


Lutheran South standout Member-Meneh to take talent to Mizzou

 stltoday.com/sports/high-school/girls-volleyball/lutheran-south-standout-member-meneh-to-take-talent-to-mizzou/article_8006ac42-5f34-11e6-bef3-6b5ce4c96f79.html

August 13, 2016

[Subscribe for \\$5 for 5 months](#)

1 of 3



Leketor Member-Meneh of Lutheran South takes part in a hitting drill during practice on Wednesday, August 10, 2016 at Lutheran South High School in St. Louis, Mo. Paul Kopsky, STLhighschoolsports.com



Lutheran South's Lektor Member-Meneh tries to spike the ball during the Class 3 District 3 championship in three sets on Thursday, October 22, 2015 at Lutheran South in Affton, Mo. Ben Loewnau, STLhighschoolsports.com

Ben Loewnau



Lutheran South's Leketor Member-Meneh tries to spike the ball during the Class 3 District 3 championship in three sets on Thursday, October 22, 2015 at Lutheran South in Affton, Mo. Ben Loewnau, STLhighschoolsports.com

Ben Loewnau

Steve Overbey

Lutheran South senior Leketor Member-Meneh is bound and determined to overcome the lone athletic obstacle in her life.

An all-state volleyball player, the 5-foot-9 leaping machine also excels on the basketball court, where she amassed 1,006 points in just two seasons. She is just as deadly in the track and field arena, thanks to her blistering speed.

But Member-Meneh, possibly the top all-around athlete in the state, has found one sport that has her flummoxed.

"I can't swim," she said. "Not at all. Not even a little. I've tried and tried. People have tried to teach me. Just can't do it.

"But I'm not going to quit trying."

That says volumes about Member-Meneh, who recently committed to play volleyball at the University of Missouri.

Give the outgoing, gregarious jumping-jack a challenge and she will face it head on.

So far, Member-Meneh has come up short in the water, which is a surprise to those who know her.

"It's kind of funny because she's so good at everything," said Samantha Brinkmann, a senior volleyball teammate and close friend. "It just not easy for her to do. I guess she does her best out of water."

Member-Meneh possesses some big-time hops. At 5-9, she has the ability to leap out of the gym. Despite her relative small stature, she will likely play outside hitter in college, where she will go up against players 6 feet or taller on a regular basis.

"She is truly blessed," Lutheran South volleyball coach Carol Reinitz says. "With all her skills, she's still a great teammate. She just naturally makes others better by the way she goes about doing things."

Member-Meneh has recorded 993 kills in three seasons on the varsity level. Last fall, she drove home 445 of 876 spike attempts, a nifty 50.7 kill percentage. Her 25-kill performance in a thrilling three-set win over DuBourg in postseason play added to her legacy.

The Lancers are 64-32-10 over three years with Member-Meneh leading the way. They finished fourth in the state her freshman year and lost just 10 times in 36 contests last fall.

Plus, she is equally as adept on the basketball court. She averaged 24.2 points per game last season, second-best in area.

A true barometer of her prowess came her freshman year when she finished second in the state in the long jump — after being introduced to the event just three months earlier.

"Show me any other athlete who could do that," South athletics director Mark Linneman said.

The key to Member-Meneh's success lies in her amazing jumping skills. Her ability to sky above opponents eight or nine inches taller for a kill, block or rebound, is often

intimidating.

"I've always been able to jump," she said. "It runs in the family."

Member-Meneh is the youngest of eight children, all of whom played sports.

Her family emigrated from Nigeria right before Leketor was born.

"There was war, my father wanted to get us out of there," Leketor said.

An honors student, Leketor was raised in a household deep in Nigerian culture. The family speaks in Hausa, one of the many dialects of Nigeria. Her parents, including father Tsaro, brought her up the same way they were raised.

"It's hard to explain, but I was taught to treat my father with respect," Leketor said.

"Never question his decision. I know in my heart that everything he does is in my best interest even if it doesn't seem so at the time.

Member-Meneh is surprised to see how some of her classmates talk back to their parents or disregard their orders.

"It just isn't done that way with us," she said.

Member-Meneh basically lives in two different cultures. At home, she is a Nigerian girl who eats her native foods and speaks one of the country's languages.

Outside of the house, she is a typical american teenager.

Well, maybe not typical.

"I'm a little weird, a little strange," she said.

Brinkmann can vouch for that.

"Every once in a while she'll do something and you think, 'Why would she do that,' " Brinkmann said. "But that's just her, being her."

Leketor chose Missouri over Saint Louis University. She feels comfortable with her decision and is looking forward to the challenges of college.

But first she wants to go out with a bang — on both the volleyball and basketball courts.

"This is fun for me, I enjoy it," she said. "I don't try to put pressure on myself. I just go out, work hard, and enjoy myself."

[0 comments](#)



ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH

stl high school sports

STLHighSchoolSports.com is the most comprehensive source of stats, scores and stories from any and all area high schools.

* I understand and agree that registration on or use of this site constitutes agreement to its user agreement and [privacy policy](#).

Steve Overbey
