

Multi-sport athlete Knoblett leads men's varsity volleyball



Senior Cole Knoblett, No. 4, sets the ball during his varsity volleyball match against Covenant Christian High School. After setting the ball, the Falcons and Warriors rallied until the Falcons won the point, but lost the conference game 3-0 on April 24 (Photo by Annie Bambang).

By Annie Bambang

Playing on men's varsity volleyball for three years as a setter, senior **Cole Knoblett** is described as the most dedicated to the team, according to Coach **Zach**.

"He has worked hard and has been here for three seasons. He is able to adapt to any position appointed to him and is unique as his long time experience in volleyball gives him an advantage."

Knoblett, also a member on the track team, says that volleyball is a passion of his. This first originated when his parents convinced him to play a ball sport his freshman year.

He later found that he liked playing volleyball more than he thought he would when his sister first introduced it to him. Unfortunately, he says she doesn't play anymore, but that doesn't stop her from passing a volleyball with him from time to time.

The next volleyball match is Tuesday at home, 6 p.m.

Although men's volleyball is considered a club sport, Knoblett still likes to think of it as a school sport. School club sports are usually generated from the students themselves. Although they don't get to play in state competitions, they can still participate against other school teams.

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Knowing how important recognition is, Knoblett watched his JV teammates play against Covenant Christian High School.

"It's fun to play and fun to watch. I think a lot more people would participate and enjoy the games if they knew about it."

To view Although Knoblett is ex-

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perienced in all positions, he says his favorite position is being the setter. The setters, positioned on the right in the front row, are key players on any team

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-Senior Cole Knoblett

as they are in charge of the offense. Setters have to consistently deliver a good ball to hit in order to transition the pass to other players.

He says, "Volleyball is a very fast paced game and the reaction time needs to be very quick." That is why Knoblett says that in order to prepare, you need a lot of team practice in order for the game to flow well.

Volleyball is a very team oriented sport, which means one team member cannot function without the other.

Knoblett says that he "plans to play in college at Ball State."

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The Falcons lost against Southport at home on Wednesday, 25-16. Their next match is Tuesday at 6 p.m. against Ben Davis and Lawrence North High Schools.

Freshman shot put thrower surpasses season's expectations

By Madison Pruitt

The audience stares, stunned as freshman shot put thrower, **Lauralye Simpson**, locks in 4th place in the conference tournament out of 16, having never competed in the event before this year.

Standing at a powerful 6 foot, 3 inches, Simpson has thrown her heart into her new passion on the track and field team.

Simpson rarely had any thought about competing in track and field events, as she has concentrated on basketball, on varsity this past winter.

Her current passion, however, is throwing the 8.8 pound weight as far as she can.

"You don't have to count on anyone else. You have to rely on your own abilities."

Simpson points out her bond with fellow shot put thrower, senior **Taylor Hart**. Hart also threw in conference,

receiving 6th place overall. Due to time spent together training, Simpson says the two are good friends.

Throughout the season, Simpson has figured out a routine to follow that keeps her throws going correctly, and keeping them in fair territory.

"I have to take five steps and three breaths before throwing, and I always have my necklace in my back pocket," says Simpson. Her belief is that if her routine is broken in any way, the following throw won't be good.

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The relationship between competitor and coach is always important in school competitive sports. Simpson knows this well, complimenting her Coach **Astin Vick**.

"I love Coach," says Simpson. "She's so funny and still helpful at the same time. She has helped me so much."

Simpson hasn't even been throwing for a year, yet she has already agreed to continue participating in shot put for the rest of her high school career.



Freshman Lauralye Simpson throws her shot put on the softball field (Photo by Madison Pruitt).