

STUDENT ATHLETE AND COACH SPOTLIGHT

Striving for quality shots and team quality.



Student Spotlight on Mykenzie Burnett'24 (Education)

Having the opportunity to become part of the Redhawks' bowling team was like adding an extension to her own family. Burnett has grown up around bowling as her mother managed different bowling halls and currently manages Radio Social in Rochester. Her late father was also a great bowler and participated in scratch tournaments. You could say the bowling is in her blood. Burnett, who is from Shortsville, has sisters who are also avid bowlers, so there was never a doubt that this lefty would not compete on a college team. After she graduates in 2024 with her undergraduate degree in Education, she plans to stay at Roberts to get her master's degree too. She hopes to teach third graders.

As a sophomore student athlete, she has never been more excited, and busy, for both her academics and athletics responsibilities. "I would not trade it for the world and I am so grateful to be a part of the bowling team. Being on such a closely-knit team is exactly what I was looking forward to when I committed to Roberts. I love every single one of my teammates and am so excited to continue my college journey with them," she said.

About your academic coursework at Roberts, what do you feel will be most helpful after you graduate?

I believe that all of the lesson plans I have already created will come extremely in handy. It provides a a basis of what I need to accomplish and create for my classroom and I am so thankful to have learned how to complete those forms here at Roberts.

What stands out from your experience here at Roberts?

I would say that the staff members here on campus stand out to me the most. Because I come from a small town, I grew up with teachers who were super involved in their students' lives. So coming to Roberts and seeing the same amount of love and passion given to students, I knew that this College would be a great fit for me. I love the experience that a small campus gives to students. For me, I like that the community at Roberts knows my name and that I am and not just a number.

What is the best thing about studying Education?

The best thing about studying Education is that I get to be around people who are passionate about the same things I am. I have always

wanted to be a teacher, and being a part of the Education program has only made me want to become a teacher more and more. More specifically, I love working with kids and my goal is to make a positive impact on them.

Share about a memory or experience that has helped you grow while being at Roberts ...

Last year, there was an event outside of Davison, and I remember not really talking to anyone and keeping to myself because making new friends does not come easily to me. Then, this group of other students came over to me and asked them if I wanted to join them in the game, they were playing. I spent the next couple of hours playing with them, and I am still friends with them to this day. Being in a group is so important to me and I feel a part of the College community everywhere I go at Roberts.

What Course has been your favorite and why?

My favorite course so far has been Education in a Changing World. Professor Adams-Goertel is amazing and she inspires students to learn in her classroom. I really enjoyed all the content taught to me during this course.

What is your favorite food to eat in Rochester?

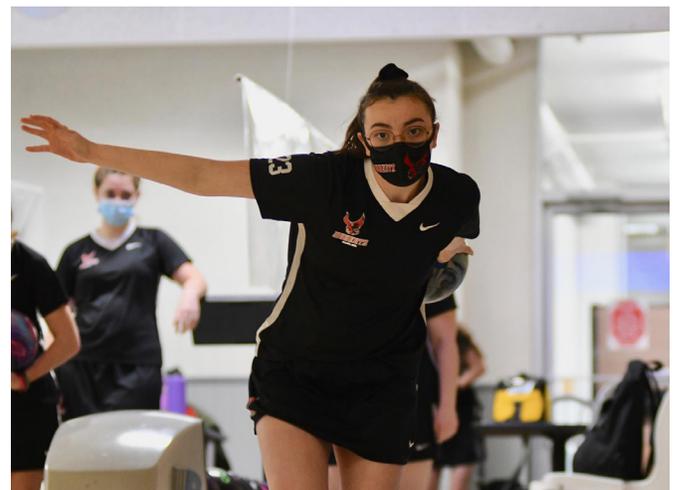
My favorite food to eat in Rochester is Mexican at Monte Alban. We do not have this restaurant near my house so when I am in the city, I always make sure I try to stop in.

What advice would you give to a new student?

I would tell new students "to not be so stressed out over grades." I know they are important, and you want to do well, but mental health is also important. Make sure you are taking care of yourself, and then good grades will come much easier.

Are you looking forward to the new building, the Golisano Community Center?

I am very excited about the construction of our new building. I will finally have a cafe much closer to my dorm room!





Coach Spotlight on Marion Sullivan

Dedication and determination are a few words that describe Coach Marion Sullivan who is in her fourth year as the Women's Head Bowling Coach at Roberts Wesleyan College. She is also fiercely passionate about athletics and education. When she had the opportunity to begin her coaching career over a decade ago at Lockport High School, her my alma mater, it was the chance for her to reach students through sport. "Working with students is extremely fun and rewarding," she said. As an educator and a coach, she believes in strong structure, organization, and discipline. She also is flexible to meet the individual needs of athletes. "I hold high expectations for each of them, and I am here to provide the support that they need to achieve goals, both academically and athletically." From the start, since August, she has encouraged the team to get to know each other. Coach Sullivan emphasizes that they are not only a member of the bowling team, but also have gained a new family. The bowling team looks to achieve successful outcomes through affirming thee family mentality throughout the season. She also sets high expectations for the team for accountability, performance and personal drive and motivation.

We caught up with Coach Sullivan for her thoughts on her role as Women's Head Bowling Coach:

What are your core values as a coach?

Putting God at the forefront; building genuine, trusting relationships by strengthening the character of my athletes; remaining compassionate about everything that I do; and providing consistency so that the team knows they can rely on me. I want to model the values that I am looking to instill in the team.

What has been your greatest satisfaction so far in your coaching career at Roberts?

Building our work ethic has been a huge accomplishment. I am thrilled with the level of work that the athletes put in off the lanes during our strength and conditioning sessions in the weight room. This work truly paid off when we won the 2021 East Coast Conference Championship and gained an automatic bid to the NCAA Regionals, which was one of the most satisfying experiences so far in my coaching career at Roberts.

What are your goals for this season?

One goal for this season is to build a strong, dedicated team that works seamlessly as a unit. Once that is in place, we have the goals of winning at least two bowling tournaments this season, defending our 2020 East Coast Conference Championship title, and taking another trip to the NCAA Regionals.

What is your biggest challenge?

My biggest challenge has been working to find the right balance. For example, balancing work, coaching, and preparing to become a new mom to a little boy, due in January 2022.

What are you most looking forward to this bowling season?

Spending time with the team in practice, at workouts, and competing. It is special when the girls begin to know and trust each other; they work very well together, they support each other, and our team begins to thrive.

What are your academic expectations for the team?

I expect my team to work to the best of their ability. Of course, the vision would be for everyone to have perfect grades, but there is more to it than just that. I praise them for their efforts, because those efforts will lead to success in the classroom, which looks different for each of my athletes. Overall, they know that I keep a close eye on how they are doing because I care about their academic growth, and I encourage them to work with their professors, advocate for their needs, and take ownership over their education.



I'm proud of these athletes when they show up every day, work hard, and implement the things that we continue to build upon, I am just as proud of them for these foundational ideas as I am when they win a title.