

Senior Alex Niemann balances school and three sports

PAIGE BOLEK

Writer

Alex Niemann, a senior at Bloomington High School, is a three-sport athlete. Besides being involved in several sports, he balances demanding classes at the same time.

Niemann is in cross-country, swimming and diving, and track and field. Since freshman year he has been in track, but he started the other two sports his sophomore year.

From freshman year to junior year his 800 meter time decreased 24 seconds from 2:53 to 2:29 minutes and still leaves room for improvement this year.

“Alex has come along way since his freshman year,” said cross country and track coach, Mr. John Szabo. “He has definitely improved as a runner.”

During cross-country season, Niemann went from being last on the team sophomore year to being in the top 10 for some time his senior year. For meets, the team has to run three miles. Niemann’s time went from 21:04 to 18:26 minutes this year and he is very proud of it.

Niemann uses his swimming season to train for running. He swims the 100 meter free and 50 meter free, but said he would like to swim butterfly this year as well.

“For this winter I’d like to swim the 200 IM because I would think of it like running the 800 meter,” said Niemann.

His progress in everything is due to his hard work at each practice and training on his own.

“For distance, I train by running around the block for 30 minutes straight and

for sprints, I train at the Washington Elementary track,” said Niemann.

This year, he wants to focus on sprints as well as distance because Mr. Szabo suggested it after seeing him run the 200 meter dash in 27 seconds.

“There’s never a dull moment with Big Al. He keeps you on your toes,” said Mr. Szabo. “Sometimes he’s even like my assistant coach because he has memorized every state qualifying time in track and field for girls and boys in each class if we ever need it.”



Niemann works on an assignment during 2nd Hour English Literature and Composition. Along with his course work, he is also involved in three sports.

Mykael Smith

Niemann considers memorization one of his special features. He can memorize birthdays, ions in chemistry, basically anything, and remember them for a long time.

His memorization comes in handy especially for schoolwork. He is taking AP Chemistry this year, which involves a lot of memorization.

“AP Chem. is hard but better for me than other science classes,” said Niemann.

Niemann believes that senior year is easier than junior year, making him less busy with all of his activities going on. But for him, homework comes before sports.

One of the biggest parts of each sport is the connections Niemann has made with teammates and coaches.

“Big Al has taught me to treat everyone with respect and that everyone has something to bring to the team,” said senior teammate, Josh Schlagel.

Schlagel met Niemann freshman year in their Biology class when they were lab partners. Through the past four years, their friendship has grown and Schlagel has watched his progress in every aspect.

“Big Al always has a positive attitude and encourages everyone to work hard,” said Schlagel. “You got to love him.”

BHS band to travel to Disney World over Thanksgiving break

CAMERON MELGOSA

Writer

On Nov. 23 the Bloomington High School marching band plans to travel to Disney World to partake in the Thanksgiving parade.

The parade will take the band down Main Street in the Magic Kingdom.

“We will be playing our regular parade tune, ‘Fiero,’” said drum major Sarah Youngs.

After the parade the band will be performing five other songs at Epcot Center.

Throughout the week of the trip, the band will be allotted ample free time and taking part in activities in each one of the parks at Disney World.

The band will also enjoy a private party at the Animal Kingdom.

“I think everyone is really excited about the trip,” said Youngs.

The trip is an opportunity for the band to have fun, but it is also a chance for the band to play in front of an international audience.

Junior band member Larissa Strong said that the large audience does not intimidate the band.

For seniors in band, the Disney trip signals the end of all of the big trips they will take with the BHS band.

“I almost did not go because of the timing,” said senior band member Hillary Heinz. “With college and other expenses, it was a big decision.”

Heinz said the key factor in deciding to go was the fact that it would be her last trip with the band.