Peak Performers In Sports

Corey Buell
Photo Editor

Barrett Kelpin

Junior, Barrett Kelpin, is the number one player on the Loy Norrix Varsity Golf Team this year. Kelpin has been playing golf year-round for 12 years, both competitively and recreationally. The LN team has had its ups and downs, but all around this season has been going well. Kelpin's record low for this season is a 70 at the Marshall tournament.

He likes the fact that golf is not only an independent sport, but also a team sport.

"It may be a team sport, but you can still blame yourself," said Kelpin. He hopes to continue playing golf after high school, all through his college career.

Martha Alves

Sophomore, Martha Alves is showing real potential as one of the top competitors for the Loy Norrix swim team. She became a competitive swimmer in high school and currently swims the 200 Individual Medley and the 100 Breast Stroke.

"Swimming is fun, but it's the friends that make it enjoyable," said Alves.

Alves plans to continue swimming for LN until graduation, which is a major time dedication. By swimming, Alves sacrifices time that could be spent on playing french horn in the Kalamazoo Junior Symphony Orchestra.

They've Got Possesion

New Coaching Staff Brings Fresh Vision to Women's Basketball

Samantha Demerell Preston
Staff Writer

"Baseline!" This can be heard 15 times during a single practice by new women's basketball head coach Damian Smith, after missed lay-ups and free throws.

At the end of last basketball season, the head coaching job for women's basketball was available. That position has since been filled by Damian Smith.

As head of the new women's basketball program, the duty of finding coaches for the freshman and junior varsity teams laid on Smith's shoulders.

"I picked coaches that I thought had characteristics like me, knew the game and had respect for the kids. I think I picked a good staff. I found the right people for the job," said Smith.

Because of the change in generations, Smith felt that hiring coaches who understand the younger generation would be beneficial to the program.

"They [coaches] care about the players, not only on the court but off. They're younger so they understand the players. Their hearts are in the right place and that's what I love about the staff," coach Smith said.

With the new additions to the coaching staff came new expectations. Instead of attaining the required 2.0 GPA required to play a sport, the varsity team is required to have a 3.0 GPA.

Lashana Johnson, junior, has played on the varsity team for the past two years and agreed that the team's academic expectations have changed.

"We have to have a 3.0 or higher. That's our team goal," said Johnson.

Coach Damian Smith has even higher expectations of his players.

"The girls go to the AAC (Academic Achievement Center) four days a week, even if they have straight A's. There is always room for improvement," said Smith.

In order to keep track of his players' academic status, Smith requires the girls to get a weekly progress report signed by all of their teachers, showing the grade, missing assignments, behavior in class along with upcoming tests and assignments.

MEGAN MAHONEY / KNIGHTLIFE

Freshman Andrea Hughes has been playing basketball since she was five. "Its a fun sport you can play it all year round, the teams is like a family," said Hughes

Smith's high expectations transfer from the classroom to the court.

Cetera Washington, senior, has played on the varsity basketball team since her freshman year. Having played for previous head coach, Anthony Stuckey, she is able to compare their coaching styles.

"We're so used to Stuckey yelling during practices and games. Coach Smith doesn't yell as much, he's more laid back," said Washington.

Even though Smith is more laid back, his consequences for mistakes are not that way.

"For every missed lay-up and free throw, we run sprints. Whenever we mess up, we run," Johnson said.

Smith also coaches the men's junior varsity basketball team and says that he uses a lot of the same drills from the boys' team with the girls' team.

"It's pretty much the same principles. We work on our defense, discipline, and mental toughness. That's what wins games," Smith said.

For the future, Smith as well as Andrew Laboe, Loy Norrix athletic director, hope for the continuous development of the younger teams.

"I hope that the development of the middle school along with the freshman and junior varsity teams will produce more fundamentally sound players," said Laboe.

