

sports

Dance team continues to practice despite pandemic

ZOE BOGARTY
Reporter

With coronavirus cases still on the rise, the Ashland University dance team is determined to make the most out of their dance season, despite not being able to perform at their normal competitions.

Prior to the pandemic, the dance team would host two of their biggest fundraisers of the year, their cheer and dance competition and their little eagles cheer and dance clinic. Since they are not allowed to host either events, they have opted for an online fundraiser in hopes to receive donations in replacement of the events.

The funds from these fundraisers are split and used for

many things. A portion of it goes to paying their coaches for all their hard work, getting the team's practice clothes, shoes, backpacks for game day, cheer bows, new tumbling material and much more.

So far out of their goal for \$10,000 they've made \$9,136 as of Nov. 6, according to fourth year member Tylur Jones.

"Each girl is very dedicated in getting friends and family to donate as the team means a lot to us," said Jones. "Although we all wish we could host our two huge events, we are very grateful that we are still able to fundraise through this time."

While they are not advertising on social media for donations, they are practicing for upcoming games for AU's bas-

ketball teams. Starting Nov. 10, the schedule will be finalized on where and when the games will be.

The team has been practicing constantly since September while also adhering to social distancing and mask rules. As for now they have been working on tightness, cleaning a band dance, and working hard on their time out dance. Next week, they have a choreographer coming to teach the team two dances. They will also be learning a jazz dance that same night as well.

Practice can be dangerous with the amount of air you need to intake after exerting yourself, so in order to stay low risk, the dancers have chosen to practice with their masks on the entire

time, to keep themselves and their teammates safe.

Another fourth year dance team member, Mackenzie Cook said, "We are wearing masks and stuff for all of practice. The masks make it more sweaty, I don't have a problem wearing them. It just makes everything more hot and sweaty."

Upon entering their practice area each team member must be masked, have their temperature taken, and show their campus shield badge. Prior to practice, if they are feeling sick in any way, they are not to show up to practice. During water breaks each and everyone of them use hand sanitizer.

Even with COVID-19 still in the unknown, the dancers are expressing their excitement of

their hard work as much as they can with the barriers they have in place.

"I think the online fundraising through reaching our goal is going very well. Each girl is very dedicated in getting friends and family to donate as the teams mean a lot to us," said Jones.

"Although we all wish we could host our two huge events, we are very grateful that we are still able to fundraise through this time."

For more information on how to donate, Au Dance teams fundraiser is run through reachinggoal.com.



Ashland Dance Team pictured above.

PHOTO SUBMITTED BY: TAYLUR JONES

Rekulak reflects on time playing college lacrosse

JORDANN LOPATA
Sports Editor

Sophomore goaltender on the women's lacrosse team, Jillian Rekulak, reflects on her time at AU so far, and how this year has been different due to the coronavirus.

Rekulak is from Millstone Township, New Jersey, where she attended Allentown High School, always knowing that she wanted to come to college to play lacrosse, it was just a matter of where she would end up.

"I started playing lacrosse when I was in the fourth grade, I always knew that I wanted to play college sports. My dad played college football, so I knew that I wanted to be involved in college sports too," Rekulak said. "It was just a matter of where to go and finding my best fit," said Rekulak.

Rekulak was recruited to come to Ashland by head coach Shaun Williamson. She knew that Ashland was a good fit for her because it met all of her needs when it came to what she was looking for in a good program.

"I was looking for a school that would help me academically and athletically. I knew that Ashland had good academics, and good athletic facilities. I chose Ashland because I knew it was a place where I could grow and succeed in both areas."

Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, the lacrosse team's season was cut short on their trip to Col-

orado last spring. The team was only able to get in six games last year, and had a 2-4 record, without winning any conference games. The previous season, and the first year for lacrosse at Ashland, the eagles finished with a 5-11 record, and a 4-8 record in the conference.

Rekulak hopes that she gets to start and finish a complete season in the spring, with games hopefully starting in late February early March.

"I hope that with COVID-19, we actually get to play. We have a talented group of girls, and we have been preparing for a spring season. I hope that we get the opportunity to prove ourselves, and finish with a winning season," Rekulak said.

Rekulak also touched base on how she deals with being far from home, especially during these tough times throughout the pandemic. "I normally don't go home until Thanksgiving anyways," she said.

"I'm lucky to have really great friends on and off the field, whose families are there for me and take care of me knowing that I am unable to make it home regularly."



Rekulak pictured above.

PHOTO SUBMITTED BY: JILLIAN REKULAK