

# MANAGING SUCCESS

*Cheyenne Mountain athletes have every reason to celebrate. They clinched eight individual state championships in the past year alone. But the managers who support those athletes off the field deserve celebration, too.*

## Rick Stark

A hockey player snipes a puck straight into the net and glides over to the bench for a break, where he rehydrates from his water bottle. The stick, the puck, the water bottle are all critical elements of this winning moment.

What gets little focus are those valuable workers responsible for ensuring these crucial ingredients of the championship cake ends up in the right spot.

Sport managers don't get the same attention from as the athletes they are sworn to support. Fans don't pack stadiums in order to see them fill up water bottles, but they are an incredibly important part of the support system of Cheyenne Mountain athletes.

There isn't a central managing program at Cheyenne Mountain High School, unlike sports medicine trainers who operate under Mr. Carmody. Rather each individual coach/team is responsible for finding and using managers. Some of the high school teams that currently have managers are football, girls basketball, boys basketball, girls swimming, wrestling, boys lacrosse, and boys swimming.

Managing is an opportunity open to every Cheyenne Mountain High School student. In order to become a manager, one must pick a sports program affiliated with the school and contact the coach or sponsor of the program about becoming a manager.

Managers are needed to take care of general tasks like filling water bottles and organizing uniforms. Some managers for specific sports have jobs unique to those programs.

For example, wrestling managers must record matches, keep score, and input weigh-in data to Track Wrestling, whereas lacrosse managers have to string nets. Managers can be a boon for a sports team, but finding a manager for a sport teams requires recruiting a dedicated fellow student who has the right amount of drive and intelligence to perform the job.

Dedicated hockey manager and Cheyenne Mountain junior Tatyana Korubchuk, she "started managing hockey because [she] had a few friends on the team who had asked whether [she] would be interested in doing it or not."

Managers allow the athletes on the team to focus on playing the game rather than the minute details of equipment and nourishment, which could stand to distract them.

Tatyana "[goes] to all of the practice where I fill up waters and play music. I go to all of the games too, which entails the same things, except I set up pucks and sticks as well."

While Tatyana's job may require setting up sticks and pucks, she's also as strong as a Vancouver Canuck. "The hardest part is carrying lots of things! Sometimes I carry up to five things at a time, but that's okay because I know I'll have ripped shoulders by the end of the season," she said.

Ripped shoulders are not the only positives of managing the boys hockey team. Reflecting upon her time as manager, Tatyana said, "[Managing has] affected my life positively because I've gotten to know a great group of guys who are fun to work with."

Managers have to make sacrifices for the players they love. Tatyana said, "all of the practices and games are time consuming."

Tatyana felt the time consumption was well worth the positives of the job: "It feels good to watch the boys' successes and see all of their hard work pay off."

Amidst the life of fall rushing and morning lectures, one's high school life may seem unimportant. But Anja Sandrock still feels the impact of her Spring as Boy's Lacrosse manager last year.

Cheyenne Mountain alumna and current Colorado State University freshman Anja Sandrock "started managing because it was fun."

Anja remembered her time fondly, stating, "In the end, I look back as a something that made my senior year special."

Anja was one of last year's lacrosse managers before she graduated.

One purpose of school is to find a future career field. Some students take an art class and want to become a sculpture, or take calculus and want to become engineers.

Anja's "art class" is certainly different, but not any less inspiring: "Managing really did have a big impact in my life, being given that opportunity really opened my eyes to what I want to be apart of in a career. Now, I am at Colorado State University getting a business degree with a concentration in sports management and I could not be more excited to be apart of an industry dedicated to hard work."

Colorado State University offers an interdisciplinary minor in Sports Management.

According to the CSU website, students “will acquire skills in various aspects of the sports industry, including public relations, turf management, facilities and event planning, management and marketing, hospitality services, diversity and leadership.”

Other in-state schools that offer degrees in sports management are Adams State University, Colorado Mesa University, and University of Colorado Colorado Springs. The slight cost of Anja finding her path in life were unimportant: “There were not a lot of sacrifices that I made other than sleep. Coming back from a game at 1 a.m. on a bus full of sweaty boys was not the greatest, but if they won, totally worth it.”

For Anja the sleep deprivation was well worth it for the opportunity to service an elite group of successful athletes. Anja traded sleepy eyes for tears of joy when the Cheyenne Mountain Lacrosse won a 4A state title in May.

Those same boys who delivered this school a state title still proved to be much of a challenge for Anja. Anja said, “The hardest part about managing was definitely trying to keep up with the team. Those guys are something.”

For Anja “the job managing has many meanings. For high school lacrosse I was just a girl with the snacks and water. Being a manager, it was also my honor to help the coaches in any way possible. By making their job easier, the team played better.”

Anja feels strongly others should try their hand at managing. Anja said, “I would one hundred ten percent recommend managing, it was a super amazing way to get involved, connect with a team, work on your baking skills, and overall just make some really good memories.”

*Senior Ju Won Hong celebrates his career as girls swimming manger with his varsity letter. Ju Won put in countless hours on the humid pool deck, basking in the smell of chlorine, assisting the girls swimming team. Ju Won attended state in February with the team, where the team took third. The help of Ju Won and his fellow managers doubtlessly helped the girls achieve this impressive feat.*



## MICRO MANAGEMENT

*This handy guide will serve to explain what one can expect as a high school sports manager by comparing and contrasting the roles of hockey, lacrosse, and wrestling managers. These same responsibilities can apply to to other types of managers as well.*

