

## You go girls.....

Before IX was voted into law in 1972 the Tiger girls were limited to either basketball or tennis for their choice of sports activities. The law changed that by declaring, *"no person in the United States shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any education program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance"*. Since then the Tiger girls have become successful competitors in other sports including wrestling, cross country, soccer, volleyball, track and field, softball, and golf. Here are three of this past seasons' success stories.

### *Kenedee Peters*



It doesn't get any better than this! Lady Tiger golfer Kenedee was perfect during the Central Washington Athletic Conference season, shot a 2-under-69 at Lakeview Golf to win the CWAC District title for the third straight year, and then won the 2A District 5/6 title, again played at Lakeview Golf, with her best round of the season, a 3-under-par 69.

Next up, the 2017 State Championship Tournament held at Indian Canyon Golf Course in Spokane on May 23-24. Kenedee, a junior, again prevailed; capturing her second individual state championship in three years by nine strokes over the defending champion. She shot a 2-over-par round of 74 and even-par

round of 72 to claim medalist honors. (2015 champion but missed claiming the 2016 championship by one stroke).

When Kenedee is not competing on CWAC courses she is competing in junior-division golf action around the U. S. She won her age division and tied for the overall victory at the Washington Junior Golf Association Open on April 2; then finished second at the WJGA Eastern Open in Pasco on April 29. She was named the 2016 WSGA Junior Girls Player of the year for 2016. She shot a 66 at Gamble Sands Golf Course in Chelan, which set the women's course record for that facility and was invited to participate in the prestigious ANA Tournament. Google Kenedee to follow her exciting golf experiences and read an interview regarding the life and success of a Lady Tiger.

### *McCall DeChenne*



2017 State Champion hurdler McCall is a three-event record holder at Ephrata High School - she is only a sophomore! Two of her school records were set at the regional finals meet at Cheney on May 19<sup>th</sup>. Her success in the 100-meter and 300-meter hurdles, along with the 800-meter relay, qualified her for competition at the Star Track-35 state meet held May 25<sup>th</sup> in Tacoma

On her journey to state competition, McCall won the Central Washington Athletic Conference and the Region-4 Championships in the 100-meter hurdle event. She set the school record during the regional meet at 15.15 seconds. She was second in the 300-meter hurdles event at the regional meet with a time of 45.96 seconds, becoming the first girl in school history to crack the 46-second mark. In the regional 800-meter relay event she and teammates Mya Spencer, Hailey Miller and Nikola Brzezny flew to first place with a time of 1 minute, 46.55 seconds. McCall's third school record was set in 2016 as a member of the 800-meter relay team.

McCall claimed the State Title in the 100-meter hurdles event in 14.96 seconds. She broke her previous 100-meter school record in the state preliminaries with a 14.85 seconds time. She claimed a fourth place medal in the 300-meter hurdles (45.53 seconds). It won't be the last time this Tiger girl will be on top of the podium. Stay tuned.

## Mya Spencer



Mya is a very talented multi-sport Lady Tiger. During this, her sophomore year, she participated in soccer, wrestling and track. The hard work and team effort that she put forth on the soccer field placed her in a good position for success on the wrestling mat and on the running track, as well as, earned her 1<sup>st</sup> Team All-League soccer honors at the forward position.

The girls' wrestling program began in 2013-14, gradually building up to the 2016-17 season which had a seven-girl wrestling team. Mya was the most successful member on the team this year. Wrestling at 115# she posted a record of 27 wins-5 losses, including 22 pins. She won the Sub-Regional Title and finished with a third place medal at Mat Classic XXIX held at the Tacoma Dome on February 18<sup>th</sup>. Mya has some big shoes to fill. Her sister Chloe, a former Lady Tiger wrestler, recently earned college All-American Honors for her success on the mat.

Mya also experienced success on the track as a sprinter. During this season she broke a 28-year old school record in the 200-meters running in a time of 26.12. She also set a new school mark in the 400-meters run at 58.43, breaking her own record that she set previously. She is also a school record-holder as a member of the 800-meters relay team; set in 2016. At the Star Track-35 state meet she earned a 5<sup>th</sup> place medal in the 400-meters. After winning the 800-meters relay event in the regional championship, the Tiger team failed to medal at state.

Mya and her team mate McCall are sure to bring excitement back to the track in 2018 as they compete during their junior years at the Kiwanis Field, home of the Ephrata Tigers track and field events.

## 2017 Graduation

### May 18, 2017 EPHRATA SENIORS LOOK TO THE FUTURE

More than 60 Ephrata High School seniors signed on the dotted line and committed to one of five post-secondary pathways during a ceremony at the Performing Arts Center.

The first-ever Senior Signing Day, organized by GEAR UP coordinators, was an opportunity for Ephrata seniors to be recognized by their classmates, underclassmen, EHS staff and parents as they take their next steps following high school graduation. The seniors declared their intention to attend a two- or four-year college, enter the military, attend a technical college or complete an apprenticeship.

After each student stood at the podium and declared his or her future plans, the seniors signed symbolic contracts committing to continuing their education in a post-secondary school or program.



