

Caitlin Clark fever strikes elementary wing

By Garrett Pearlman

When it comes to role models for young Durant students, you have to look no further than the NCAA's all-time leading scorer, Caitlin Clark of the Iowa Hawkeyes.

The Hawkeyes' arena is just a 40-minute drive from Durant, and third grader Grace Milotte was able to take a trip to watch a game this year as Clark and her teammates made an epic run to the championship game for the second year in a row before losing to the University of South Carolina.

Grace enjoys how confident that Clark is in herself. Clark has many more great qualities on top of that, according to Grace, such as being funny, kind, and thankful towards her fans.

"She makes you feel like you can do anything you want to even if you are from a small place, even stuff the boys can do," said Grace, whose bedroom walls are lined with posters of the Hawkeyes' team.

Grace is similar to her other classmates who also followed Caitlin Clark this season.

Grace's mother, Kristin Milotte,



Photo contributed by Kris Daufeldt Kindergartners Abbott Wagaman, Emma DeLong, Griffin Straube, and Harper Bullis gear up with Iowa shirts during March Madness.

Durant elementary school's guidance counselor, has noticed students wearing Clark's jersey in the halls.

"Honestly, even a lot of the boys are wearing Clark shirts," said Ms. Milotte in an interview during March Madness.

Grace is also a basketball player who gets motivated to play better by seeing Clark.

Not only does Grace look up to Clark, but she looks up to some of her teammates such as Kate Martin and Gabbie Marshall.

"Kate is a good teammate and always positive, and I like that Gabbie is a good defense person and shorter like me," said Grace. "I got to meet them both, and they were so nice."

Clark was the number one overall pick in the WNBA draft April 15 and will play for the Indiana Fever. Martin was later picked in the second round by the Las Vegas Aces.

Ms. Milotte thinks that Clark is a great role model for her daughter especially since she empowers girls to believe in themselves.

"I think anything that felt 'impossible' for girls in sports now feels possible," said Ms. Milotte, who hopes her daughter learns "to just be authentically herself and not let herself be limited by societal expectations."

According to Ms. Milotte, the added benefit of Clark being in Iowa really shows that it doesn't matter if you come from somewhere smaller.

Mrs. Kris Daufeldt, a Durant kindergarten teacher, said Clark is celebrated a lot more than you would think.

"Anytime I mention her name, the kids light up," said Mrs. Daufeldt. "I have made math story problems about her and our phonics sentences about her, and the kids just love it."

Not only does Mrs. Daufeldt incorporate these questions into schoolwork, but her students do as well.

"One of my students made up his own story problem, and it was 'There were four Nolan DeLong jerseys and one Caitlin Clark jersey,'" said Mrs. Daufeldt. "How many jerseys in all?"

Students have even brought in Clark-themed treats for birthdays in her class.

"Anytime you see a positive role model on television consistently," said Mrs. Daufeldt, "it's great for kids. The fact that she's from Iowa just is an extra bonus."

First grade teacher Mrs. Tonya Wise likes to use Hawkeye decorations in her classroom. Although she thinks Clark is an exceptional player, Gabbie Marshall is actually her favorite.

"I have different posters and pictures that I have gathered from the games I have gone to," said Mrs. Wise. "I put up the first poster from one of the first games I attended, and it has grown from there."

Like Mrs. Daufeldt, Mrs. Wise uses basketball to help encourage young students to do school work.

"We've done some tournament bracket math competitions and basketball math games," said Mrs. Wise. "My friend came in on my birthday to school and planned a surprise Iowa basketball-themed party in my classroom. It's just been a lot of fun."

Mrs. Wise thought that watching Clark grow was a great opportunity for children to see "someone so driven and successful."

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Photo contributed by Kris Daufeldt Kindergartner Piper Belitz brings Hawkeye-themed cookies to school for her birthday.



Photo contributed by Kristin Milotte Third grader Grace Milotte, daughter of elementary guidance counselor Ms. Kristin Milotte, attends a women's basketball game at Carver-Hawkeye Arena.

ful." Not all the Hawkeye cheering comes from the elementary wing, though. Junior Race Starr called himself the biggest Clark fan in the high school and respects her highly.

For Starr, Clark's ability to get triple doubles stands out to him. Starr also plays point guard like Clark and understands how hard it is to achieve those numbers.

"You're usually smaller, so the rebound part is really hard," said Starr.

Starr thought that Clark's ability to make shots while being guarded closely was what made her special as well as her pinpoint passes to set up teammates for buckets.

He thought that it would be too risky to try to replicate Clark's passes in an actual game.

"I'm not really willing to do that in a varsity game and get taken out if I mess up on it," said Starr.

AI From page 1

"We should be doing more of the human relationship piece in classrooms," said Mr. Maurer, stressing that classes should use more verbal interaction and discussion.

In interviews with five Durant students, all said they have used ChatGPT on assignments here at school even though some said they felt it was cheating.

To allow the students to talk freely, the *Chronicles* did not identify them by name.

One form of AI used commonly among teenagers is their Snapchat AI, which is located at the very top of their Snapchat feed.

A female sophomore at Durant says she used her Snapchat AI "a few times" in English, math, and history classes.

Another student, a female junior, said she also used her Snapchat AI but no other app. She also said that she doesn't believe the form she used it in is cheating.

"I don't have it write stuff for me. I just get information," she said.

However, one junior male used it to write the assignment for him, and he said, "It's definitely cheating."

Mr. Maurer said one of the positive uses of AI is that it can serve as a 24/7 tutoring resource to students.

"ChatGPT can also assist in developing writing skills, providing feedback, and generating ideas," he said.

"Consider AI as part of an AI sandwich ethical framework where humans should still be doing 80 percent of the thinking and doing."

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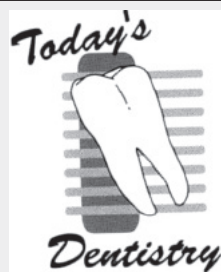
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Today's Dentistry coach of the month

Coach Cody Wille is coaching the junior high boys' track team for the 16th year. "Junior high track is just a fun sport," said Coach Wille. "It's really an introduction of what track really looks like to most of the guys. A majority of them probably have never seen a track meet before, so it's very new to them." He enjoys being able to get the chance to meet the junior high athletes before they enter high school.



Wille



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Liberty Trust & Savings Bank's club member of the month



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Junior Gavin Broussard has participated in band since fifth grade. He is a percussionist for the marching band and concert band. He is the sole drumset player for concert band, and he plays drumset for the choir. Gavin has been playing drums since he was 5 years old



Broussard