

McKenna Clouse
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Kaitlyn Bakke

Kaitlyn Bakke a Forest Lake, Minn Native is a Junior setter at Waldorf University. Even though Bakke wasn't named captain again this season, she still provided the Waldorf Volleyball team with veteran leadership on and off the court.

In her high school career, Bakke helped bring her team to the Minnesota State High School Tournament two years in a row. She finished her high school career averaging 6.6 assists a game and added 141 digs in her last season.

"Being able to experience a state tournament twice is amazing," Bakke said. "Not everyone gets to experience something like this, and to help lead my team there was awesome."

In the 2021-2022 season Bakke earned The North Star Athletic Association honor of setter of the week. To achieve this honor she collected 87 assists, 27 digs, and eight kills. This achievement has only been awarded to one other Waldorf Setter in the time it has been around. With the North Star Conference being really competitive, any honor for a Waldorf player is huge and Bakke achieved it.

"It was a huge honor to achieve something like this," Bakke said. "I've been working my whole life for something like this."

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Bakke being a setter, was taught how not to be selfish. She helps her team every day to get better by knowing who can hit what, and the perfect time to pull out that combination hit. Bakke currently lives on campus with one of her friends Abygail Wood, junior captain of the volleyball team.

“Kaitlyn is an all-around great person,” Wood said. “She knows when people just need a second to compose themselves, and is always there to cheer her teammates up.”

One time during this past season, Bakke was sick and not playing her best. She made sure she let her teammates know, so that she wasn’t pulling her team down. She decided the best thing for her and her teammates was to coach and cheer them on from the sidelines.

“I knew I wasn’t at my best,” Bakke said. “Sometimes the best thing you can do for your teammates and be honest and take a step back.”

Coach Bri Ebenhoe is on her fifth season as head coach at Waldorf. When asked about Bakke she said, “Kaitlyn is someone you want on any team. She’s a born leader and knows where to put the ball on the court, and the best plays to call for the personal that is on the court at the time.”

With the 2021-2022 over Bakke will come back for her senior season next year. She currently stands fourth in assists in the record book at 1,564. Her season records include 9.49 assists per set and ranking fifth in assists earned in one season at 902. She also holds the record for most assists earned in one game coming in at 64.

“I’m really excited for my senior season,” Bakke said. “We have a good group coming back along with some new recruits, and I think we can go farther than past seasons.”