

# Sports

## Emily Paukert plays her last year strong

By Anna Lee  
Staff Writer

Throughout her four years playing basketball at Freeman High School, Emily Paukert has put in many hours of practice and hard work with the team becoming a great contributor on the floor. With her hard work and dedication to basketball, Paukert earned a starting spot as a guard this season.

"I am going to miss her hard-working attitude and her lovable sense of humor," said junior teammate Molly McIntyre who has played with Paukert for three years now.

As a four-year varsity player, Paukert has put in a lot of hard work and time to become the player that she is today. For college, though, she plans on going to Montana State to study



Photo by Pia Longinotti

Emily Paukert drives to the hoop during Freeman's game against Lakeside to move on to Bi-Districts.

Biomedicine. She will not be playing basketball or any other sports for Montana, but she does plan on playing rec league.

"I started playing when I was five," Paukert

laughed. "I just didn't want to do ballet anymore."

It was a good thing that she started playing basketball, too, because she has made real friendships, not just with her teammates but also with her coach.

"I am going to miss her sense of humor and her hard work ethic," said coach Ashley Nimri. "She is always fun to be around and I will definitely miss all of her hammer time."

"It just doesn't seem real," said Paukert about playing her last season for the Scotties.

"Paukert's positive energy and motivation was a big contributor toward how far they have gotten this year," said teammate Sierra McGarity.

Even though the end of the season will be sad, she spent her four years here well and worked hard throughout all of them!

"Going to state makes playing sports worthwhile," Paukert added "Now all we have to do is win state this year! Whoop, whoop!"

## Derek Harter taking his game to the next level

By Preston Primmer  
Staff Writer

The Freeman Scotties boys basketball team has had a very successful year. Everyone on the varsity team has been a big contributor, especially senior Derek Harter. He has been a big contributor not only on the offensive end, but been a key player defensively. He has had several games this year where he has scored twenty points or more while also defending opponents much taller than him.

"During practice, Derek always pushes us to compete, so when it comes game time everyone is ready to play," said sophomore teammate Austin Rice.

Harter has taken on the personality of his coach throughout the last two sea-

sons. Coach Graham always pushes himself to win; this is followed by his team who also love to compete to win. Harter has taken Graham's competitive drive into his own practices and games, pushing to be better each day.

"Derek is a man-child in the paint, offensive rebounding, and attacking the hoop," said coach John Graham.

The team has found success behind its senior leaders, including Harter. In a year where Freeman has been consistently outsized, they've found a way to win.

"We are currently 15-7," said Harter. "Also, we took first place in league and districts this season."

Harter is a multi-sport athlete, playing both football and basketball. He



Photo by Pia Longinotti

Derek Harter goes up for a shot during the District Championship game. Freeman won by 15.

started for the football team as an offensive receiver and as a defensive outside linebacker, along with earning a starting post position for basketball this season.

Harter worked tremendously hard in the off-season participating in APX, summer league basketball, and seven-on-

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## Being new is usually hard, but not for everyone

By Jessica Ruby  
Staff Writer

Being new is hard enough, but for sophomore Nicole Westberg, it was a piece of cake.

"I came to Freeman because I knew some friends already and I was inter-

ested in cheerleading," explained Westberg. "I have found my passion."

Westberg made the cheer squad for both the fall and winter squads. Not only has she cheered both seasons, but she earned a captain position for the winter squad.

"Nicole has done a fantastic job," said coach Wylie Rhoads. "She leads with humility and always encourages everyone to do their best,"

Before coming to Freeman, Westberg attended Valley Christian School. She loved playing basket-

ball at VC, until she was injured. She had a devastating set back when she tore her ACL playing basketball during eighth grade and had to have surgery. After she recovered from the surgery, she tore her other ACL playing

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# Arts and Entertainment

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seven football. Hard work has taken him a long way.

“I hope to play football at an NAIA college, such as Haskell or Eastern Oregon,” said Harter.

Both his brothers play at Haskell in Lawrence, Kan-

sas. Harter has big plans to play college football, and possibly even college basketball. Harter was a major part of a football team that was Co-league Champs, and earned second team all-league offense for football.

“He has good hands, good size, and good strength. If he goes to the right college football program, he will be very successful” said head football coach, Jim Wood.