### Graduation Day Is (Finally) Here!

Remember in 1948 when Ephrata students were trapped in their classrooms because the busses couldn't operate due to blizzard-like conditions? Remember Mount Saint Helen blowing its top and spewing ash over Ephrata schools on May 18, 1980? Schools were cancelled for the remainder of year and the class of 1980 graduation ceremony was eventually held in the high school's gymnasium with heavy tarps covering the floor? School day weather-related disruptions happened again.

The year 2016-17 was a year of deep or drifting snow, high winds, cold temperatures and icy roads; causing the Ephrata School District to call for 15 missed days, four late starts and two early dismissals. In February the district schools added 15 minutes to the students' school days to make up a portion of classroom time lost due to the weather-related closures. Additionally, seniors at the Sage Hills and Ephrata High Schools were supposed to attend three Saturday sessions to preserve their previously scheduled graduation dates. Because of school district efforts, graduation ceremonies went on as scheduled: May 31, 2017 for Sage Hill High School and June 02, 2017 for Ephrata High School.

*From the first Ephrata High School graduation class, three girls in 1914, to the 2017 classes, totaling 179, a total of 9,377 (educated estimate) students have been honored through graduation ceremonies for their commitment in obtaining an education that will aid them in obtaining a positive future. The Ephrata Alumni Association members congratulate the 2017 graduates and recognize them as the latest Ephrata Tigers to obtain the status of "Ephrata alumni".*



Sage Hills High School is an accredited high school designed to provide an alternative learning experience for students. The staff provides a variety of learning opportunities and is committed to helping each student achieve. It was established in 2004 by the Ephrata School District to make available to students an educational experience designed to meet their individual needs.

By Randy Bracht of the Journal: The unique individual journeys of 18 graduates were celebrated during the commencement of Sage Hills High School's Class of 2017. "All of these students have worked very hard to get here," said SHHS principal Sharon Scellick, thanking family, friends, school staff, and community members for their support. Scellick said she hoped the new grads leave the alternative high school with confidence, pride, skill, perseverance, and a "love of learning" as they enter adulthood.

Student speaker Danielle Garcia wished all her classmates "prosperity, happiness, and good luck" in their new journeys. "During our time at school, all of us have been given tools to seek out their success," said Garcia. "Putting this together with what we have learned and combining it with the value we carry in our hearts, we can set out to be the best we can when we leave Sage Hills."

Ephrata School Superintendent Jerry Simon presented silver class cords to graduates and school board president Alan Key handed out diplomas.

Ephrata High School by Lauren McLaughlin of the Journal: Advice on how to change the world, lessons in phone etiquette and standing ovation by the seniors for a classmate battling cancer were highlights of the Class of 2017 graduation ceremony. On a picture perfect night – a rarity this year in the Columbia Basin – 161 EHS seniors bid farewell to their high school days with music, humor and a little of the drama the class is known for.

Student speaker Erynn Brown noted that the 2017 class was leaving quite a legacy in the areas of academics, sports and the fine arts. "This is a class filled with unique individuals whose talents and minds can change the world. We can be whoever we want to be." She advised her fellow seniors to "be daring, and don't let the fear that life will slap you in the face stop you. Change is meant to be experienced – that's what helps us grow as humans. If you don't grow are you really experiencing life?"

Speaker Alec Lobe's advice to his classmates was "the same thing people are always telling high school seniors: "know who you are... and be that person." "Sounds easy enough, right? But what they don't tell you is how to do that," he said. "The truth is, we grow through pain. Lots and lots of pain." Lobe asked, "When you fling open your car door and hit the Mercedes parked next to you, do you identify yourself by leaving a note? Do you list a bunch of 'important' sources for your research paper, when all you used was Wikipedia? Do you refuse to sing for fear of being a failure?" "Life is not a solo – it is a choir." Lobe explained that as a freshman in the EHS Men's Choir, he thought he sounded like an air horn. "I stuck out like a sore thumb, so during my sophomore year, I sang so quietly that I made no contribution at all. But by listening to those around you, you will become part of something greater than yourself. And in doing so, you will find your voice."

A total of 48 graduating seniors received a wide variety of scholarships offered by the Paul Lauzier and Columbia Basin Foundations, local organizations, state-wide colleges, United States military, and from memorials created to honor numerous individuals.

The members of the Ephrata Alumni Association concur with the sentiments of Faculty Speaker Jeff Allsopp, "Don't just dream big – **go big!**"

## **Life Member #149**



Meet the newest member of the Ephrata Alumni Association – Sadie Merchant, a member of Ephrata High School class of 2017 and the 2016-17 president of the Ephrata High School Student Body (ASB). Sadie was awarded a life membership in the association, recognizing her efforts and dedication in fulfilling her official duties.

Sadie's administration duties included: serving as presiding officer at all student council and student body meetings, acting as ex-officio member of all student council committees, appointing members of committees, supervising the ASB Executive Board elections and the Class Executive Board elections along with coordinating student and staff communications.

Sadie managed or coordinated ASB activities including: pep assemblies, homecoming, Toys for Teens fundraiser, the Munch Madness Food Drive, EHS Variety Show, Staff Appreciation breakfast, Dodgeball tournament.