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Donahue receives first Chris Holt Scholarship



File
Regann Donahue looks to attack the West Albany defense in a McNary girls lacrosse game from last spring. Donahue was the recipient of the first Chris Holt Scholarship on behalf of McNary Youth Baseball.

BY MATT RAWLINGS
Of the Keizertimes

Regann Donahue has taken great pride in being a student-athlete at McNary High.

She has played on the Celtics varsity girls' soccer team for the last three seasons and became a standout on the McNary lacrosse squad in 2019 — Donahue plans on playing lacrosse in college at Eastern Oregon University (EOU).

In the classroom, Donahue is just as fierce, posting a 3.7 grade-point-average with the aim of going into the EOU nursing program.

These are just some of the reasons Donahue was selected as the recipient of the first annual Chris Holt Scholarship from McNary Youth Baseball (MYB).

"I was so overwhelmed when I found out. I could not be more grateful," Donahue said.

The scholarship was created in memory of Chris Holt, a 13-year-old Keizer resident and youth baseball player, who passed away from leukemia in 2003.

The scholarship will be awarded once a year and is for any senior who has been

active in sports at McNary. Recipients will be awarded \$1,000 to offset costs of continuing education at any post-high school educational, technical or vocational institution.

However, MYB wanted to award this scholarship to someone who was about more than just their studies and sports. Part of the application process was to write an essay about what sacrifice means to them, along with giving a personal example of how sacrifice has played a part in their lives.

When Donahue was given this task, she knew exactly what she was going to write about.

In her essay, Donahue talked about the process of her family adopting her little sister, Indiana.

In December of 2014, Donahue's parents received a letter from the Department of Human Services (DHS) saying that they had a family member in need.

Indiana, who was one year old at the time, was in need of a foster family after it was determined that her biological parents were not in the correct mental state to raise a child.

Later that month, the Donahue clan went from five members to six as they decided to take in Indiana. Right from the start, Donahue fell in love with her new sister.

"The essay was emotional for me to write because I can't imagine my life without my little sister," Donahue said.

However, the next couple years wouldn't be easy. Since Indiana was still in the foster care system, DHS would stop by their house once a week and often meander through Donahue's personal belongings.

"DHS is very meticulous. It was really weird having someone go through your stuff every week," Donahue

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"I was so overwhelmed when I found out. I could not be more grateful."

— Regann Donahue

Ebbs wins Gatorade Player of the Year award

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BY MATT RAWLINGS
Of the Keizertimes

Taylor Ebbs has gotten accustomed to receiving accolades for her outstanding softball play — she was the Mountain Valley Conference Player of the Year last season as a sophomore.

But on Thursday, May 28, Ebbs received the highest individual honor of her career as the McNary junior was named the 2019-20 Gatorade Oregon Softball Player of the Year.

"It really didn't hit me at first when I found out. After it settled in, it was just a big 'wow' moment for me. I've honestly never felt so honored and recognized," Ebbs said.

Ebbs' play on the field speaks for itself. Although

her high school season got cancelled this year due to COVID-19, Ebbs was a standout shortstop for Northwest Bullets ASA 18-and-under club in the fall. She batted .414 and had an on-base percentage of

.528 against elite national competition.

The stellar play of Ebbs has been even more profound at the high school level. With a career batting average of .596 along with 99 hits, 96 runs batted in, 73 runs scored and

a .970 slugging percentage, Ebbs has proven she is one of the top players in the country — she gave her verbal commitment to the University of Kentucky and is considered the No. 49 recruit in the Class of 2021 by Extra Inning Softball.

However, the student-athletes who win this award are not only excellent in their individual sport, they are also people that exude exemplary character and are diligent about their studies.

"Taylor's a well-rounded person. She's much more than an athlete," McNary head coach Kevin Wise said. "She's an amazing young lady on and off the softball field and she is not only involved at her school, she's involved in the community, which speaks volumes about her."

Along with being a star softball player, Ebbs is also an all-league volleyball standout for the Celtics. And when she isn't competing, you will often see her supporting her classmates at other McNary athletic events.

"I'm appreciative of the support we get at our games, so I want to support the other McNary teams any chance I get. That stuff is really fun for me," Ebbs said.

However, as it relates to school, Ebbs made it clear that academics come first. Ebbs currently maintains a 3.59 grade-point-average in the classroom and occasionally enrolls in advanced-placement classes.

"I want to play sports but I need my education. That is why academics are a priority for me. It's all about managing your time well," Ebbs said.

Time management is an important aspect for Ebbs because it not only gives her the ability to prioritize her studies, it also gives her the bandwidth to serve her community in a multitude of



File
McNary shortstop Taylor Ebbs gets ready to throw out a runner at first base in a game from last season.

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