

# YOU ARE



**AS A NATIONALLY RANKED SPEED CLIMBER,** junior **JORDAN FISHMAN** went to Innsbruck, Austria, after placing second in Moscow, Russia, for Worlds. "It just feels so good for hard work to pay off and to have something to show for it," Fishman said. *photos by aidan hicks, story by carter faust, design by carter faust*

JORDAN FISHMAN

**YOU** drive an hour and forty minutes to train with the best.

**AT FIFTEEN YEARS OLD, YOU CAN SCALE A 15 METER WALL IN 6.3 SECONDS.**

(6.40 in Russia)

(6.40 got you a second place medal at worlds)

You are a two-time national champion, and you know it's not luck that got you there.

It's the four hours that you train at the gym, anywhere from 3 to 5 days a week.

**YOUR READS AND YOUR DEDICATION SENT YOU THE TOP.**

Your climbing has taken you from Colorado gyms all the way to Italy, and that's not an accident.

**YOU ATTACK EVERY WALL, NO MATTER WHERE YOU CLIMB.**

# THE BEST

003 JORDAN FISHMAN PTOFILE

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**YOU** were born December 31, 2000.  
You were introduced to a goal before your could walk.

**YOU FIRST PICKED UP A SOCCER BALL WHEN YOU WERE THREE.**

That's when you joined an official team.

You were supposed to go to Eaglecrest.  
But when your brother enrolled at Smoky to be coached by Mullan, you wanted to do the same.

You've been hanging with the soccer boys since the day you met.

At eleven you joined a club team;

**YOU GOT YOUR FIRST CONCUSSION AT THIRTEEN.**

You were 15 when you got a serious head injury, and 16 when it happened again.

When the doctors told you you'd have long term brain damage as a result,

**YOU KEPT PLAYING ANYWAY.**

You chose Smoky for the soccer.  
You stayed for the team.

The Swamp will always be your home.



ISABELLE JOSEPH

# YOUR STORY BEGINS WITH THE BALL



**PLAYING SINCE SHE WAS THREE, ISABELLE JOSEPH** continues to play soccer despite multiple serious injuries and doctors orders. "Doctors recommended that I stop playing but you know, you just gotta keep pushing through," Joseph said. "With soccer, I feel like I'm able to connect with people on another level, just because of athletics, and having that common ground." photos by aidan hicks - story by carter faust, design by carter faust

OPENING 005 ISABELLE JOSEPH PROFILE

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# YOU AND YOUR GIRL



**YOU** were diagnosed with epilepsy before you were a year old.

You weren't able to do the things you love, go the places you wanted to go.

When Phoebe came into your life when you were eleven,

**YOU DIDN'T JUST GAIN INDEPENDENCE, YOU GAINED A BEST FRIEND.**

Phoebe changed the way that you lived your life.

Kids get surprised when they see her in the halls, but that doesn't matter to you.

**BECAUSE YOU ARE SO MUCH MORE THAN THE GIRL WITH THE DOG.**

**IT'S YOUR YEAR, AND PHOEBE'S COMING ALONG FOR THE RIDE.**

**WITH HER SERVICE DOG PHOEBE,** MCKENNA BIRKA begins her first year of high school. Outside of school, Birka enjoys drawing and calligraphy. "I used to not be able to go anywhere, but ever since I got Phoebe, I was able to go places by myself without anyone needing to be there for me," Birka said. "She really just changed the way," photos by [unreadable], story by carter [unreadable], design by carter [unreadable]

MCKENNA BIRKA AND PHEOBE

OPENING **007** MCKENNA BIRKA PROFILE

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# YOU'VE GOTTA



MATINE KHALIGHI

**AFTER STARTING** HIS nonprofit in eighth grade, **MATINE KHALIGHI** now has over a hundred volunteers aiming to help fight homelessness in Colorado through rehabilitation. "A lot of the operations of the nonprofit happen everyday through our personal time, talking to people and organizing stuff," Khalingi said. *all photos by Jordan Peck, story and design by Carter Faust.*

In eighth grade, **YOU** knew there was more to the story than just homelessness.  
**YOU KNOW THAT SOMETIMES HIGH SCHOOLERS CARE THE MOST.**

Helping the Homeless Colorado is not just a volunteer organization,

**IT'S THE ONE YOU CREATED.**

There's a hundred volunteers that are aiming to **EDUCATE, ADVOCATE, AND ALLEVIATE** the homeless in Colorado. Some people have a story to tell;

