Student Athlete Wins The Schupan Award

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The ambitious demeanor of senior Jacob Tanner is preparing him for tomorrow, but shown in the awards given today. His 6'2 frame paints the visage of the All-American in his everyday life. A strong grasp on academics coupled with an athletic lifestyle and a respectable perspective on priorities, it is no wonder Tanner is the recipient of the 2007 Schupan Award.

Presented to him during the fall sports award ceremony, the Schupan award is received by the football player who best, through his actions, represent an athlete that scores high in the classroom, community, field and in the eyes of those who have watched him grow to become the man that he is today. Nelson Schupan, who the award is named for, went to Loy Norrix and played football over 35 year ago; following in his footsteps his sons Marc and Dan did the same. After Schupan's death in 1974, his sons created the award that was given to Tanner.

One of the best parts of this award is the surprise tactic. Tanner was not aware that he was going to be the recipient of such a celebrated award.

Being very discrete about his actions, Andrew Laboe eased his own nerves before the ceremony casually conversing with the star athlete making sure his presence at the event was definite. Tanner assured him that he would make sure he was there as he was finishing up with basketball practice and preparing to rush home and pick up his friend on the way back to Norrix.

Time for the ceremony approached it was nearly 7:30 and still no sign of Tanner. Anxiety pervaded Laboe's body, and Laboe nervously searched for Tanner, as the Schupan speech was about to begin. Five minutes into the speech Tanner rushed in seeking a seat in the front row. Tanner's face froze in the "deer-caught-in-the-headlights" expression as his name rang through the Loy Norrix gym. Turning around he faced the man who uttered his name, cautiously looking around wondering if some other Tanner would show himself and take ownership to the name. Unexpectedly Tanner made his way to the front to receive an award unknown to him.

Tanner was extremely shocked, quite speechless and touched realizing the honor that comes with owning this award.

"My parents were really estatic," said Tanner. Unfortunately his parents could not make it to the award ceremony but celebrated afterwards with their well-accomplished son.

MATTHEW EVANS/KNIGHT LIFE

Jacob Tanner has been in Kappa League for four years. Tanner said, "Kappa League uses dance routine to attract new members."

Tanner hopes to attend the University of California to pursue a major in computer science. Also on his radar for college is Michigan State, which he would go to for Computer sciences, or Journalism. The Schupan award will help him to pay for tuition at a college located in a state other than Michigan. The award has $1,500 attached to it that will be automatically forwarded to the student account of the college he attends. Tanner hopes to make it onto his university's basketball team. It would be a real honor to be accepted on to a competitive team.

"Sports will always be a big part of my life," said Tanner who has built an honorable reputation for himself through sports and school.

Tanner plays three sports during the school year: football, basketball and track. Tanner's parents have supported him the whole way making sure that he follows his dreams. Basketball is Tanner's favorite sport.

"Basketball is something I can get up and do everyday," said Tanner describing what an important part basketball plays in his life, especially in keeping things balanced. Sports really help Tanner focus in the classroom because all of his stress is gone and they help him to remain sane. Without sports life is just work.

At home Tanner has quite the fan club with all of his siblings rooting for him and making sure that he will have a successful future. Being the youngest of five Tanner has many role models.

"I live the life being the youngest. I have all the benefits. Everyone takes care of me and looks after me. It is really great," said Tanner happily.

Tanner is involved with many groups. He is a part of the National Honors Society, he is an executive member of IGNITE, a member of the Renaissance counsel and is the president of Kappa League: a community service organization between the three KPS high schools. Tanner is a valuable asset to Norrix in many ways.

"It is important to have priorities in life, it makes life easier to manage and organize. I can accomplish my goals much easier if I know where I stand and where my activities stand in relevance to each other. My Priorities are: God, family, school, sports, extra circular and finally friends," dedication shined through as Tanner spoke of what it takes to be successful.

When Tanner isn't participating in sports he is relaxing, working out, playing a sport for fun or his favorite activity, "to just kick it with friends and play video games."

"I will always miss the leadership and optimisms that Tanner always had and shared with all of his teammates. He was a valuable element to the athletics," commented Laboe on what he will miss most about Tanner.

