

Devoted to DISC GOLF

DANIEL LEIDENBERGER, 12,
DETAILS HIS LONGSTANDING
LOVE FOR THE UNIQUE NICHE
SPORT OF DISC GOLF



Daniel Leidenberger



When you think of a sport to tune the TV channel to on a Sunday, sports like football, basketball, soccer, and baseball usually come to mind. However, for *Daniel Leidenberger, 12*, a more unique sport is much closer to home: disc golf. For Daniel, climbing the ranks of an unusual sport has been his main objective for years, and has brought him various awards and quite the sizable collection of discs. Here is the story behind Daniel's devotion to the obscure sport of disc golf.

"I have been playing disc golf for about five or six years now. I play really competitively, I have made it onto world stages, and have played in national titles. Since I live right on Palmer Lake, there is a disc golf course super close to me. One day I was down there with my brother and when we found a disk it kind of just blew up from there. One second we were just throwing it around for fun, and the next it evolved into something I love."

"I would like to go pro one day so I like to get out and play at least five times a week, but it's never a set amount of time how much I practice. There are no true qualifications so really anyone can go pro, but I hope to go on tour when I start playing professionally. I'm already making my schedule for this summer and I plan on touring around a little bit. I will see where it takes me. I don't plan on stopping any time soon."

"My best performance was probably April in 2021. I took 9th place in my division in a national tour. Over that week I won five smaller events as well. Also, I'm currently the vice president of the Tri-Lakes Disc Golf Club. I went against adults for that title, so I am very proud of the fact that I got the title."

"I have a whole bag, well maybe a few bags, full of discs, and about 600 at my house. I usually carry around 25 discs when I throw and typically keep playing with them for about a season. Also, my spot as the vice president in the disc golf club means I am also the social media manager, so if someone finds a disc they hand it off to me."

"I think being involved in a more unique sport is important to me because it makes me feel a better sense of connection to the community. I know pretty much everyone in the Colorado Springs area that is involved in disc golf, and whenever I play I run into a friend. When I travel to large events, there's always a good few people there I have connections with that help me feel less alone in a strange place. I think that's also special about the uniqueness of the sport. Because it's so small, I personally know some of the best players in the world and keep in contact with them over the off season."

interview with daniel leidenberger by ethan michon.