**YOU'VE GOT THE STORY OF SOMETHING BIGGER THAN YOU.**

# TELL US ABOUT IT



OPENING **009** MATINE KHALIGHI PROFILE

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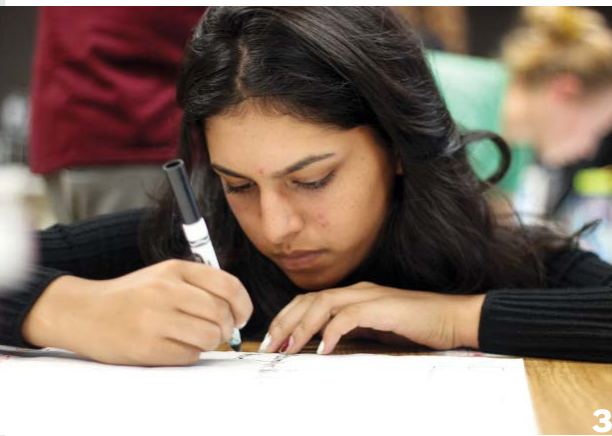
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**1 ABOUT TO MAKE** his next move, **NATHANIEL SAMUEL** participates in Chess Club. "My favorite part about it is how you have to really think ahead and know what your opponent is thinking," Samuel said. *photo by aidan hicks*



**2 FOOTBALL HELMET ABOVE** his head, **KAMARI LEWIS STALLWORTH III** huddles after the first win of the season. "I love the team bond. This is what we love, this is what we do," Lewis-Stallworth III said. *photo by aidan hicks*



**3 WORKING ON A** theory of knowledge poster, **AMISHA SINGH** hurries to finish so she can eat dinner. "Everyone brings food from their own culture," Singh said. "It's super cool to be able to hang out with a group of diverse people." *photo by aidan hicks*



**4 CHEERING ON THE** field, **SOLEIL MUHAMMAD** competes in Powder Buff Football. "It's fun being with my friends and working as a team," Muhammad said. *photo by aidan hicks*

**5 HEAD BEING SHAVED, THOMAS THENELL** makes good on his promise made back in 1994. "I said that if we had a team that started 3-0, they could shave my head. It was huge for them, so why wouldn't I want to follow through?" Thenell said. *photo by aidan hicks*

**6 PLAYING THE FRENCH** horn, **ABBIGALE TAYLOR** participates in Spirit Bus. "I had a connection with music. Eventually, I choose the french horn," Taylor said. *photo by aidan hicks*

**7 WORKING THE CLAY, JULIA PEIRCE-WALLACE** spends her afternoon in Pottery Club. "It's just fun getting to get your hands dirty while talking with friends," Peirce-Wallace said. *photo by trinity sanford*

**8 SMILING TO THE** crowd, **KENDAL RUFFIN** participates in Top of the Hill. "It was really fun to see that we had support from other schools, and to hit all our stunts," Ruffin said. *photo by aidan hicks*

**9 UP ON THE** stand, **JAVONNI DASS** lifeguards for the DECA pool party. "People were doing flips in the water. We probably should have stopped them, but we didn't," Dass said. *photo by aidan hicks, design by carter faust*



You were here when we won the first football game of the season. The district didn't catch on until we were already **9 AND 0**

**WE TOLD THEM YOU HADN'T SEEN OUR BEST. IT'S NOT OUR FAULT THEY'RE ONLY JUST STARTING TO LISTEN.**

Someone once said Smoky's spirit could break a bleacher. You know that's not true.

**IT CAN BREAK TWO.**

You'll go to TOK until nine but only if **TANVEER SINGH'S** bringing dinner. You trained all summer in marching band but you'll tell the story of Cohen only giving you a day to learn 'Baby Shark'. You were the best before you got the first clay 3D printer released to a high school in the nation.

**YOU'RE DEFINITELY THE BEST AFTER.**

**YOU KNOW THE STORY OF SMOKY. WE'LL TELL THE STORY OF YOU.**

**IT'S THE BEST STORY WE'LL EVER TELL. YOU.**

OPENING **011** IT'S THE BEST STORY WE'LL EVER TELL YOU.

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**1 BASKETBALL IN HAND.**

**KENNETH FOSTER** commits to the University of Wyoming. "It was definitely a huge weight lifted off my shoulders because there was a lot of stress when it came to choosing the right place," Foster said. *photo by aidan hicks*

**2 SILHOUETTED BY THE LIGHT.**

**IMANI GHOLSON** dances on stage. "The learning process of a dance is so hard at first, but it's so rewarding when you perform," Gholson said. *photo by aidan hicks*

**3 EYES ON THE BOARD.**

**CASPER APODACA** sets the sound for the play. "It was cool watching the fight scenes go from not so good to really intense and awesome at the last show," Apodaca said. *photo by aidan hicks*

**4 PLAYING THE PIANO.**

**TYSON BROWN** refines his slam poetry. "When I play the piano, in the notes I hear words. And then I just write out what I feel the song is saying," Brown said. *photo by mya stoudmire. design by carter faust*



YOU KNEW YOU WERE THE BEST.

You learned dance just to be a better actress.

You came. You showed them.

