



Maria Blessum; Rugby HS



Isaac Huber; Edgeley HS

NDHSCA-Gelaine Orvik **Scholarship Recipients Selected**

The recipients of the annual NDHSCA-Gelaine Orvik \$1,000 Scholarships have been identified and notified. After evaluation and assessment, the selection committee selected **Maria Blessum** from Rugby High School and **Isaac Huber** from Edgeley High School as beneficiaries. The Scholarships will be presented to the two young student/athletes at the NDHSCA Annual Awards Banquet, which will be held at the Bismarck Ramkota Convention Center on Thursday, June 27th.

The Scholarship was established in 2008 when Joe Howell, Lisbon High School Track & Field Coach made a motion to establish the scholarship to honor Gelaine Orvik. Coach Orvik is a 35-year veteran coach who has also served the North Dakota High School Coaches Association from 1974-2015. The requirements for the Scholarship Recipient are that he or she will be a student-athlete graduate from a North Dakota High School and will attend a North Dakota College or University. The final requisite is that the student/athlete intends to pursue the profession of interscholastic coaching.

The nomination form identifies the criteria used for consideration for selection: GPA, class rank percentile, athletic awards, activity awards, ACT test scores, captain's and leadership roles, an application letter from the applicant, and recommendation letters from faculty, coach and administration. The recipients also best exemplifies the values and ideals modeled by Coach Orvik, as teacher and coach; those values and ideals he

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expected from his athletes and students; and those same values, ideals and principles he urges all coaches to portray.

The NDHSCA-Gelaine Orvik \$1,000 Scholarship Fund has been developed by other donations from coaches, coaches' friends and sportswear companies. Extraordinary donations are made annually by coaches as they register for the Annual NDHSCA Convention and/or for Annual NDHSCA Membership. Universal Athletics has made a concerted effort to readily donate at the Annual Taco Social at the NDHSCA Convention. Some coaches have made the Scholarship Fund a recipient as a memorial for friends and relatives. SUBWAY also makes an annual \$1,000 donation for a **second NDHSCA-Gelaine Orvik Scholarship**.

MARIA BLESSUM; RUGBY HIGH SCHOOL

Maria Blessum is ranked first in her class of 37 at Rugby High School. She will have earned more than 30 credits when she graduates; she has an ACT test composite score of 32 and a 4.00 GPA through seven semesters and her academic classes includes College Credit Classes in College Algebra, Trigonometry and composition. Maria competed in volleyball, basketball and track & field for all four years of high school, and has earned four athletic letters in volleyball, basketball and track & field (12 total letters). Maria was member of National Honor Society, FBLA, FFA, Math Team, student council, Sources of Strength, Academic Olympics, and Catholic Youth Organization. In addition to her participation and earning letters in athletics, she was a captain of her track & field teams (junior and senior years), basketball team (senior year) and volleyball teams (junior and senior years).

Maria has also prepared for her coaching profession by her love for teaching and her communication skills. She attests to her love for coaching and honor for her high school coaches as she declares "My coaches have had a substantial impact on my life." She anticipates her role as a coach ". . . to teach athletes that there are many lessons to be learned through athletics beyond just winning and losing." Those lessons include but are not limited to the value of hard work, teamwork, and dedication; also the crucial respect for those around, the importance of emotional and intellectual strength - - - not just physical strength; humility in success and strength in defeat."

Maria was praised by her high school principal as being tenacious, a rare leader with maturity and willingness to go beyond to accomplish her goals. He additionally states that she is astute, punctual, a role model, and the consummate scholar. He continues to characterize her as being intelligent, determined, personable, creative, and innovative. Maria has integrity and is concerned about her school, community, peers and family.

Maria receives great praise from Kim Anderson, who has had contact with her as a teacher, coach, and a cooperating student in an elementary school. Ms. Anderson elaborates on her athletic successes of being All-State in volleyball, Optimists All-Star

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Volleyball selection, finalist for NDHSCA senior athlete of the year in volleyball, Lions All-Star Basketball selection and State Champion in Pole Vault as a junior. Anderson continues her praise of Maria's work ethic, respect for others, competitiveness, sacrifice, and self-confidence. Anderson closes her praise with "She has a sincere interest in betterment of North Dakota Education and athletics. . . .She deservedly represents the ideals and values that are associated with Coach Orvik's expectations in athletes.

Maria was nominated for this scholarship by Jennifer Brossart, Rugby HS girls' basketball coach. Jennifer supports Maria with the same accolades identified by Kimberly Anderson and Jared Blikre. She additionally identifies Maria's leadership skills and helpfulness to others. She has "...demonstrates determination and dedication to be the best she can be. She is held in high regard by her peers, teachers and her community."

Overall **Maria's** recommendations center on her respect for others and high integrity. Maria is a great leader, has astounding drive and is a true team person. Undoubtedly, **Maria** is a deserving recipient of the NDHSCA-Gelaine Orvik Scholarship.

ISAAC HUBER; EDGELEY HIGH SCHOOL

Isaac Schiele will graduate fourth in his class of 22 with an ACT test composite score of 23. He had a 3.88 GPA through seven semesters with curriculum that included chemistry, physics, anatomy, college English Composition and College Speech.

Isaac competed for four years in cross-country, basketball and track & field; he also competed in football as a 9th grader. He lettered in all three sports for four years. He was a leader and/or captain in cross-country and track & field for four years for the Rangers.

Isaac also participated in 4H, FFA, band/choir, Science Olympiad, Acalympics, SmartLAB coding and POD.

Isaac has been a three-sport athlete throughout high school and will continue his track & field and cross-country experience at the North Dakota State University. He was nominated for the scholarship by his coach, Jon Schiele, who praised Isaac as a worthy recipient for the award ". . . as he exhibits all of the values and ideals put forth by Coach Orvik." He is identified as ". . . being the best student and athlete that he can be and has excelled in the sports of basketball, cross-country and track & field." The awards he has received throughout his athletic career ". . . are a direct reflection on his work ethic, loyalty and coachability."

In response to the application form's request for an explanation of reason for his desire to be a high school coach, **Isaac** alludes to his fascination with viewing his father's video of a state championship performance. Likewise, he learned from his many coaches different philosophies and teaching perspectives that were all very similar regarding teamwork, dedication, sacrifice and enjoyment. He applauds his coaches for the great

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leadership he was shown as he grew up; he saw “. . . how beneficial (great coaches) can be to a young child’s life. Helping people has always been a thing I enjoy; there is nothing better than seeing athletes or a team grow throughout the season and accomplish goals they didn’t think were imaginable. Coaches truly help as many people as possible and leave the world a better place.

Isaac received recommendation from his high school principal/athletic director with the ultimate praise of “I have had the opportunity to witness Isaac’s character in the classroom, community, hallways, and athletic field. Isaac Huber’s is a student/athlete who displays leadership, advocacy for others, positive relationships with other student/athletes, and a ‘get-it-done’ mentality.” Mr. Kosel’s analysis of **Isaac**, with “. . .his experiences of being a state champion and a Gatorade Athlete of the Year have enhanced his skill set to make him a better student, athlete, leader, communicator and a respected young man in our community and state.”

Patsy Schlosser praises **Isaac** for his performance in her math & science classes--- Algebra I, geometry, Algebra II, college algebra (a dual credit class) and physics. Schlosser delineates Isaac’s success through his attentiveness, respectfulness, self-confidence, imagination, assertiveness, dependability, cooperative spirit and encouraging nature.

Overall, **Isaac’s** recommendations, academic success, leadership, self-motivation, dedication, responsibility and reliability make him a deserving recipient of the NDHSCA-Gelaine Orvik Scholarship.