



ANNA REED/STATESMAN JOURNAL

Junior Maggie Roth plays soccer and basketball for Silverton High School.

Being outstanding at three sports is only part of who Maggie Roth is

BILL POEHLER
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SILVERTON -- There's a reason so many people profess their love of Maggie Roth.

The Silverton High School junior inspires by the effort she puts into playing sports and her easy-going manner draws in those around her when she's not playing.

Roth can even inspire people to make up words to describe her.

"She's the awesomest," junior teammate Brooke McCarty said.

That Roth been an all-state selection in three sports is an added bonus.

At this point in the year, she's making opponents account for her on both ends of the floor.

But in the spring she swings a bat with power and guns down runners with ease from the catcher position on Silverton's softball team.

And this fall she was the sure thing midfielder on Silverton's 5A state runner-up soccer team.

It's who Roth is away from all of that that inspires loyalty.

"One, she doesn't take herself very seriously," Silverton basketball coach Tal Wold said. "She is so goofy, and it's a great character thing. She's like 16, or now 17, going on 12, except when you need to be 16 or 17."

"I don't think she's gotten anything other than an A. She played three sports and dominates all of them. Competes like crazy in all of them. Is a great teammate in all of them. There's not look at me, who I am. She kind of gets it," he added.

In the classroom, Roth carries a 4.0 GPA.

Transitioning from sport to sport is nothing new to Roth, she's been doing it most of her life.

"I remember going to a soccer tournament in the morning and later that day I went to a softball tournament and played," Roth said.

"I just love playing. It's fun to me. It's something I want to do and love to do."

Roth generously lists herself at 5-foot-7, but it doesn't matter if she gives up a foot of height or a couple steps of speed to an opponent.

Since she arrived as a starter for the Foxes for her freshman year, she has scrapped for every loose ball and hustled every play.

In her sophomore year, she was an honorable mention all-state selection – averaging 8.8 points, a team-leading 9.2 rebounds and 2.8 steals per game. That was on a team that also won the Class 5A state girls basketball championship.

Her summers were usually spent playing club softball or soccer, but last year she played club basketball for the Northwest Stars.

"We played AAU this summer and she never played before, and she got out



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Silverton senior Maggie Roth was a key player for the Foxes' 5A state champion team in 2016.

there and could compete against anybody, top players, no matter what," McCarty said.

"Her hustle, her effort, her attitude really make up for her shortcomings," Wold said. "Her shortcomings aren't really shortcomings for us. She's really improved as a basketball player."

"I've had a couple people tell me her best sports projectability are probably softball and soccer. I think her favorite is basketball. She's good in everything and I wouldn't be surprised if she chose academics in college," he said.

The same traits that serve Roth well as a basketball player help her in other arenas.

In soccer, she's a physical midfielder who can move opponents off the ball and control possession.

The Foxes placed second in the state this fall with Roth – who has 10 goals and eight assists in her career – patrolling the midfield.

"She's very aggressive and every 50-50 ball she goes for, you know she's going to come out on top at the end," said Silverton senior Hannah Munson, a soccer teammate of Roth's.

In softball Roth batted .275 with a .610 slugging percentage as a sophomore. She also had four home runs and 19 RBI.

All-state honors follow Roth to each sport. In addition to basketball, she was named to the third team in softball last spring and second-team all-state in soccer this fall.

The youngest of four siblings, Roth learned the drive to compete early.

"I grew up watching my sister play

because she played tournament basketball, too, and tournament soccer," she said. "So I just grew up watching and learning from her. That helped me learn the game and stuff."

But there actually are some things at which she is not great.

Hearing Roth sing a Beyonce song at the top of her lungs, for example, is something you'll probably regret. But she's going to do it anyway.

As for shortcomings, Roth doesn't have many.

"I think if there was something she sucked at, she would probably work really hard at it and get good at it," Wold said.

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