**NOW THEY KNOW, TOO.**

You knew basketball was going to be the story of your four years at Smoky.

YOU MADE SURE IT WOULD BE THE STORY AT THE UNIVERSITY OF WYOMING, TOO.

You wrote poems to the notes of the piano.

YOU HAD STORIES TO TELL.

You knew Smoky should hear them.

The play featured great acting.

Because of you, the audience was able to hear it.

**SHE KILLS MONSTERS? YOU KILLED THAT.**

You've got a story. We're going to tell it.

IT'S THE BEST STORY WE'LL EVER TELL

**YOU.**

CHRON DIVIDER **011** KENNETH FOSTER, CASPER APODACA, IMANI GHOLSON, TYSON BROWN

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**1 BASKED IN HER SILHOUETTE.** KAYLI NELSON waits for the Poms State Competition to begin. "We work so hard and it was nice to see that," Nelson said. "Being on a team where every person is just as in love with what we do as me made me feel so lucky and excited."

**2 READING HER SPEECH OUT LOUD.** CHELSEA ACKMAN practices for an upcoming competition. "I like how [in speech and debate] you can do something that you're really proud of and present that for others, but also see what other people have to offer and hear their opinions and takes on things," Ackman said.

**3 AS THE WAGON WHEEL GETS PASSED AROUND.** OBASANJO SANNI reflects on the season. "We came from such a long way from where we started and considering the fact that we're all still young, I just think that we're just gonna continue going up from here," Sanni said.

**4 REPRESENTING THE CONFLICT OF FAMILIES BEING SEPARATED AT THE US - MEXICAN BORDER.** NAWAL ASSOUDAM participates in dance showcase. The piece was part of her MYP Personal Project. "When I performed the dance I felt like I almost put on a character, and made myself as if I were the actual person being separated from their family," Assougdam said. "I tried to use that sadness, stress, trauma, and that emotion throughout my performance." *all photos by aidan hicks*

You knew sometimes the best stories aren't always the ones being told.

**YOU CAME. YOU DANCED. YOU TOLD IT BEST.**

Talking's hard. Not talking's harder. If you're this good at speech and debate today, **IMAGINE THE STORIES YOU'LL TELL TOMORROW.** You'll be the best.

Poms state? *You did that.* The best stories are the ones that come with pom poms and line kicks.

Smoky's going to be telling the story of your 11 - 1 season for years.

**WE TOLD IT FIRST. YOU TOLD IT BEST.**  
**YOU'VE GOT A STORY.**  
**WE'RE GOING TO TELL IT.**

IT'S THE BEST STORY WE'LL EVER TELL.

**YOU.**



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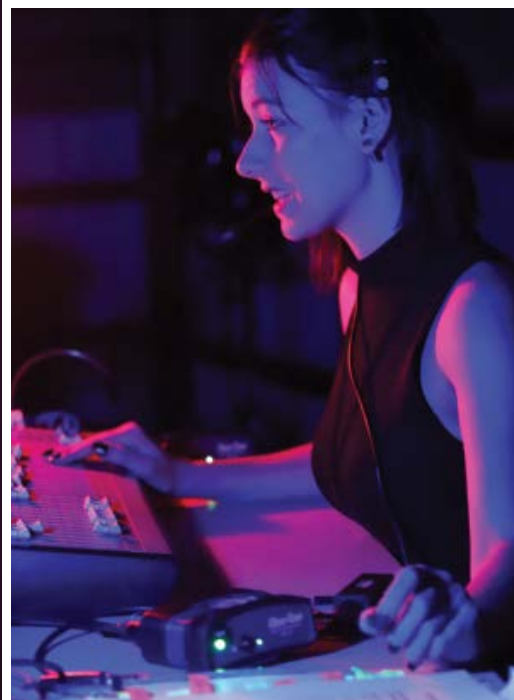
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# YOU



EKATERINA KHILCHENKO



**WITH HER HEADSET**  
 on as she sits behind the soundboard, **EKATERINA KHILCHENKO** works as the stage manager for 'Sound of Music' for her last show at Smoky Hill. Khilchenko has worked on the tech crew for all eight plays during her time at Smoky. "The hardest part is working with people, but the best part's probably the same thing, like connecting with people," Khilchenko said.  
*photos by aidan hicks, story and design by carter faust*

**YOU'VE** touched every aspect of the stage.  
 Painting, lights, sound.

TELLING STORIES, IS WHAT YOU DO.

Leading the crew? **YOU DO IT BEST.**

You know what every tech kid knows.  
**WITHOUT YOU, THERE IS NO "SOUND IN THE SOUND OF MUSIC."**

WHILE THE ACTORS ARE SINGING 'DO-RE-ME'  
 YOUR SETTING UP THE CUES. '1-2-3!'

The stage was set. The story was told.  
**YOU TOLD THE STORY BEST.**

# TOLD THE STORY BEST.

