

MASON KIRKWEG



EUGENE
HIGH
SCHOOL

WANT TO GO TO A
GAME? See pg. 29

ON TOP OF HIS GAME

By Lisa Kaitlyn | Photography by Kiley Hartzler

IN THE WINTER YOU WILL FIND EUGENE SENIOR MASON KIRKWEG ON THE BASKETBALL COURT. COME SPRING, ATOP THE PITCHER'S MOUND. THIS BASKETBALL SHOW ME CONFERENCE CHAMPION AND BASEBALL SHOW ME CONFERENCE FIRST TEAM AND DISTRICT FIRST TEAM QUALIFIER STAYS BUSY BETWEEN SPORTS, SCHOOL, FFA, WORKING ON THE FARM, AND HUNTING.

When it comes to basketball, Mason plays center, and says what he enjoys most about the winter sport is "being able to play with the friends that I have and just having fun. Having fun, working hard, good work ethic, stuff like that."

Mason has the upmost respect for his basketball coach, Coach Craig Engelbrecht. "He's been here for 30 years and obviously he's been doing it right. He had the '91/'92 team. We're trying to recreate what they did. He's a good coach. He's got everything down." Coach Engelbrecht has achieved well over 500 varsity wins and coached the Eagles' 1992 team through second place at the Missouri high school basketball championships.

MASON'S MOST EXCITING MOMENT IN HIS BASKETBALL CAREER THUS FAR HAS BEEN WINNING SHOW ME CONFERENCE CHAMPIONSHIPS LAST YEAR. THE TEAM WENT UNDEFEATED, 8-0. THIS SEASON, MASON LOOKS FORWARD TO MOVING ON FURTHER INTO THE PLAYOFFS. COMING OUT OF AN UNDEFEATED SEASON, MASON REALIZES THIS MAKES THE EAGLES THE TEAM TO BEAT THIS YEAR. "BEING ABLE TO GO 8 AND 0 PUTS A BIG TARGET ON US, WHICH HELPS US BECAUSE WE GET BETTER IN THE LONG RUN--LIKE NEXT YEAR. SO, THAT ONLY HELPS US."

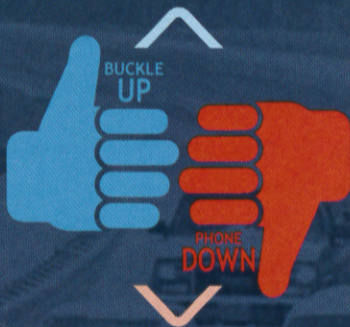
Mason is a part of a tight knit team at home as well. Between his two brothers and his parents, Mason has a lot of people to look up to. His mother and father have taught him the value of hard work and honesty. His advice for underclassmen: "Just do your homework, stay on top of everything. It'll make life a lot easier. For sports, if you can get in the gym or you can go on the field, put in as much time as you can because I know my basketball will be finished here at the end of this year."

After graduating Mason plans to go on to play college baseball. His favorite part of being a pitcher is his vantage point from the mound. From there, the game is in the palm of his hand.



JOIN THE MOVEMENT

BUCKLE UP every trip, every time
Put the **PHONE DOWN** or turn it off



Driving distracted makes road conditions hazardous. Buckle up and put your phone down – two things that can save your life!

Accept the challenge at
www.modot.org/buckleupphonedown.

Missouri Coalition
for Roadway Safety



"I like to slow the game down if I have to or speed it up. Just being able to know that the batter knows that I'm up there trying to not let him hit." Mason has broken the school record for career strike-outs and throws a flaming fast fastball at 89 mph. For school games, he has mastered the fastball and curveball. At college events he adds in changeups and sliders, which are not permitted in his high school season games.

Mason Kirkweg moves fast on the court and throws one fast ball, but this Eugene High School athlete has a lot of patience too. During deer season, you will likely find Mason out on the farm watching and waiting for deer. While he has seen plenty of good sized bucks, he is waiting for the big one. "[I'm] waiting for doe season and probably going for an alternative later on so I can get a bigger buck. We're just watching this year. Let 'em go."

Mason's patience, dedication, and determination appear to be paying off. It looks like his dreams of playing college baseball will come to fruition. He has multiple offers to continue his pitching career in college.

DOWNLOAD
OUR APP



SCAN THIS MODOT AD
SEE PAGE 1 FOR DETAILS