

BALANCE

March 2024 NEWSLETTER

MADDIE HAMANN



Congratulations to Maddy Hamman of 17 White for earning the attention of the coaches with her commitment to her team and the club through many of the decisions that she has made so far this season.

Maddy was initially placed on 16 White as a middle blocker, but sadly we had a player decide not to play before the season started and left the 17 Black team incredibly vulnerable in the middle blocking position. The coaches and I spoke and we decided that we needed to pull a middle from 16 White to place on 17 White and Maddy was our 1st choice.

After speaking with her parents and her parents speaking with her, she agreed to make the move, even though she was hoping not to play middle this season and was hoping to start developing in other areas. But her family told me that she knew this was best for

the 17 White if she made the move. The fact that she placed the teams and clubs' needs ahead of what she initially wanted was incredibly appreciated by so many.

Sadly, a few weeks ago she suffered a concussion and has been sidelined the last 2 tournaments. But, she made the trip to the Dells, and stood on the sideline, cheering for her team the entire team. She did all the line judging so her teammates could rest. Hopes were high that she would return for Rockin' Rockford, but to our demise, she was not released. Again, she made the trip and stood in support of her team and helped in any way that she could.

When I spoke to her coach, Sammie stated that she was incredibly helpful in practice, always seeing what needed to be done to help the team or Coach Sammie.

Maddy's decisions and actions that she has demonstrated so far this season sends a clear message to her team that she cares for them, she supports them and she sacrificed her own needs to help benefit them. She sets the tone for her team, even though she is not on the court of support and positivity.

TOP TEAM PERFORMANCE

Balance 18 White

CHAMPIONS OF AAU ROCKIN' ROCKFORD GRAND PRIX



With this win, the Balance 18 White parents will be awarded \$895 from AAU to help cover the costs of their trip to Orlando. During this event, 18 White did not drop one set over the weekend!!

ALL-TOURNAMENT SELECTIONS THIS MONTH



Joclyn Erling-18W



Audrey Neuses-17W



Gabriella Kapuscik-16W



Mya Holmberg-15W



Maya Mangan 14W



Emily Smyth 12W



Ella Junge 10W



NEWCOMER TO BALANCE

 *MADYSON WEBER- McHenry HS*

17 Black - Libero/OH

How long have you played volleyball? I started playing in 7th grade so this is my 5th year playing! My first 4 years of volleyball I played at McHenry Juniors and this year I'm playing at Balance!



What do you love to do that is not volleyball related? I enjoy hanging out with my friends and going shopping! I like to hangout with my family and travel!

Why did you choose Balance? I chose Balance because I wanted to go to a club that would help me improve my skills and I heard good things about it! I also liked that during tournaments the whole team stays together! I enjoy the team bonding!

What are you looking forward to this season? I'm looking forward to getting to know the girls on my team more and making new friends! I'm also excited to see where this team goes because I see a lot of potential in us and becoming the best players we can be.

What other sports do you play? I used to play softball from 1st grade to 6th grade! I also played soccer for a year when I was 5!

What kind of teammate are you? I believe I am a teammate who my other teammates can look too and go to if they need help with anything. I also want to be supportive and encouraging towards my team!

What are you most nervous about in regards to starting at a new club? Before I was nervous about the unknown, the new coaches, new teammates, new coaching style. But I am looking forward to a new adventure!

What do you hope volleyball will do for you in the future?

I hope volleyball will make my kids happy so they can feel the same kind of love for volleyball that I do! I also hope it can teach me important lessons/skills that can help me on and off the court.



Having issues in regards to the team/playing time/coaches?



Steps to communication that will help maintain a positive and respectful culture for the team and the club.

- 1. Each team has 2 team captains of their peers. So if your daughter ever is having an issue in regards to the team/coaches/etc Please encourage them to speak with the captain.**
- 2. If your daughter feels that did not help, encourage your daughter to speak to her coaches. Almost all of our coaches are teachers and they are very well versed in how to carry on a respectful and thoughtful conversation with young people.**
- 3. If your daughter spoke to the captains and the coaches, and still feels like the situation is not resolved, encourage her to reach out to Patty Langanis.**
- 4. After that discussion with Patty, you feel that the situation was not resolved, a conversation with parents would then be warranted.**

As we prepare these athletes to be successful volleyball players, we are also preparing them to be strong, thoughtful and confident people. Strong communication skills reflect those 3 attributes. !

Flashback photo

2017 Balance Beach Bash



Two Balance coaches are in the above photo!

FAVORITE PIC OF THE MONTH

15 Black wanted Justin in their celebration picture because they stayed in the Gold division for day 2 of Rockin' Rockford. Justin HATES pictures and when he realized why they ran and posed in front of him for a picture he did a back roll (or something). Guy in the orange shirt, also hiding is the Coach Ben (the head coach from UW Stout) 😊



MEET ONE OF OUR BALANCE COACHES

AURORA NERO

16 White/15 BLACK-Head Coach



Growing up.... Aurora has played volleyball since she was in 7th grade. She started playing for Balance in 2015 up until 2018, her senior year. After graduating she played at Valdosta State University in Valdosta, Georgia. She studied social work but is now getting her masters in Special Education to teach Special Education in the next few years.

In college... Aurora was the Libero at Valdosta State University

What is your other job? During the day, Aurora works as a paraprofessional at Crystal Lake South High School.

The hardest part of coaching.....is wanting to see people who work hard succeed so badly but sometimes it takes time!

At the end of a season, what do you hope your players reflect on in regards to you as their coach and their season? I hope my athletes learn more than just volleyball skills. I want them to be able to leave with life lessons that will impact them positively and they will never forget! The most important thing for me is that I am able to be there for them and support them in ways other than just sports.

MEET A BALANCE PLAYER.....

HAILEY MUENCH- Hannah Beardsley

How old were you when you started playing at Balance?

I was 11 years old.

Why did you choose Balance?

When I first started, my parents chose Balance because my dad works with Coach Patty. I continue to play at Balance because I like the coaches and other players.

What was your first great memory of being part of the club?



During my first year, the 11s went to Amishland. I had so much fun being with my teammates on the campgrounds.

Did a Balance coach make an impact on you as a person or a player?

Yes, Coach Amy when she coached the 12s team. She made me want to be a better player.

What is one of your favorite things about being a member of this club?

I really like the tournaments where the team stays together in a house. Being with my teammates is very fun and great bonding.

What are your volleyball goals?

To keep getting better by working hard.

What other activities are you involved in?

I play the piano and I am involved in the National Junior Honor Society.

When you are not playing volleyball what do you enjoy?

I enjoy napping or hanging out with my friends.



