

Student Ambassador Spotlight: Clare Pawlowski of Kent Place

Clare Pawlowski is not one to devote her time and efforts to a single sport.

A junior at Kent Place School in Summit, she participates in an interesting variety of athletic activities: soccer in the fall, fencing in the winter and lacrosse in the spring.

"I've played lacrosse since kindergarten and it is by far my favorite sport," she said. "I have been immersed in the club lacrosse world since fourth grade and have made many of my closest friends playing the sport. I enjoy playing soccer to further be a part of my school's community. I was new to the fencing community as a sophomore, and it has been a great experience for me to try something new and make new friendships."

Having such an attitude towards sports participation made Clare an ideal candidate to become a NJSIAA Student Ambassador. So she applied last year, and was selected to be one of the 19 student-athletes from throughout the state who attend meetings with NJSIAA administration and serve as a voice for their fellow athletes.



Photos provided by Clare Pawlowski



"When I was nominated by Kent Place for the opportunity and learned more about it, I was very interested in being able to hear about other student-athletes' experiences from different schools all across the state," she said. "From our past two meetings, I have learned a lot from other athletes and it has been fascinating to hear their experiences."

"I hope that as a group, we can make high school sports in New Jersey a bigger and better experience for all of those involved, including athletes, coaches, spectators and anyone and everyone else involved," she said.

It's been an experience that Clare has enjoyed thus far, and she's also gained an understanding of how the NJSIAA operates through the meeting sessions led by Executive Director Colleen Maguire.



"It has been very interesting to hear about some of the behind the scenes work that goes on at the NJSIAA office," Clare said. "I have learned that each rule set in place has been carefully thought out, and been discussed and had many opinions given to it. Mrs. Maguire has asked the ambassadors about potential rules and changes the NJSIAA is considering implementing, and she always considers our input and values our thoughts, opinions and experiences."

Getting to know Student Ambassador Clare Pawlowski:

Favorite school subjects: History and Math.

Favorite athlete: Soccer star Alex Morgan.

Favorite team: "My favorite team is the New York Giants. I have enjoyed going to their games since I was little and the fans are awesome!"

Do you have any superstitions or pre-game rituals?

"For each lacrosse game, I always have to have my hair in a pony-tail with a braid. I also always need to have my pink pre wrap to keep my hair back."

How do you spend time on the bus on the way to an away game? "Usually chatting with my teammates, working through pre-game nerves or singing along to the team playlist."

Favorite food: Sushi.

What's your favorite thing about being a high school athlete? "My favorite thing about being a high school athlete is getting to play the sports I love with (and against) my greatest friends."

Do you have a favorite sports memory? "My favorite sports memory was beating Montclair Kimberley Academy my sophomore lacrosse season. It was a long time coming after losing to them my freshman year and it was a hard earned win after a triple overtime game."

Is there a sport you don't play but would some day like to try? "I would love to try water-polo. It is my understanding that it is insanely hard but those who play it make it look effortless."

If you had a superpower, what would it be and why?
"I would like to be able to read minds."

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

What's the best place you've ever traveled to?
"Maui, HI is the best place I have ever traveled to."

Do you have a career ambition yet?
"Right now I am not totally sure, but I am thinking about architecture."