

Student Ambassador Spotlight: Lily Wendorff of Villa Walsh

Lily Wendorff recognizes the importance of taking part in high school sports. And as a junior volleyball and lacrosse player at Villa Walsh Academy in Morris Township, she's a very active athlete.

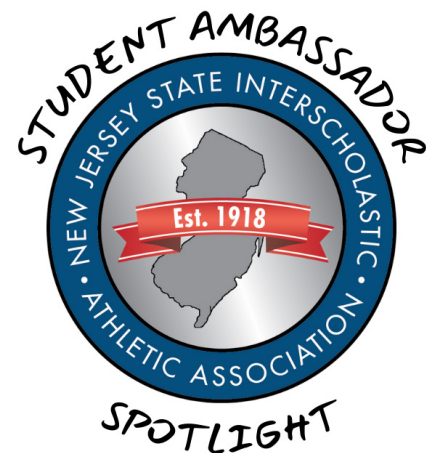
"To me, being on a sports team is an essential part of my high school career," she said. "I enjoy acting with my peers in an athletic setting, and even playing against some of my friends from other schools. High school sports can be very time demanding, but the commitment is definitely worth it."

Lily has played lacrosse from a very early age, and began participating in volleyball as a freshman at Villa Walsh.



Photos provided by Lily Wendorff

"I began playing lacrosse when I was 5, so I have 12 years of experience," she said. "Due to this, I was fortunate enough to play at the varsity level when I was just a freshman. Although I had several years of experience before entering the high school level, my coaches taught me that I still have more to learn and they continue to shape me into the best player I can be. Contrastingly to lacrosse, I began volleyball my freshman year. Despite having no prior knowledge about the sport, my coaches assisted me in learning and now it is one of my favorite hobbies."



Being so interested in sports also made Lily an ideal candidate to become a NJSIAA Student Ambassador. She applied to serve, and last year was one of 19 student-athletes from throughout the state who were selected to act as a voice for the state's approximately 283,000 high school school athletes.

"I knew that becoming a student ambassador was a great opportunity and a way to provide helpful information for our New Jersey high school sports teams," she said. "I wanted to share my ideas and some insight about high school athletes and help understand the reasons for different rule changes and regulations. I am extremely passionate about sports and by taking part in this opportunity, I am able to share my ideas, and the ideas of all my peers."

Lily has enjoyed the meetings so far, both for the dialogue with her fellow ambassadors, as well as with the NJSIAA administration.

“I hope that we can create the best possible environment for high school sports,” she said. “I am sure we can accomplish this by working together and using our ideas to develop solutions to some problems that may have occurred in the past.

“I am most interested that all of the students ideas are both valued and appreciated,” Lily said. “Our voices are heard and it is interesting to talk to other students who may have experienced similar things as you.”

Getting to know Student Ambassador Lily Wendorff:

Favorite school subject: “My favorite school subject is Math. I enjoy solving different problems and equations, and my favorite year of math was studying algebra.”

Favorite athlete: “My favorite athlete right now is Charlotte North. I enjoyed watching her on the Boston College lacrosse team because she is an extremely talented player.”

Favorite team: New York Giants.

Do you have any superstitions or pre-game rituals? “Before every game, my team meets together and we all share some positive affirmations for the game.”

How do you spend time on the bus on the way to an away game? “My team enjoys listening and singing along to music in order to pump up for the game.”

Favorite food: “My favorite food is an everything bagel.”

The best thing about my school is...? “The best thing about my school is its spirit. Our sports teams have so many supporters and fans, which allows us to perform better.”

What’s your favorite thing about being a high school athlete? “I really love the amount of friends that I have been able to make through sports that I

would not have talked to without being on the same team.”

What’s the best quality in a teammate? “It is always encouraging when a teammate is uplifting and supports you after you make a mistake, rather than yelling at you.”

What’s been your proudest moment so far as a student? “My proudest moment as a student is my work ethic and ability to take certain classes.”

Do you have a favorite sports memory? “My favorite sports memory was my defensive squad my freshman year of lacrosse. Everyone was so uplifting and encouraging, which made my freshman year season so much fun.”

Is there a sport you don’t play but would some day like to try? “My school does not have a field hockey team, but if they did, I would’ve definitely liked to try it out.”

Have you ever met anyone famous? “One time I was in Tacoria in Morristown and ran into the Dolan twins. They were super sweet and I am so glad that I met them. Another time i went to a Broadway show and I met Hoda Kotb. She was so kind and cool and we took a lot of pictures.”

If you had a super power, what would it be and why? “I would like to be able to teleport, so I could get to any destination at any given time.”

If there were 25 hours in a day, what would you do with the extra hour? “I would enjoy getting an extra hour of sleep.”

What’s the best place you’ve ever traveled to? “My favorite place I have traveled to was Italy. I enjoyed speaking Italian to the residents and learning more about my culture.”

Do you have any pets? “I have a pet cavachon named Scout.”

Do you have a career ambition yet? “I am currently planning on going to college for nursing, and possibly returning after a few years to go to med school.”