

GOLDEN

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In the spring, she completed her second track season after joining the team her junior year. She excelled in the distance events and tried out hurdles later in the season, but she also helped compete in Henry County's first year of unified competition. She teamed up with Pedro Pineda for the unified 2x50 meter relay. "It was so much fun. Pedro is a hoot," said Golden. "I got the privilege of working with him as a peer tutor the first semester of school and I just got to learn about his little quirks and then I put that into the track season and it was a bunch of fun."

Golden's inclusivity helps her stand out from others as well, Davie noted.

"She is kind and inclusive to everyone and that is one thing that makes her such a great leader," said Davie. "Her prom date was McKinley Paynter, our favorite little football player."

Outside of athletics, Golden was also an active member of FFA. Her interest began with her cousins and older sisters, who were members of the organization in high school.

"I just knew going through elementary school and middle school, going to all the banquets, that was where I was going to be throughout my high school career," said Golden.

Golden was unable to join FFA her freshman year as she was not in an agriculture class, but once she got involved the following year, she fully jumped into the opportunities available to her. She elevated to the role of reporter as a junior before serving as president and a regional officer this year.

As a result, she will receive her Kentucky FFA degree as a culmination of four years of active involvement.

Golden said she didn't have adequate knowledge in certain areas of agriculture, including horticulture, raising cattle, etc., to excel at some of the FFA contest categories. Thus, she pivoted to speaking contests.



Abby Hooven

Meg Golden shoots a three during Henry County's district win over Trimble County in February. Golden played five years with the Lady Cats.



Photo submitted

Meg Golden teamed up with Pedro Pineda for the unified 2x50 meter relay during track season.

**"She is kind and inclusive to everyone and that is one thing that makes her such a great leader. Her prom date was McKinley Paynter, our favorite little football player."**

—Lindsey Davie  
HCHS agriculture teacher and FFA advisor

In her first contest, she placed fourth in the state in the FFA Creed. To prepare, Golden practiced the creed repeatedly with Davie.

"I was super nervous, but it was a lot of fun. It took me out of my comfort zone and made me a little bit of a better speaker," said Golden.

With a full slate of athletic commitments, Golden was able to stay active in FFA in part by Davie's schedule planning.

"We have so many great athletes at school that we work our FFA schedule around them. Officer meetings and practices are in the mornings, and we check game schedules when planning events," said Davie.

Golden also served as the chair of the parliamentary procedure team, which met twice a week for several months in the morning.

"She could probably chair any meeting in the county now," said Davie.

For her athletic and academic accomplishments, Meg Golden received

the Outstanding Senior Female and the Bev Parrish Award at Henry County's senior awards night near the end of the school year.

"I was kind of shocked," said Golden. "There's a lot of great people at Henry County."

Earning both awards is uncommon, but Golden had her eyes set at least on the outstanding athlete award.

"I've always wanted to win the athlete award because my sister won it when she was a senior, and it's kind of been my goal since I was in the sixth grade," said Golden. "I was really excited about that one."

After receiving other awards throughout the night, Golden shared that she appreciated the honor of Outstanding Senior Female, but humbly thought other students would have been just as qualified to earn the award.

With all her accolades and extracurriculars, Golden has remained poised and takes on each

task with a smile on her face.

"She always has somewhere to be and something to do because of everything she is involved in, but she never appears rushed or anxious about the next event. She takes each moment and fully lives it, focusing on where she is at that moment," said Davie.

Davie is just one testimony of presumably many individuals who have experienced Golden's "heart of gold" in her time at HCHS.

"She is always herself. I see so many students who waste time and energy on what people think about them. Not Meg and it's worked just fine."

Golden credits her faith for keeping her routine, and character, in check as times get hectic.

"I think my relationship with God really helps, knowing that my plan for my life isn't my own, but God has it under control," said Golden. "Spending time in my Bible each morning really helps me take a deep breath and just give all my worries and stress to him throughout the day."

The importance of her routine was noticeable during senior week, as Golden was out and about at various events and was unable to stick to her typical structure.

"I didn't get a lot of sleep. I'm not being

patient. It was very evident to how my routine works and how important it is to be positive, to spend time with the Lord in the morning and to be patient with people," said Golden.

Golden incorporated her faith into her activities as well. Before each basketball practice, a player would share a Bible verse and relate it back to what the team was going through, and prayers before and after games were a common occurrence.

Now that the hustle and bustle of senior year has concluded, Golden will have a few months off before heading to Western Kentucky University in the fall to study education.

Yet, before she travels to Bowling Green to begin the next chapter of her journey, Golden took time to share her appreciation for some of her biggest supporters at Henry County, including Davie, track coach Leah Klempner, Spanish teacher Courtney Willis, basketball coach Jim Hook, choir teacher and senior sponsor Ashley Sweeney and more.

Most of all, Golden became emotional sharing how her parents have impacted her life.

"They've helped me when growing up see what's right and what's wrong," said Golden. "Through sports, they haven't accepted not giving my full effort and have pushed me to be a better athlete, be coachable and not be bad in the classroom... they've done a lot."

Though her time at Henry County has come to a close, Golden's legacy will live on, not only because of her athletic and academic achievements, but because she left each person she met and every place she visited better than she found it with her kindness and servant heart.

FUTURE

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competed on Friday did an amazing job. Being at the state meet is a huge accomplishment," said Klempner.

Henry County had two athletes, Bo Kasten and Michael Gray, qualify for state a year ago. This season, the Wildcats brought the total to five with hopes of increasing the number in the coming seasons.

"Looking forward to the day when we have to take a bus to the state meet because there are so many athletes," said Klempner.

Throughout the season, several ath-

letes turned out personal bests in a variety of events. Coaches also created the "Henry County Track and Field Top 10 List" to motivate athletes to place within the top 10 in each event in Henry County history.

At the conclusion of the season, nine varsity athletes earned spots on the list across 14 events.

Upcoming varsity members also had successful seasons. Eighth grader Olin Inscore Essick advanced to the middle school state meet and three Future Wildcat team members raced in the Dream Mile.

This season set Henry County track up for success, and the Wildcats have the potential to turn some heads for years to come.



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