

WACPC selects Jessica Buteyn as Dance Coach of the Year

Submitted by Miranda Boyd

The Wisconsin Association of Cheer/Pom Coaches which is Dance Team's equivalent to the WIAA, selects one coach from the state of Wisconsin who is enthusiastic and dedicated to making their program fun, safe and educational for each member and has gone above and beyond the call of their duties for their team, sport and career.



This year, the Laconia Dance team nominated their coach, Jessica Buteyn. To be nominated alone is quite an honor as coaches need a letter of recommendation from the nominator, a letter of recommendation from the Principal or Athletic Director, a letter of recommendation from a parent of a current team member, and information about the coach, including a brief history of coaching career and accomplishments.

Out of all the dance team coaches in the state of Wisconsin, Coach Buteyn was selected as the recipient of the 2020-21 WACPC Coach of the Year.

I reached out to Coach Buteyn and asked her a few questions.

What did winning WACPC Coach of the Year feel like?

It felt unbelievable! It still feels unbelievable. I didn't think for a second that I would be worthy of such an incredible honor. Every dance coach I know puts their heart and soul into this sport, and I didn't see my situation as any different. I am humbled, honored, and most importantly, I am grateful that this honor allows Laconia's amazing dance team to be in the spotlight for a bit. I am surrounded by the most remarkable, hard-working group of young ladies who push me to be a better version of myself. They are incredibly special. I also know that I would not have been able to be in this situation if it wouldn't have been for the help and support of Rachel Englund, my assistant coach. This award is as much about her as it is me.

2. What do you think is the key to making the dance team more of a family than just a team?

When I first took on this endeavor, although I had no experience with dance (other than being a "dance mom"), I had plenty of experience as a team member. I remembered that my most successful moments as an athlete was when the team felt like family, and I wanted to recreate that feeling. I wanted the dancers to feel like they had a drama-free outlet for two hours a day where they were pushed to be their best and held to high standards but were accepted and loved for the individuals they are. My dancers know that being part of this team is so much more than the sport of dance. I wanted them to walk away with life skills that they will hopefully apply to future situations. The final thing is that family's don't always see eye to eye and do have major disagreements, but in the end, it's the love that keeps them working together as a successful unit. That is the difference between a team and a "family." I love every one of these girls as if they were my own daughters, and I hope they hold on to that for the rest of their lives.

3. Besides COVID, what made this year different from others?

It was the way the dancers were driven to succeed and the way they treated each one another. After placing well in both pom and kick at state in 2020, they had a taste of success and wanted to place even higher! Having seven seniors and two veteran juniors on the team also helped. In fact, we had no need for team captains. These ladies were driven and when part of the team wasn't "feeling" it, others stepped up with encouragement, motivation, and perhaps just giving each other some space. I saw this over and over again this year. All of us had bad days in which we needed to be lifted up and all of us had good days in which we were able to do the lifting. It was, and still is, an extremely long season as we had virtual tryouts last May, worked on cheer and choreography virtually all summer and fall, and then began practicing on a daily basis in early November. Our dance season officially ends on April 25 with the State Virtual Competition and cheer ends on May 7, so it was certainly a year like no other!



Sue Putra hand delivers WACPC Board of Directors announces the winner of Coach of the Year Award to Coach Jessica Buteyn.



WACPC Board of Directors announces the winner of Coach of the Year.

Ag Processing Investigates Budget Foods

Submitted by Linda Sattler

Mrs. Sattler's Advanced Food Science and Ag Processing students are investigating meal budgeting and food insecurity. We ended our unit by sampling our budget based meal. YUM!



Senior Jazmyne Ruenger shows off a meal of burger, zucchini and strawberries.

FFA Celebrates Drive Your Tractor to School Day

Submitted by Linda Sattler

Laconia High School celebrated National Ag Day with Drive Your Tractor to School Day. Remember to THANK A FARMER - today and every day!



Students at Laconia show off their tractors.

LHS Dance Team Wins Regionals

Submitted by Team Member Kylie Buteyn

This March the dance team participated in WACPC's Regional Competition. The team traveled to Kaukauna High School to compete in the Eastern regionals. They competed against 3 teams in kick and 4 teams in pom. With the unpredictability of the season, they reported they had no clue where they would place or if they would advance to state. After a day and a half of waiting, they had the results they were working towards all season. The girls placed 1st in pom and 1st in kick, making them for the first time in Laconia history back to back regional champs. They will be competing in virtual state Sunday, April 25th.



1st row: Keely Kees, Raelynn Hansen, Sophie Bergelin, Emily Farr. 2nd: Miranda Boyd, Olivia Meyer, Kylie Lichtenwald. 3rd: Grace Thull, Kylie Buteyn, Brielle Drews. and Monica Lalor.