



Knight Athletes – In Their Own Words



Thomas Balge – football, basketball

(LPS / St. Paul-New Ulm MN)

MLC athletics are so unique and fun because of how close-knit the campus is. A lot of the student body shows up to athletic events. When we play away games, the other student sections are often smaller than MLC's, even though those colleges often are bigger.

The men that played before me taught me how to be a leader by how they conducted themselves on the court or field, and how they acted in the classroom and throughout the student body, taking seriously their studies and also their vocation as Knights.

The biggest challenge is the fear of failure. When you come in as a freshman, it's scary to face a 23-year-old fifth-year senior. I learned that having confidence in your own abilities is huge. Another thing would be not playing timid and never being afraid of making a mistake. Mistakes will happen, but the

excellent coaches in all of our athletic programs will help you improve so that you make a big play the next time you have the opportunity.

At the college level, the size of your opponents is significantly more than at the high school level, even at Division III. We often play against players who were formerly Division I, or even guys in football that eventually go on to be signed by NFL teams. I realized pretty quickly that getting into the weight room is huge for college athletes who want to succeed.

Wilhelmina Wenz – basketball

(Shepherd HS-Shepherd MT / Apostles-Billings MT)

I love the positive family environment of the basketball team. It's so fun to play with a bunch of girls who love and support each other on and off the court.

The step from high school to college sports can be daunting. The fast pace and new competition are exciting. They force you to work your hardest and be your best. The losses make you want to get in a gym and work, and the wins make it all worth it.

MLC makes the jump from high school to college so seamless. The girls welcome you. The coaches push and encourage you. And before you know it, you're on the court playing your game.

I'm so blessed to use the gifts and talents God has given me to give him glory on the court. I get to encourage my teammates and make new friends and shine the light of Jesus—all while playing the game I love.

