

SPORTS SUPERLATIVES

Stories and photos by Ben Peters and Eric Dundon

spring prep sports edition

OUTSTANDING ATHLETE

Miriam Taylor
Camdenton soccer — senior

Freshman year — 21 goals



Sophomore year — 24 goals



Junior year — 22 goals



Senior year — 46 goals



Record-breaking 103-goal career

Record after record has been broken this season by Camdenton's own Miriam Taylor. A talented and dedicated student of soccer, Taylor applied her knowledge of the game to lead the Lady Lakers to the district championship this season.

In fact, Taylor scored all five of Camdenton's goals in the district tournament.

Taylor's senior season did not end with a district title win, as the Lady Lakers fell to Jefferson City in a close 3-2 match, but her accomplishments over her career all came to fruition in her senior outing, setting multiple new records for the Lady Lakers.

Taylor is now the owner of the single season scoring record after scoring her 39th goal in an 8-0 win over Sacred Heart, but she wasn't

even close to being finished, scoring seven more goals before the season ended to set the record at 46.

She also became the first Lady Laker to score over 100 goals in her career, along with claiming the bragging rights of being the first player at Camdenton to have scored 20 or more goals in each season.

Her speed makes her a dangerous opponent, and hard to cover. She plays smart and passes just as well as she dribbles, and is an extremely good shot.

These skills allowed her to do so much damage in the opponents' goals, leading the Lady Lakers to a 16-7-1 record and a championship win at the Laker Invitational soccer tournament.

But perhaps one of the best reasons for giving her the title of "Outstanding Athlete" would be that, besides being an extremely skilled

athlete, she is a respected and well-liked teammate, and her dedication knows no bounds.

Even after graduating and being out of school, Taylor would show up early to practice before leaving on the bus for the district games.

Bringing popsicles for everyone at practice is just another small thing she has done.

Talent, hard work, dedication, but most of all, fun. Taylor truly enjoys and loves the game.

And to think, four years ago, she didn't know if she would play the game in high school.

If Miriam Taylor has shown one thing to Camdenton, it's that even the smallest ripple can make waves in the lake.



HONORABLE mentions

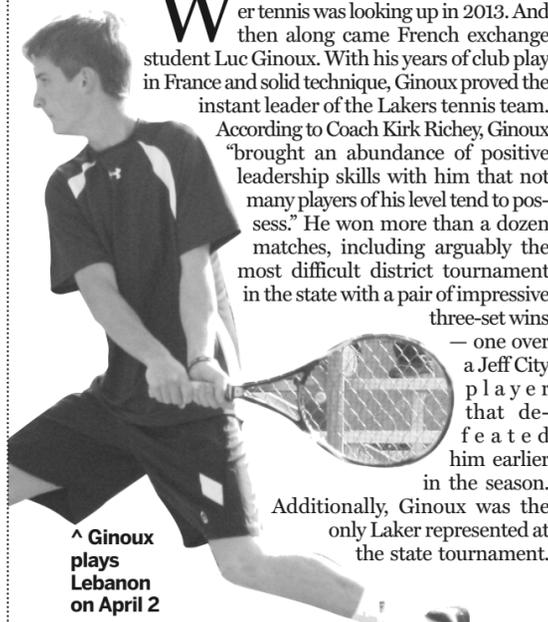
Sara Rhine
Eldon track and field — sophomore



Eldon's Sara Rhine has done it again. She has proved that no other Class 3 female athlete can jump like she can, as she won the Class 3 girls' high jump Saturday in Jefferson City for a second year in a row. The sophomore's jump of 5'7" was once again just short of the state record, failing to achieve the goal after three attempts. She very nearly had it on her first attempt, but her feet caught the bar. Rhine also added another individual medal to her resume as she finished third in the long jump, making her an All-State athlete in two events.

With two years left in her career, the goal of setting a new state record looks to be in reach for the young and talented jumper.

Luc Ginoux
Camdenton tennis — senior



With a slew of returning players, Laker tennis was looking up in 2013. And then along came French exchange student Luc Ginoux. With his years of club play in France and solid technique, Ginoux proved the instant leader of the Lakers tennis team.

According to Coach Kirk Richey, Ginoux "brought an abundance of positive leadership skills with him that not many players of his level tend to possess." He won more than a dozen matches, including arguably the most difficult district tournament in the state with a pair of impressive three-set wins — one over a Jeff City player that defeated him earlier in the season.

Additionally, Ginoux was the only Laker represented at the state tournament.

^ Ginoux plays Lebanon on April 2

Cassidy Culver
Osage soccer — sophomore

Ask any Lady Indian, and they'll tell you that their stellar season was a team effort, but the combination of Monica Cisar, Cassidy Culver and Josie Verslues proved to be deadly for Osage's opponents. But none, perhaps, more troublesome than Culver.

Culver's skills on the field proved to be more than effective, which is astounding, considering she made the move from defense to offense this season.

Culver even managed to put up six goals in one game, leading the Lady Indians to a 9-0 shutout over Southern Boone.

Culver put up over 30 goals this season, including four goals in the first round of the district tournament and was named to the All-Region team, along with being named the Offensive Player of the Year for Class 1 District 11.

HONORABLE mentions

Scott Blacksher
Osage tennis



^ Scott Blacksher

Some coaches might balk at having to coach a small team that hosts home matches miles away from the high school in a little-known venue. But 24-year veteran coach Scott Blacksher doesn't. He uses a small team to tailor coaching and tips to the individual player's needs. While the Osage tennis team has some of the largest obstacles of any area sports teams, Blacksher led them to a notably successful 2013 season, with a chance at an even more promising 2014 run. Blacksher's even-keeled demeanor helps regulate his players mental game in a sport wracked with nerves.

Jason Trusty
Macks Creek baseball

Four years ago, Macks Creek was in a slump in the baseball world.

Written off by each new coach who passed through the doors, the team was overlooked and playing losing season after losing season.

When Jason Trusty took the job, he knew he would have his work cut out for him, and he began, with the team, an uphill struggle of learning the game.

After leading the team to a two-win season in the first season, doubling their win total over the last three years, the team continued building from the ground up, until they were transformed into a winning team, with a stellar defense which finished 8-7, clinching the number one seed in their district.

Somehow, in the short four years, Trusty has made baseball relevant, and the team moves closer and closer to that district championship every season.

Who knows? 2014 could be the year if they can continue moving forward.

OUTSTANDING COACH

J.D. Hunter
Camdenton soccer

There may not be a coach around here, or even in the entire state, who cares more about his or her team than Camdenton's J.D. Hunter.

Over the course of the 2013 season, Hunter could be seen on the sidelines yelling, sometimes in anger, other times, words of encouragement, but through it all, he has directed his team from the bench, like a general commanding his troops in a battle of strategy.

His coaching is undeniably good, and his record backs it up. He has built the Lady Lakers into what they are, a squad designed to outrun, out-think and outlast their opponents. They've played and practiced in nearly every weather condition this spring, and they never gave up.

His team is built to win, and that's by design. But Hunter is more than



^ J.D. Hunter

a calculating soccer mind. That has been made evident time and time again by his interactions with his team.

And after a come-from-behind loss to Jefferson City in the district championship, with his team suffering from heartbreak and shock, his thoughts were of

his team. The faintest cracking of his voice in a post-game interview were evidence enough.

Hunter is just as invested in the game, in his team, as they are in him.

He is dedicated to the Lady Lakers, and they, in turn, are dedicated to him.