

Student Ambassador Spotlight: Molly Fagan of Summit

Molly Fagan loves school and being an athlete. And considering she participates in two distinctly different sports, it made her an ideal candidate to become a NJSIAA Student Ambassador.

So when it was suggested to her last year to apply, the swimmer and lacrosse player from Summit High School jumped at the opportunity.

“When the Athletic Director at my school approached me with this opportunity, I thought it would be a great way to express what makes high school sports so special and how they could still be improved,” she said. “Athletics have been a massive part of my life for a long time and high school sports have by far offered me the best experience of any. I hoped that my input would help continue to provide amazing experiences for high schoolers in sports.”

Molly, a junior at Summit, was one of 19 student-athletes from around the state who were selected last year to serve as an ambassador beginning with the 2022-23 school year. By taking part in group meetings and discussions with NJSIAA officials, they serve a valuable purpose by providing a voice in representing all of the state’s high school athletes.

She’s greatly enjoyed the experience thus far.

“So far the most interesting topic for me has been sportsmanship,” she said. “I think this topic has definitely been the most relatable for me and the most widespread issue in high school sports. I also liked the focus on good sportsmanship that the NJSIAA has supported instead of recognizing only the poor moments of sportsmanship. I am hopeful that, in general, we will be provide an environment of good sportsmanship and a high level of competition across all high school sports.”

She brings a unique perspective to the group as one who swims in the winter, and then plays lacrosse in the spring. Summit happens to be strong in both sports. In fact, both teams won state championships in 2022.

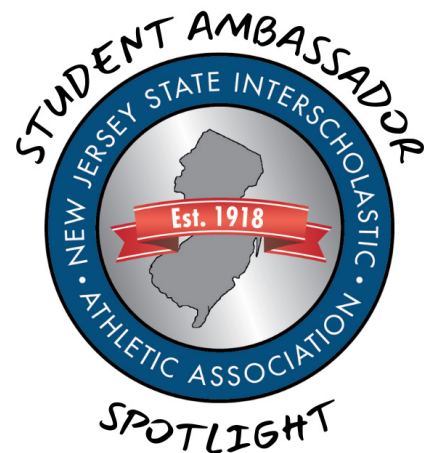


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“I find that swimming has always proved much more difficult for me as it provides a new mental challenge with each race,” Molly said. “Swimming is a unique sport as it is truly a competition with myself every time I step into the pool. Lacrosse, on the other hand, offers a team of support at each game. “Learning how to work with a new team and support each other on the field is a new and exciting challenge that comes with entering lacrosse season,” she said.



"Additionally, the switch from swim to lacrosse season has proved difficult in the past. My club season for swimming generally interferes with tryouts for lacrosse season so the transition is very physically demanding but it is also extremely exciting." Is there a sport you don't play but would some day like to try? "I would like to try flag football, because while it is not offered at my school, it is becoming bigger in New Jersey. I've always loved football and I think it would be a super cool opportunity to participate in flag football."

Getting to know Student Ambassador Molly Fagan:

Favorite school subject: Science. "I really enjoy the lab periods and the critical thinking that goes along with science."

Favorite athlete: Olympic and World swim champion Katie Ledecky. "She is an inspiration for young women in sports, particularly in swimming."

Favorite team: Philadelphia Eagles.

How do you spend time on the bus on the way to an away meet or game? "I spend most of my bus rides listening to music and singing along with the rest of the bus. My personal favorite hype song during swim season is "Hotel Room Service."

Favorite food: "I love tacos."

The best thing about my school is...?

"The opportunities that it offers, both academically and athletically. My school offers a variety of athletic programs as well as class options which have allowed me to find what I am truly interested in."

What's your favorite thing about being a high school athlete? "My favorite thing about being a high school athlete is the people. I love being a part of such close-knit teams. I truly enjoy every minute that I spend with my swim and lacrosse teams because everyone offers such a unique personality and outlook to the team. Sports have allowed me to meet my best friends and some of the most inspiring and talented people I know."

What's the best quality in a teammate? Humility.

"I think that humility goes hand and hand with being a hard worker and I believe that recognizing mistakes is an important step in improving as part of a team."

What's been your proudest moment so far as a student? "My proudest moment as a student was when I placed first in my school in the AMC math competition. I never considered myself especially good at math, but it provided the confidence I needed to proceed to higher levels of math."

Do you have a favorite sports memory? "My favorite sports memory was when my swim team won the state championship last year, followed by my lacrosse team winning the Tournament of Champions right after."

Is there a sport you don't play but would some day like to try? "I would like to try flag football, because while it is not offered at my school, it is becoming bigger in New Jersey. I've always loved football and I think it would be a super cool opportunity to participate in flag football."

If there were 25 hours in a day, what would you do with the extra hour?

"I would probably use it to read, because I enjoy reading and feel as though I never have enough time to sit down and read."

What's the best place you've ever traveled to? Italy.

Do you have any pets? "I have a yellow lab named touchdown."

Do you have a career ambition yet? "I'm interested in business or engineering."



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