

Feature on Presley Pennekamp

By Emma Herzog

Presley Pennekamp is a sophomore soccer player at Oak Hills. She started varsity as a freshman and has only shown improvement to continue down her successful path with Oak Hills women's soccer. This past season, she was named 1st Team All-State, 1st Team All-Southwest Ohio, and GMC player of the year. Not only this, but she has also scored over 100 points for the team, a feat which only 3 others in the program's history have ever accomplished (and she still has 2 more years)!! With all of these impressive achievements, Presley has still managed to balance school work and remain humble.



I asked Presley a few questions about her experience. She had only positive things to say: "My experience has been great so far. The program and everything we do as a team has really helped with getting to know people better." She is especially grateful for Sophia Kuerze, a senior who has been there for her throughout her freshman and sophomore years saying, "She helped me in some of

the most important and difficult games."

As an underclassman on varsity, it can be easy to feel like the underdog who has to build their way up to be respected by upperclassmen, but this did not seem to be a problem for Presley. "It wasn't as difficult or stressful as I thought it was going to be. The main reason I didn't struggle as much was because of how welcoming everyone was to me." This year especially was a great year for the Oak Hills women's soccer team as they were named GMC champions! A lot of this is probably due to the fluidity and teamwork that was so apparent to everyone who attended their games.

Not to mention, the coaches also played a huge role in Presley's high school soccer career. She said, "Every coach in this program has been more than helpful. They helped me stay focused and keep a good mentality throughout everything which is one of the most important things when playing." Without a positive environment, it can be very easy for a student-athlete to get burnt out or feel discouraged. The positive attitude of Presley can be largely attributed to the soccer staff being so helpful.

Mary Blessing and Leni Sullivan are two sophomores on the varsity team with Presley. They also only had positive things to say about Presley. Leni started by saying, "She is a great role model to her teammates as she shows us the time and dedication it takes to be such an amazing player." Mary added to this by saying, "She always keeps a good attitude even during the toughest games and has always been one of the

players to stand up and make a difference during big games.” With all of this, it is safe to say that Presley has a special talent and only plans on improving as she furthers her soccer career in high school and on to college.