

He may seem like a quiet, run of the mill, anxious-for graduation-senior, but Spencer Stilson '19 has big plans before his high school years are over.

Six years ago, Stilson began his rugby career in London. He is now a force for the Monarch team, playing for them for the past three years.

"As of last season, I was ranked 15th fullback in the nation. Fullbacks are basically like safeties in football, except rugby," Stilson said.

As his final season approaches, he and his fellow teammates, especially the other seniors, are hungry for a trophy. "The last thing I want to do before I graduate is to win the state championship with all my friends," he said.



What you DON'T KNOW about Monarch

The untold stories of
Monarch students

Tell me s'more

By Lia Farrell

No matter how cool you think you are, when it come to achievements, Annalie Harrelson '21 has got you beat.

The coolest thing she's ever done? Roasting marshmallows on top of a volcano in Spain.

"The volcano basically covers the entire island... [It's] mostly dormant, but steam comes out all the time," she said. The volcano in question is Mt. Teide, which resides upon the island of Tenerife, one of the Canary Islands.

"Most tourists only take the gondola half of the way up, but to get the real experience, you have to go to the top," she said. "It was just super exhilarating to be doing something that strange in one of the most beautiful places I've been. I feel like it captured the heart of humanity."



Through the camera lens

By Jamie Thompson

When most people hear Peyton Allen '19, they automatically envision her with a camera in her hand and a smile on her face.

"It all started summer of 2016. I went to Portland with my softball team, and I brought my GoPro. They loved to film on it," Allen said. "I spent some time putting some clips together, and everyone thought it was the coolest thing. I even took my GoPro to nationals where we took 1st place, and I captured that moment. After that, I began to realize that I loved using it, as I would spend days on end trying to make it look perfect."

Allen has made various videos that have not only touched the hearts of her teammates, but everyone around her.

Before Allen graduates, she hopes to make a documentary. "I want to step out of my comfort zone and make something personal and meaningful," she said.



14 the pack

After attending school in England at Sandringham West Newton, Sam Keenan '20 was surprised with the opportunity to meet the Queen. "It was so cool! Her summer estate was right next to my school, and she came over and shook all our hands," Keenan said.



Many people know the intense rush of playing Mario Kart. Not many people have the determination and grit to pass the one and only "Rainbow Road" course... except for Keira Sager '22. "It took me like 10-15 tries until I succeeded. It was the highlight of my life," Sager said.

Imagine finding your true self through a two week art trip and coming back with a whole new mind set. Claire Laurie '19 traveled to Amsterdam, Bruges, and Paris with a handful of other BVSD students. "By far the coolest thing or experience I have ever done was travel to Europe with the school art program. I learned to love art so much more than I ever thought I could. I loved being surrounded in a different culture than what I was used to. It was one of the coolest experiences I have ever had," says Laurie.



WHAT YOU COULD KNOW ABOUT MONARCH

By Nathan Philips

Life is only so long. We desire to connect with people throughout our lifetime but in reality, we only end up getting a sliver of who they really are. It would be nice to get the whole slice of a person, wouldn't it?

Looking out the window of a bullet train, you see a blur of color that by the end of the journey paints a picture. Madeline Hall '20, a junior, rode this journey. "I've been to Japan where I rode a bullet train, which was pretty awesome. It was a new experience where I got to go halfway across Japan in an hour," she said.

To watch someone define themselves in front of people is really cool to see. Brooke Hagelin '20 got to watch one of those people. "One time I saw American Idol live, that was pretty cool," Hagelin said.

Imagine flying and sliding in the air, capturing a memory through several images. Sophia Westerkamp '21 has experienced this. "When I was 13, I went to Costa Rica for a wedding. One of those days, we went zip lining over the Costa Rican jungle, and it was so beautiful," Westerkamp said.

We all adore concerts but when it comes to traveling to another continent to see one, it might just be a big deal. Miranda McCoy '21 could fill you in on the journey. "The coolest thing I've ever done is fly to Paris, France just to go to a concert. Because I didn't speak the language, I just had to make the best out of it and figure out how to get around. Plus, I met a lot of amazing people while I was there," McCoy said.

Music makes the listener feel emotion, and when Leah Pring '20 went to Costa Rica with Boulder Suzuki Strings, (an orchestra group based in Boulder), she got to be one of the artists that made it all happen.

"[For] one concert we performed in Tortuguero, Costa Rica. It's a small island that has no roads and it was raining the whole time. We were there and the electricity gave out, but we kept on playing and the locals pulled out their phones to give us light for the rest of the concert, it was amazing," Pring said.

There are so many incredible stories you'll never hear if you don't ask. Go and get the full slice of Monarch, not just a sliver.

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