

Sports

An elite athlete in two sports, To exemplifies dedication

Ty Clarke

The commitment required to be a Varsity athlete for all four years of high school is a concept very few people can truly grasp, and Arthur To, senior, has confronted the challenge head on, while balancing a multitude of other time consuming activities.

He is a captain of the Swim Team that is partly defined by its youth. According to Katie Wilson, head coach, To equals leadership.

"He adds an element of fun because he also messes with his brothers (Anthony, junior, and Andre, sophomore)," Wilson said. "He also adds stability alongside Adam (Oldenkamp, senior captain)."

To participated in club swimming before high school, but did not really enjoy it. However, when he started high school, his feelings towards swimming changed, and now he says he is proud to be a four year varsity athlete.

"Swimming is a pretty difficult sport. When I get to see new swimmers try it out expecting it to be easy, it's funny to see them struggle at

first, but over the course of the season I'm glad to see them start to respect it and improve at it," To said.

Being such a successful athlete has had its drawbacks for To. He called the meets and practices that come with swimming "very time consuming," which has taken time away from schoolwork. This sacrifice does not go

he also was awarded a spot on Varsity tennis, but was not able to participate due to other commitments. However, he started competing his sophomore year and has been ever since. Last year, To and partner Ken Tsuruta, senior, made it to State in doubles.

"I never thought Ken and I would get a shot at State after picking up the sport in eighth

a physician after his scholastic career ends, and plans to attend Oregon Health and Science University for medical school.

As for college, the senior says he will be attending Oregon State University, while swimming and playing tennis for fun. Even with such ambitious plans after high school and being a three year Varsity tennis player, To has

stepped up as a captain and has remained committed to the Swim Team.

"He is one of the ones who comes to optional weight training classes, so his stamina has increased. He has gone to almost every practice which helps," Wilson said. "Compared to last year, he feels more responsible for the team since he is a captain."



Photo by Andre To
Arthur To, senior, gasps for air in a recent race against Lake Oswego on Jan. 13. The swimmer has been on varsity all four years while managing a schedule chalk full of challenges, from varsity tennis for the past three years to Advanced Placement Chemistry.

unappreciated by his coach.

"He is really important to the team because he is one of our only butterflyers," Wilson said. "He is willing to swim without complaining."

Swimming has not been the only sport in which To has excelled. As a freshman,

grade," To said.

Two varsity sports are not the only challenges To has dealt with. He has taken a strenuous schedule over his four years, and lists AP Chemistry along with AP Calculus AB and BC as some of the most challenging classes. To says he wants to be

Team 10: Where aspiring dreams greet raw talent

Ty Clarke

With three seconds left in the game, the score is tied, 64-64. Both teams have played impressively, the competition has been chalk full of game plans and strategic thinking. A coach calls a time out to draw up his final play. Any casual fan can spot the excitement in this. However, this is not what the fans of intramural basketball see on a biweekly basis. Gone are the coaches, the plays, the fundamentals. Pure fun has taken the place of these somewhat unnecessary things. And, in the center of this, as if they were if in the eye of the biggest hurricane in history, is Team 10.

Team 10 has become somewhat of an icon on an international level. The team is carried by seemingly impossible amounts of talent in its players. Miles King, junior point center, considers himself "the best pure scorer in the nation." Evric Jenkins, junior high flyer, compares his experience to a certain Miami Heat forward.

"I feel like the LeBron James of West Linn, going from the Deuce (JV 2) to a team that can win a championship," Jenkins said. Talent scouts have recently compared junior center Seth Weston to Dwight Howard, according to Weston. He is

not the only one being compared to NBA stars.

"It's hard to live up to my reputation as the

next

Allen Iverson but with a better crossover," Jenkins said.

Max Blumenthal, junior sharpshooter, spoke of the spiritual lift intramurals provides its participants, saying "This team is the only family I have." Kasey Ferrin, senior leader, said, "Intramural basketball isn't just a game, it is a lifestyle." These strong feelings are present throughout the intramural community. It provides each and every player the opportunity to come out of his shell while showcasing a broad range of skills, from half court shots to no look passes. However, with

this great experience comes pressure.

"The pressure is immense to perform well under the pressure from the national media," Weston said. The national media does seem to have taken a special interest with Team 10. A throng of reporters follows the team's every move. Jenkins recently made national headlines following one very public breakup.

As the season advances, the expectations and fame for the team grow. Eight games into its season, the chemistry and connection is already as strong as a thousand brick walls. Shirts saying "Taylor Gang" or "play Team 10" have sprung up all over the internet. Even James has expressed desire in bringing his talents to Team 10 when he inevitably fails to win a championship in Miami.

Photo by Rachael Woolley

Jefferson Chandler and Tyler Steele, seniors, attempt "Tag Team Duo" in a recent game. Team 10 has changed the intramural world, in part because of Chandler's ploy to dunk while on Steele's shoulders.

The Deuce: Providing the heartbeat of interschool basketball

Sean Pebler

The words "basketball dynasty" bring forth thoughts of Michael Jordan and the Bulls, Larry Bird and the Celtics, or Magic Johnson and the Lakers to the mind

but the team is suffering in the process. They have gone winless in their first seven games of play.

While many other teams have the star athlete or prima donna who leads the team in



Photo by Rachael Woolley

Members of The Deuce throw up their sticky fingers in an attempt to distract the opposing team's free throw shooting. Despite the successful distraction by the players, the team lost the game, 69-63 to Team 10.

of any typical basketball fanatic. After the recent development in the West Linn Intramural Basketball League, the words "Team Deuce" now make even the most avid sports fan reminisce about the glory days of professional basketball.

Team Deuce was the mastermind of five young basketball prodigies during their freshmen basketball season. Michael Wright, Zachary Foushee, Eric Lonsway, Jim Darke and Max Edwards, juniors, were the foundation upon which the team was built. The original starting lineup remained intact throughout the first two seasons of play, but was recently "shaken up" in a controversial move by Lonsway.

"I think we are very similar to the Blazers. Both teams are facing adversity," Lonsway said. "I changed the lineups to better the team's chemistry and adjust to each individual's skill set."

The newly constructed lineups are still being adjusted to find the perfect balance of height and speed,

scoring, Team Deuce is driven by a team-first mentality comprised of chemistry and hard work. They have many strategies that help them to play scrappy and grind out the tough points.

"Penetration to the hoop is key," Zachary Strickland, junior point guard, said.

"Sticky fingers win games for us. They help us get into the mind and soul of the shooting player," Foushee said.

Sticky fingers have been a cornerstone to the team's previous success. Now, whenever a player from the opposite team attempts a free throw, the Deuce and its faithful fans can be seen putting their hands in the air and wiggling their fingers until the player's concentration is broken.

Even though the team has yet to win a game this season, most analysts expect them to bounce back for a strong finish. After losing only one game before the playoffs last season, the Deuce has only to re-gain its composure to return to dynasty form.