

Sweat dripped from my face down to the big Lancer “L” on my track uniform. I looked up with the sun’s rays seeping into my eyes. The spectators gazed at me, watching to see what I was going to do. They wondered how far my discus would soar. I slowly walked into the circle, then glanced at my coaches on the sideline. I saw the stern look on Coach Collins’s face and thought back to what he told me, “This is your show. Give it your all. All of these people are here to see what you’re made of.” I looked at Coach Schmitz’s face and remembered her saying, “You’ve worked all season for this!” Deep breaths, in and out. I looked out to my audience and saw my little brother, jumping up and down, screaming my name. I saw my mother saying, “You can do it.” I looked at the sky. I opened my arms like an eagle, taking off to fly. This was my show. BAM! I felt that the throw was my longest in the two years I participated in track and field. The referee said, “Mark,” and it was official: a personal record of 133 feet, 8 inches. I had won the title, Wisconsin State Champion in discus for 2011.

My journey as a junior to the state track meet and my success in academics are results of the drive and integrity that will also help me succeed in college. AP Spanish and Functions, Statistics, and Trigonometry (FST) were my most challenging classes, but the challenge is what I find most interesting. Day after day, I worked hard in those specific classes to improve and earn an A. My entire behind the scene work at school, like maintaining my 3.62 GPA, made it possible for me to be eligible in sports and become state champion. My work ethic and belief in myself has led me to grow to be the person I’ve always wanted to be. I know that when I get to college, my dedication, integrity, and experience in sports will definitely lead me towards the successful study of sports medicine at UW-Madison.

My many different sports and academic experiences, as well as my personal drive for success have prepared me to be the best I can be mentally, physically, and emotionally. My goal is to make a difference in someone’s life while connecting with them at the same time, as my coaches did with me.