Student of the Week: Chippewa Valley's Andrews thanks strong family support



Jack Andrews
By <u>Don Gardner</u>, The Macomb Daily
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Jack Andrews always had a pretty good supporting cast to help mold him into the person he is today -- two parents who pushed him to excel in academics and shoot for a "safe" degree that would help make him financially secure -- and two older siblings who inspired him in the classroom and the athletic field.

They're probably proud of their finished product. Andrews, 18, a leader among the Chippewa Valley student body, will be graduating with a grade point average above 4.0 on a 4.0-scale and is looking at scholarship or financial assistance from either Lawrence Technological University or Oakland University, both of which he hopes play soccer for.

Andrews is the Macomb Daily Student of the Week.

"Jack is a well-round student and athlete who demonstrates great leadership and interpersonal skills," said Kristin DeLuca, a teacher and facilitator of student activities at Chippewa Valley High School. "Jack is one of the most humble and kind students I have ever encountered. He is always willing to lend a hand and fully applies himself to everything he does."

Andrews said his work ethic started with his family.

"They always drove me to do my best, competing with me and making me better," he said. "My brother and I had some intense battles on the soccer field and in basketball games. My sister helped teach me cursive, helped with my homework and was always teaching me new stuff."

Both elder siblings got partial scholarships, his brother to Bluffton University in Ohio and his sister to Oakland University. His brother is now an assistant coach at Sinlandia University in the Upper Peninsula and his sister is finishing up pre-med at Oakland and will study pharmacy at Wayne State University. But little brother looks like he'll make them proud, too, with plans to pursue a degree in biomedical engineering. He hopes to work at a hospital someday, either developing medical equipment or helping design more efficient devices to benefit patients during their hospital stay. Watching his grandfather suffer from the debilitating effects of cancer inspired his desire to help hospital patients.

"He was really struggling. I kept thinking I'd like to be able to design a better hospital bed for him. That was really my inspiration," he said.

Andrews may also consider designing prosthetics, new therapies or pharmacy, like his sister.

Jack's leadership skills have shown through in his activities throughout his high school career.

"I try lead by example, show other people how to follow suit, and hopefully I have a good influence on people," Andrews said.

He is the senior class senate representative, student government senate rep, varsity soccer captain and is a National Honor Society executive board member. He serves as a student mentor, volunteers at Glen Peters School, which assists students with cognitive impairments by supervising and helping kids at the water park. He's active on the student athlete advisory committee, won all-academic awards for soccer and is on the honor roll.

Andrews plays center back on the Chippewa Valley High School soccer team and has been playing with Pato's Magic Soccer club, based in Rochester Hills, since he was five years old. He's discussed playing soccer at Lawrence Tech with university coaches, but he would have to walk-on if he chooses to attend Oakland University.

The Macomb Daily Students of the Week are selected in advance by the schools with the approval of the Macomb County Secondary Principals Association. Each student qualifies to compete for a scholarship from one of the following universities: Central Michigan, Eastern Michigan, Grand Valley State, Michigan State and Michigan Technological.