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ATHLETE OF THE WEEK

10 Questions with Bridget McConnell

The rising senior is a member of New Trier's girls lacrosse team.

Do you have any pregame rituals or superstitions?

I wouldn't say I have any superstitions, but since I started playing at a competitive level I've listened to music before every game, usually the same playlist. Lots of The Killers, little bit of country.

What's on your pregame playlist?

"Mr. Brightside" by The Killers is my favorite song so I listen to that before every game.

So many sports at New Trier, why did you choose lacrosse?

I just randomly started playing in fifth grade. I mean I really liked it when I was younger. Actually, coach Collins was my coach in youth lacrosse, so he was pushing all the kids to play New Trier lacrosse. My older sister actually played (lacrosse) at New Trier her freshman year so I just continued playing on a club team and I really, really liked it so when I got to high school I decided to try out freshman year.

What would your dream job be?

Well I do a lot of stuff at New Trier with people that have disabilities and I've always wanted to go in to that when I'm older. So I'd

love to work in different countries with little kids with disabilities. That'd be an awesome job for me.

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

Probably Cheesie's in Evanston and I'd get "The Mac."

Who is your favorite sports team?

Probably the Blackhawks. I had a friend whose dad worked for the Blackhawks, so I used to go to the games all the time and it's just like such a fun environment.

Who is your biggest inspiration?

Probably my sister. She's really hard-working at everything she does, so I've always looked up to her a lot.

What's the best coaching advice you've ever received?

Coach Collins, His motto is "grit." "Play with grit. Greatness requires intensity and toughness." So I think we learned that a lot throughout the season that it's not all about skills. It's a lot about working super-hard and being tough when the season is really hard. That's probably the best coaching advice I've gotten.

What's going to need to happen to beat



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Loyola next year in the playoffs?

I think we're all going to have to work super, super hard this offseason. We definitely are capable of beating them. I think we just need to mentally prepare for the game and be working really hard during the game.

What is your favorite part about being an athlete at New Trier?

I definitely like the team aspect of it because when you're in season you just have like 26 new best friends. So many people are supporting you. Definitely having the team with you is the best part about being a New Trier athlete to me.

Interview by Editorial Intern
Jack Vita