

ATHLETE OF THE WEEK

10 Questions with Billy Jardeleza

Jardeleza is a rising senior on the Loyola Academy boys lacrosse team. A middie, he helped the Ramblers win the state title this spring.

Do you have any pregame rituals or superstitions before a game?

I don't. The only thing I really do is tape my stick up. When we're sitting in the locker room, I'll just tape up my stick, maybe play around with the strings, but I don't really have anything that I do before every game.

What's on your pregame playlist?

I'm not one for rap or anything like that. I'm a big fan of country, so I'll listen to a lot of Eric Church. I don't have a pump-up playlist though, if I'm being honest.

If you could travel anywhere, where would you go?

I haven't been to Hawaii yet and that's always been on my bucket list. I think me and my family are going down the summer after I graduate. So I'm excited for that.

What would your dream job be?

When I graduate college, I'm gonna enlist in the Navy. My dad was a Navy SEAL and that's exactly what I want to do so that's my dream job.



VARSITY VIEWS

Favorite North Shore restaurant, and what do you order there?

I'm a big fan of Nick's. I get their spicy 5-way mac and cheese, that's a favorite. It's really good.

Who is your favorite sports team?

The Blackhawks. I think hockey is the most exciting sport to watch. Growing up in Chicago I've always rooted for them. I love how fast-paced hockey is with the big hits and all that stuff.

Who is your biggest inspiration?

I'd probably say my dad. He's always been a really, really big role model in my life since a young age. He ran track in college. He's always been "the man" in my eyes, especially because he was a SEAL and I've always wanted to do that. So he's my biggest inspiration.

How does it feel to be an All-Conference selection?

It's a huge honor. I think there's a lot of good face-off guys in my conference. I'd say that it was a surprise but it's very exciting.

What goals do you have, following up your impressive junior season?

I really want to win back-to-back state championships and I think we have all the talent on our teams to do it again and great coaching. That's always our No. 1 goal heading into the season. I think it would just be awesome to do it two years in a row.

What is your favorite part about being an athlete at Loyola?

I'd say being able to be coached by great coaches. I think Loyola Academy has the best coaches in Illinois for all of our sports: football, lacrosse, whatever. And the teammates too. You bond with the guys that you're playing with and I would say that's the best part.

Interview by Editorial Intern Jack Vita



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