As for basketball his actions speak for themselves. He is a very good athlete and

has a good shot which will take him far. The skills Harter learned at Freeman will help him very much in his future career. Wherever he goes, he will be very successful.

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basketball in ninth, resulting in a second surgery. Westberg was told she probably wouldn’t be able to play basketball anymore. She was heartbroken, but she pushed through.

During her recovery, Westberg tried out for cheer here at Freeman not knowing if she was going to be admitted into Freeman or not. Rhoads gave her a position and when she was accepted, the team couldn’t wait for her to be a part of the squad. She has been a great addition to the squad.

“One thing I like most is being a super fan for all of the players,” said Westberg.

Westberg has been able to learn all aspects in Freeman cheer; stunting, dancing, cheering, and school spirit. She has always enjoyed dance and was a dancer before coming to Freeman.

“I am glad she will be around for a few more



Photo by Jessica Ruby

Westberg exploring downtown Seattle while on the trip to perform in the University of Washington football halftime.

years,” Rhoads said. “She has done a fantastic job bringing a more relaxed and lightened mood to the squad.”

Having Westberg on the squad has been a great addition. She has helped the squad accomplish so much with her positive attitude and her strong motivation.

## Senior Wrestler over-comes injury

By Olivia Nemec  
A&E Editor

Senior Joseph Schweiger is an amazing wrestler; he loves what he does and he’s good at it, too. He’s won quite a few awards over the years, placing at least 15 times; he plans to snag a few more by the end of high school.

With college just around the corner, scholarships are definitely on his mind. Schweiger currently has none for wrestling, but there may be opportunities to play football in the future. On top of Schweiger’s list of potential colleges are Whitworth and Pacific University.

Wrestling in college is something he is considering, and if he decides on Pacific University, he will continue to wrestle in college. Wrestling for Freeman is something Schweiger looks forward to every single day.

“I love practicing with my

team, but tournaments are my favorite part,” said Schweiger.

Preparing for a tournament is hard work and there’s a lot of pressure, so to get ready for an intense match Schweiger goes off by himself, gets warmed-up and prays. However, his best pre-game inspiration was knowing that his family was there to support him.

This season, his toughest obstacle was not wrestling, but an ankle injury. Being injured through most of the season really took a toll on Schweiger.

“It was hard because you have to watch,” Schweiger explained. “You can’t help your team.”

It was really frustrating not being able to participate. His team is like family to him, and they are all very close.

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## A cheerleader flies to London and back as the greatest experience ever

By Hope Mathews  
Staff Writer

Senior Shelby Nelson, who never thought she would even be a cheerleader, traveled farther than she would ever go in her life, when she was invited to join the All-American squad last summer.

Nelson never planned to cheer until she had a serious calf injury in softball. The injury caused her to decide to try something new. On a whim, she decided to try out for the Freeman varsity cheer squad, cast and all.

To her surprise, she made the team for the all-year squad. Nelson had never even thought that she would be a cheerleader. Before this summer, she never thought she could make a squad like the All-Americans.

“Shelby is so sweet and I am so proud of how far she got in her career and can’t

wait to see how far she ends up getting in college,” said freshman Kyla Wright.

Nelson is a great influence and her team loves her and knows she will always be there to turn to if you need anything.

“Nelson is like my older sister and I can go to her for anything,” said sophomore teammate Kindra Malloy.

Nelson got the chance of a lifetime this summer. When her team went to Universal Cheerleading Association (UCA) camp, Nelson got the chance to try out for All-American squad. The tryout consisted of the camp extreme dance, the All-American cheer, and the cheerleader best jump. Nelson tried out with three other people, and at the end of the week, they announced the winners.

Nelson had never tried out for All-American before because she never imagined that she would make it.

“I wish that I would have tried out before I did and see how much farther I could have made it as a cheerleader,” said Nelson, senior captain of the cheer squad. Making the All-American squad not only put Nelson as one of the best cheerleaders in the nation, but it also earned her an amazing opportunity.

Nelson was invited to take a trip to London, England as part of the squad. She raised over \$3,000 to participate in this unique opportunity.

“The trip was amazing, it was so fun and such a good experience!” Nelson exclaimed.

