

This season Bruny is hoping to continue his success in the pole vaulting event. He is hoping to improve his personal record and be the first pole vaulter in LN history to make it to the State meet.

"I want to go to State," said Bruny.