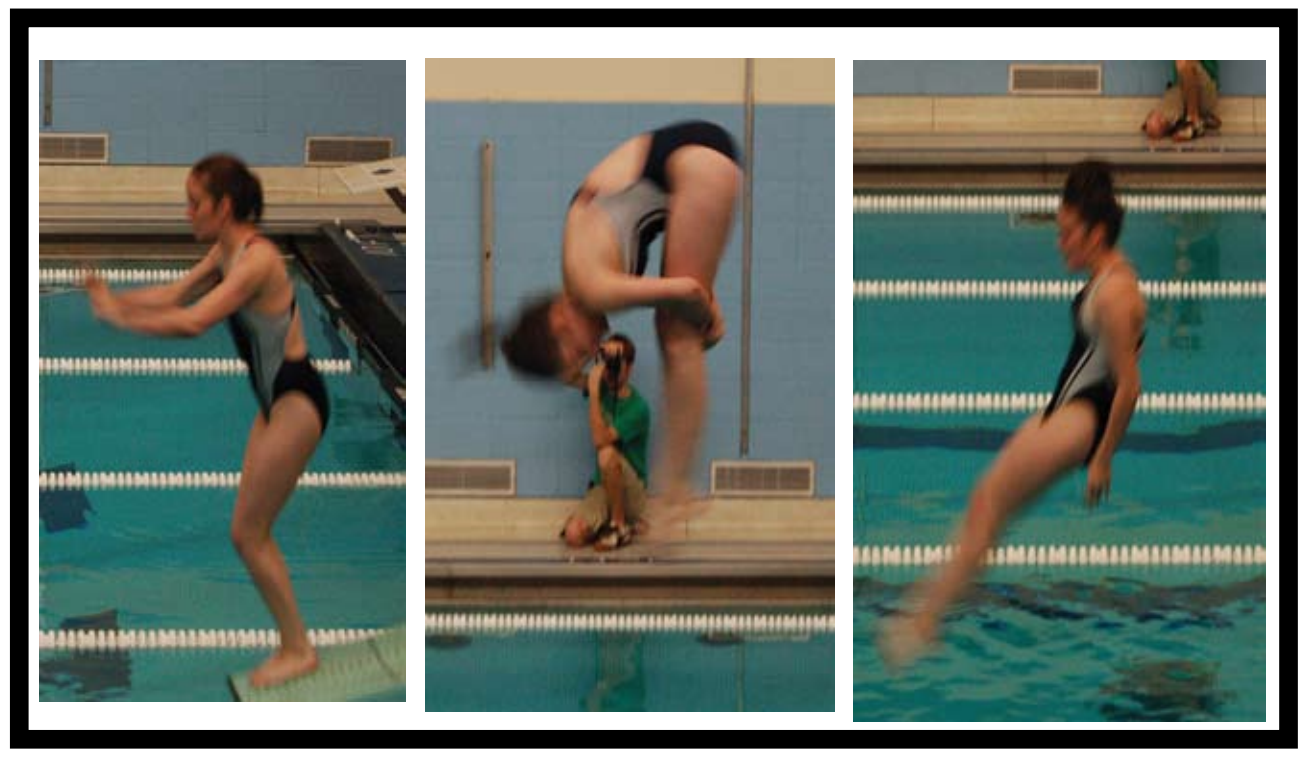
Smith feels the same way, especially about the two freshmen, Ondrea Hughes and Barbara Johnson that play for the varsity team.

"The potential is there. In my opinion, we have two of the best freshmen in the area, and if they continue to learn the game, they will help us be successful in the future," said head coach, Smith.

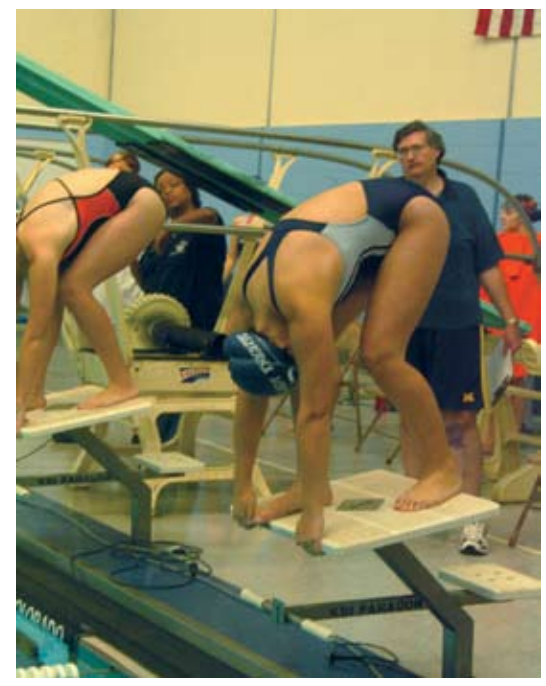
Swimmers Make a SPLASH

Photos by Teshia Treuheft

FRONT to BACK: Sydney Kelpin, Jocelyn Hillard, Hallie Tripp, and Danielle Matlick,cheers on her teammates in the pool. Sydney has swam for all two years of her high school career and is swimming the 200 I.M. at conference. She recently placed second in the 100 Breast stroke event at the meet against Sturgis. Her favorite part of the season is Taper, which is the last two weeks of the season.



Erin Campbell dives off the board at a meet at a home swim meet. Erin has been diving for three years and qualified for the state meet last year.



ABOVE: Danielle Matlick dives into the pool to star he 200 I.M. race. RIGHT: Erika Glass prepares to start the 500 freestyle race. Glass is 3rd in the state for this competition