

Grace Satori

Commitment to Excellence

Athletics have always been a very important aspect of my life, as I have been playing sports since before I can remember. I started playing sports competitively in first grade, when I joined the Manitowoc-Two Rivers YMCA swim team. I swam for eight years before I got to high school and had to choose between swimming and volleyball. I started playing volleyball in fifth grade, and played club volleyball from seventh grade through my junior year. Earlier this school year I finished my senior volleyball season as a Lincoln Ship, which completed my eighth year of volleyball. In addition to these sports my softball career started in first grade when I played for the Manitowoc Youth Baseball Association. I played for the MYBA for nine years, and added club and high school softball during my freshman year. I'm hoping to still play some games during senior season to finish out my 12th year playing softball.

Throughout my involvement in sports I have learned a lot about myself and I have gained life skills that I will carry with me long after my athletic career is over. When I became a high school student athlete one skill I found to be most important was time management. Between practices, games, and team bonding, I often felt overwhelmed and stressed about fitting in time for my schoolwork. I quickly learned how to manage my time and be efficient. I also learned how to prioritize the assignments and activities that needed to be done first to help keep myself organized. This time management skill will help me as I continue my academic career at UW-Madison.

I also learned how to work well with others, which is something I struggled with in school prior to being involved in high school athletics. In sports, especially volleyball for me,

everyone on the court needs to work together in order to be successful. This sometimes means having to figure out how to work with people you don't get along with. In sports, school, and a workplace, everyone in the given group is working towards a common goal. It's important to be able to work well with others so that the goal can be achieved, whatever it may be.

Sports have also taught me what it means to be accountable and how important it is to work hard even when no one is watching. For softball I am a pitcher, and if I only pitched during the season it wouldn't go very well. Pitching is a year round commitment and as I have gotten older I realized how important it is for me to be working hard at my position. Maintaining your skills as a pitcher is only done by practice. Summers were spent at the softball diamond and winters were spent in the gym with my catcher. I never had an issue with this because I knew I had to hold myself accountable to practicing if I wanted to be able to perform at a high level when the season came around. Accountability is something everyone needs to learn if they want to be trusted in any aspect of their life. If someone gives you a task to complete, you need to hold yourself accountable to finishing that job. Without accountability no one will have faith in you to complete an objective.

I've also learned through athletics how to persevere and work towards a goal. My freshman year of volleyball our team wasn't very good. We had two wins and seven losses in conference games during that season. After that season I realized that it was going to take hard work and perseverance to develop a program where winning was the goal. Through hard work and dedication the team had eight wins and one loss in conference my senior year. This has helped me to realize that any goal can be achieved with hard work and dedication, and I plan to take these skills with me as I work towards my future goals and aspirations.

Being a team player is something that I struggled with at a young age but quickly learned the importance of when I started my high school volleyball career. I came into the program when it was in a bit of a slump and I was asked to give up one of the positions I had played up until this point, to cover the position that the team most needed me at. This also happened at the beginning of my junior season when I was asked to try a new position. It wasn't easy to be told that I had to change what I wanted to do, but I understood it was for the good of the team so I did it with no complaints. Being selfless and doing something for the improvement of the whole is more important than doing something to benefit ourselves. This can be seen today with the Safer at Home Act that has been put into place due to the COVID-19 outbreak. While I would much rather be out with my friends, I am willing to stay home for the good of society. Sports have taught me that this group mindset is something valuable in all aspects of life and I have no doubt that it will help me in my future.

I think I would be a good candidate for this scholarship because I have been involved with sports since a young age and they have had a large impact on my life. My participation in athletics is something I treasure because it's not the wins or losses that were important; it's the memories, friendships and lessons I'll carry with me the rest of my life that matter.