

Katie Buchtel

Throughout my childhood I always watched my sister dance and knew since first grade that I wanted to be a BOLD Dancer one day. I spent every weekend during the winter for six years watching a dance competition. I could not get enough of dance. I watched dance patiently and waited for my turn.

When I was finally a seventh grader, I walked into my first day of dance as a BOLD Diva. Through seventh and eighth grade I danced on Junior Varsity and had an amazing time with my teammates and awesome coaches. In ninth grade I made varsity jazz and high kick. After being conference champions, and going to state in both jazz and high kick in ninth grade, I was more than ready for my sophomore season of dance.

My sophomore year was full of great dancing, great teammates, and great coaches. Dancing for Coach Karen Smith has been the highlight of dance for me. She has become like a second mom to me; she taught me more than dance. She has taught me responsibility and respect. Coach Karen has made dance more than just a sport for me. Prior to my junior year, I was voted captain, along with three seniors, for the upcoming season. This was a huge honor for me and I was thrilled to help improve our team. Junior year was easily my most successful year of dance.

Throughout the regular season, we were extremely close in scores with three teams in our section and many other great teams around the state. We placed third at sections in high kick and second in jazz. When we were at state, we made it to finals in high kick. Medals were up for grabs. Prior to 2017, there has not been a BOLD High Kick team to place at state. That year, we received second place in Class A High Kick. As a captain and member of the team, this was one of the best feelings. We had worked extremely hard all year, yet we knew every other team did too. Our performance was great, but we had no idea how the other teams danced. We truly had no idea what was going to happen at awards, which made it that much more exciting.

After such an amazing junior year of dance, I was excited but sad about entering my senior year of dance. I was not ready for all of the "lasts." My senior year of dance was full of ups and downs. The ups were great and they will be memories forever, but the downs taught me lessons that I'll never forget. In the end, my dance career was more than I ever thought it could be. I will never forget the feeling after performing knowing you did your best and feeling confident your teammates did the same.