Nelson has accomplished much in this year and next year you may even see her working for the UCA staff.



Photo Courtesy of Cami Bradley

Shelby Nelson during the fall photo shoot with Cami Bradley.

“The boss man offered to hold the application to wait for me to get some tumbling,” Nelson said through her smile.

All in all, Nelson has made it farther in cheerleading at Freeman than any other person that has gone through the team.

“I am very proud of my Shelby and how far she has come,” said coach Wylie Rhoads. “I am very sad that she is a senior and this is my last year with her.”





Photo by Pia Longinotti  
Joseph Schweiger wrestling at the NEA District tournament held at Freeman High School.

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Despite his injuries, Schweiger finished his senior season back on the mat in time to compete in districts, his goal for recovery. Schweiger finished his senior season with a record of 11-3. He took 2<sup>nd</sup> at the Clearwater Classic, his first tournament post-injury. Schweiger then dominated

at the district tournament, winning his weight class. Unfortunately, he placed 5<sup>th</sup> at the regional tournament, which knocked him out of competing at state, but did earn him a state alternate position. “More important than winning all my matches or going to state, was the opportunity to get back on the

mat one last time,” said Schweiger. “Not to mention competing day in and day out alongside my brothers again.” Wrestling alongside some of the best wrestlers in the state, like seniors Avery Smetana and Taylor Glidewell, would seem intimidating, but Schweiger really enjoys it. “It’s really nice wrestling with guys like Avery and Taylor,” explained Schweiger. “They help make me better at what I do.” Schweiger is much more than just a great wrestler; he is also a good student and very socially involved. He gets mostly A’s and is very involved in the Freeman community. He has great friends that he loves to be with. He is also very involved in his family life.

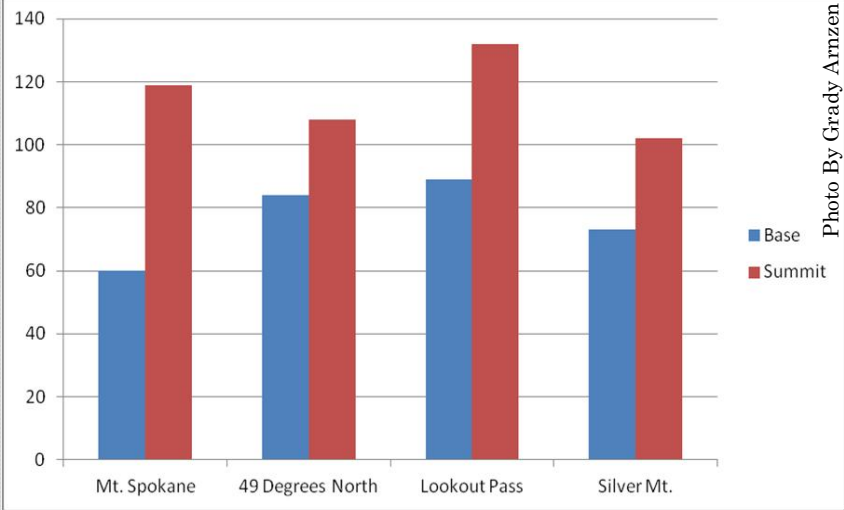
He has 3 younger siblings, so growing up, he really had to be a role model for them. His family is a very active part of the community; he likes to give back to a community that is so supportive. His role model and mentor is definitely coach Ripke. Schweiger goes to Ripke for advice on everything from wrestling to life. Ripke is a big influence on his sports and personal life. “Ripke makes me a better man,” Schweiger said. “He is a great mentor.” Schweiger takes a lot of pride in how far he has come since his first day freshman year. Schweiger is a devoted community member, family member and athlete; he is truly great on and off the mat.