"Whatever you do in life make sure that you take care of the important business first, and never succumb to procrastination," said Tanner.

Kelpin to attend the University of Iowa on Golf Scholarship

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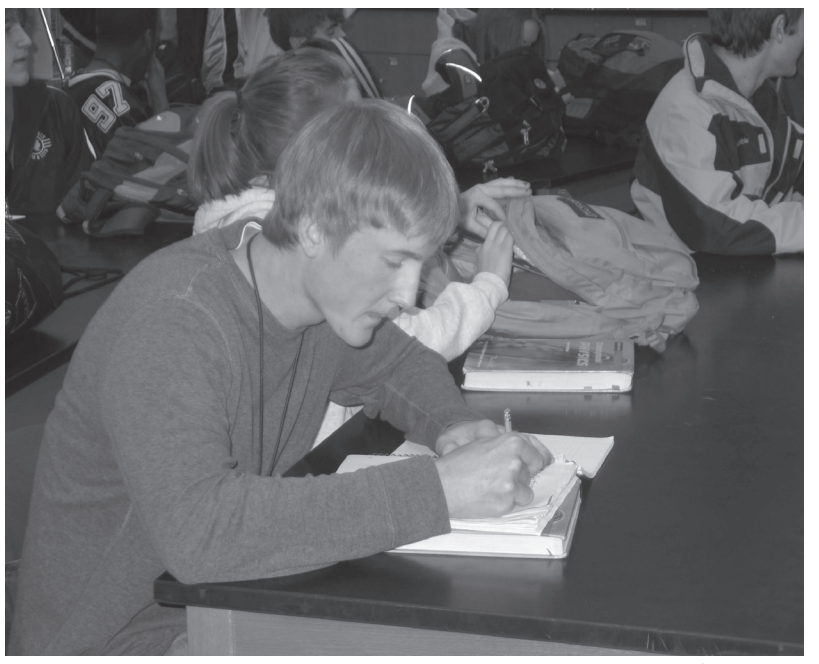

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Barrett Kelpin has physics 4th block. Kelpin said, "I really the class because all of my friends are in it and Mr. Ryan is a character."

Senior Barrett Kelpin seems to be a name on the tip of everyone's tongue. News of this phenomenal athlete is known by many people nationwide, ranking within the top ten golfers eighteen and under.

"I would be absolutely dumb-founded if a college coach did not accept him, actually I am really surprised that he didn't have more colleges asking if he would come to their school," announced Andrew Laboe, Athletic Director at Loy Norrix High school. Excited for the future career of this inspiring star athlete, a smile emerged, seemingly being stretched by invisible strings attached to his ears, the smile covered half of his face as he slipped into a memory of Kelpin's first year at Norrix.

"As a freshmen on the golf team, he was surrounded by very good seniors who were confident, yet nice," a small chuckle filled the room breaking up the sentence, composing himself he continued, "but Kelpin showed the seniors how to play golf," said Laboe.

Kelpin is dedicated and determined that he will be successful. His unconditional love for the game is a constant component in the drive that makes him so successful. Stopping at nothing, Kelpin perfects his game under any type of sky, showing his dedication for the game. This year many colleges tried very hard to recruit Kelpin. Demonstrating every aspect of premium college material, he is exactly what the colleges are looking for: equipped with a sense of humor, a diligent work ethic, effort and optimism. This past summer Kelpin was a runner up in the Michigan Junior Amateur Golf Tournament and in the summer before last he made it to the All-Sate Super Team for golf. Every summer Kelpin competes in national competitions and does well, which has helped him immensely in getting noticed by colleges.

At his official visit to the University of Iowa Kelpin was offered a golf scholarship but Kelpin patiently waited to see his other offers. The weekend before Thanksgiving his top pick, University of Iowa, flashed golden in his eyes. Quickly signing a year-to-year contract, Kelpin was awarded a golf scholarship with the possibility of it covering all four years if he remained within the boundaries of the contract academically and athletically. Kelpin is not sure what he wants to major in but is positive about one thing; he wants to play golf

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