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## Marion's DeLysers are a soccer family

Trevor and Chloe DeLyser were Wayne Players of the Year

There aren't that many DeLysers in America (146 as of the 2000 Census), but you'd think it was a far more common name if you looked at the rosters of Marion's soccer teams this past season. On the boys roster, for example, you would see the name of Trevor DeLyser, the Wayne County Player of the Year as a senior this year for the Black Knights. You'd also see the name of his coach, Jared DeLyser. On the girls team, you'd see Chloe DeLyser, who became the youngest Wayne County Player of the Year in history this year as a seventh grader, while also being named fifth team All-State. Her coach? Lori DeLyser, who also is Marion's Athletic Director.

And, yes, they are all related. To be more specific, Jared is Chloe's uncle, and Lori and Trevor are cousins. In addition, Trevor's older brother, Hunter, was a Wayne County Player of the Year, All-Greater Rochester selection and third-team All-State soccer player, while another cousin, Travis, was also once an AGR pick.

At times, in fact, Trevor and Chloe are neighbors, and while the size of the family and everybody doing their own thing means the extended DeLyser clan isn't able to get together as much anymore, they all remain close and see each other at family functions. Both players have gotten used to people asking or assuming that they are related to their coaches.

A quirk of Marion's history is partly what has led to the heavy DeLyser presence for the Black Knights, going back to some of the earliest founders of the DeLyser Farms that remain in Marion to this day.

"Our great grandmother came from 17 brothers and sisters," said Jared, "and one of her sons had five boys, and one of their sons had five boys."

"That's part of the reason (why there are so many DeLysers). There were so many boys for the last name to carry on (with)."

"It all adds up after awhile," said Lori.

While that history left a lot of DeLysers in Marion, the success of Chloe and Trevor lie more in their lifelong passion for the sport. Chloe has played in Empire soccer since she was 6, and Trevor also has long played.

"I've been playing soccer since I was young," he said, "My dad always pushed me to play, I played for Doug Miller," referring to the long-time Rochester Rhino and current Lancers player-coach who has long run soccer camps in the area. "My brother always played and, well, it's always been one of my favorite sports."

Trevor, who will attend FLCC next year to study business and continue to play soccer, also had some natural gifts to go with that experience, according to his coach, who called him "probably one of the most naturally gifted athletes I've ever coached." Trevor had seven goals despite playing defense.

"(He's) very sound defensively and technically, with a lot of composure when he has the ball," Jared said, "He'll be missed, he was a big part of our defense, he's going to be hard to replace."

Chloe, only in seventh grade, may not have had the amount of experience her cousin had, but that didn't stop her from having amazing success in her first year on varsity, as she scored 29 goals (only eight shy of the school record for goals in a season) and was a key player on a team that lost only three times in the regular season before being upset in the third round of sectionals by York. And while she was the youngest player on the squad, it was never an issue on the team.

"I wasn't treated like I was the youngest," she said, something that her coach backs her up on:

"She was never treated as a seventh grader," Lori said, "the only way you'd know she was a seventh grader was if you looked at the roster and saw it."

And while Trevor's time at Marion is coming to an end, Chloe's is just beginning — and she has big goals.

"I want to beat the school record for goals in a season, I want to make the All-Greater Rochester team," she said, adding she also was thinking perhaps of even All-State (this was before her fifth-team selection had been announced). She also hopes to perhaps one day also break the school's record for career goals of 60, held by Ali Campbell and McKenzie Beltrone, both of whom only started playing on varsity team in ninth grade.

Despite her status as a scoring threat, though, her coach says that Chloe brings a lot more to table than goals (both figuratively and literally).

"Chloe is a very dynamic player, and she's very good with the ball," Lori says, "But I think her biggest attribute — and her teammates would tell you this — is that she is so unselfish. She tries to set up her teammates more than putting the ball in the back of the net at times."

And as for whether her uncle Jared ever gives her advice?



Marion's Chloe DeLyser was the Wayne County girls soccer player of the year despite being a seventh grader. Photo illustration by Scotty Haines | Freelancer for MPM

“She gets enough on her own,” he says, “She plays so much soccer that I try to give her space.”

While Chloe and other talented girls have left Lori “very excited for the next six or seven years,” Jared may be facing some challenges on the boys team, due to a the loss of 11 seniors, including Trevor.

“We're going to be very, very young next year,” he says, “I had one junior this year. But they're good kids and a lot of them play soccer year-round, but we'll be made up mostly of eighth, ninth, 10th and 11th graders.”

With that in mind, only time will tell what the future holds for Marion's soccer teams. But whatever happens, it's likely that some people with the last name DeLyser will be involved.

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