## Spokane area ski resorts doing well in warm winter

By Grady Arnzen  
Sports Editor

Ski Resorts surrounding the Spokane area such as Mt. Spokane, Lookout Pass, Silver Mountain, and 49 Degrees North all have had a great skiing and snowboarding season despite the mild, warm winter. The weather has been generous on the mountains making for a great skiing and snowboarding season while Spokane has gotten mostly rain. The closest destination is Mt. Spokane, just north of the Spokane Valley. Mt. Spokane has received 119 inches of snow at the summit, with 60 inches at the base to date. Lately, however, Mt. Spokane has not received much fresh snow, and the freezing conditions have led to an icy surface. Mt. Spokane personnel have done a good job at grooming the runs though. Tubing has also opened up on the weekends. “There are great technical and challenging runs, but not much selection,” said freshman Erynn Waite. Waite added that she liked how the ski staff was very friendly and helpful. Onthesnow.com, a review site for ski mountains, rates Mt. Spokane at three and a half stars. They recommend Mt. Spokane for families, and also for intermediate skiers and snowboarders. Lookout Pass is another great location for Freeman skiers. It’s located by Mullan, Idaho on I-90. Lookout has received over 89 inches at the

base, and over 132 inches at the summit. Lookout Pass was one of the first mountains around this area to receive snow, and opened up before any other surrounding mountain. Lookout has continued to receive the most amount of snow in the area. “Lookout Pass was pretty good, but the summit was foggy,” freshman Mike Cahill said. “There wasn’t much selection for different difficulties, but I didn’t mind because the powder was fantastic!” Lookout Pass has 34 official runs, mostly rated intermediate and hard. The resort was also rated the #1 family-friendly resort in the Pacific Northwest for all the activities you can do such as snowshoe, snowmobile, and camp in the summer. Onthesnow.com rates Lookout Pass as almost four stars, and is recommended for families and intermediate skiers. A little further away, in Kellogg, Idaho, is Silver Mountain. Silver has consistently gotten snow throughout the season, with 73 inches at the base and 102 inches at the summit. Silver Mountain is the largest mountain out of the four around Spokane, standing at an elevation of 6,300 feet, and has over 73 runs, plus unnamed areas that are open for expert skiing. 40% of the runs are intermediate, and 40% are advanced to expert. The rest of the runs are beginner. “I think my favorite part about Silver is their gondola,” Cahill said. “The snow is ok,



This graph show the accumulated snowfall for the four featured ski mountains around Spokane for both the summit and base.

and I like all the different runs Silver has.” Onthesnow.com gives Silver Mountain three and a half stars and recommends the mountain from children up to seniors. The last mountain of the four is 49 Degrees North in Chewelah, Washington. This ski mountain has accumulated 84 inches at the base and 108 inches at the summit. 49 has been blessed with good weather this season, with calm winds and great visibility at both the base and the summit. A few inches of snow a day has contributed to excellent skiing conditions in January and February. The terrain park is one of the more popular features at 49 Degrees North; it features a half-pipe, along with box rails, jumps, and rainbow rails. The powder has been fresh this season. Unfortunately, there have been some complaints at the

mountain. Some skiers have reported that equipment from the rental shop was poor, and the chair was down some of the times. “When I went up, Chair 1 was down for almost 25 minutes!” Cahill exclaimed. Just like the other mountains, 49 is recommended for families and intermediate skiers. 49 Degrees North was voted the most family-friendly ski resort by Onthesnow.com. With a short drive, you can reach any of these mountains. These four have been the most popular for skiing around Spokane due to their extensive snowfall and nicely groomed runs. Overall, you can expect a great experience skiing or snowboarding at any one of these fantastic ski resorts.



# Sports

## Box Scores: Freeman leads league in winter sports

### Regional Wrestling

132 – Jesse Schmidlkofer – did not place  
145 – Konner Forshag – did not place  
152 – Taylor Glidewell – 1<sup>st</sup>  
160 – Austin Munson – 5th (alternate to state)  
160 – Wyatt Smith – did not place  
182 – Joe Schweiger – 5th (alternate to state)  
195 – Brian Hogan – did not place  
220 – Teigan Glidewell – 2<sup>nd</sup>  
285 – Avery Smetana – 3<sup>rd</sup>

### State Wrestling

Taylor Glidewell- 3<sup>rd</sup> place with a cradle for the win

Teigan Glidewell- didn't place

Avery Smentana- 7<sup>th</sup> place

### Girls Basketball

26-2 overall, 10-0 in league

League Champions, Bi-District Champions, Regional  
Champions,  
2nd in WIAA A State

### Boys Basketball

15-9 overall, 8-2 in league

League champions, District Champions



All photos by Pia Longinotti