"I'm not a quitter," Liv Paxton boldly states. "My goal is to be the best that I can be."

Some classmates say the cross country and track star may have already exceeded her own expectations. As captain of the South Pointe girls’ cross country team Paxton has earned a reputation as the runner to watch.

Growing up with a university track coach as a father, you can imagine the pressure Paxton may have felt from her family to be a runner.

"My family let me do all the sports I wanted. I tried basketball, gymnastics, and cheerleading, but I didn't really find my passion until I began to run," Paxton elaborates. Watching her father coach the Winthrop track team at a meet Liv was very impressed with their dexterity. “I immediately looked up to them and knew I wanted to follow in their footsteps.” Liv says,

"I found it wasn't difficult to go a long distance fast.”

Working her way to the top wasn’t an easy task; even world class runners have their breaking points. “The lowest point of my track career was coming in fourth place at our state meet last year.” Liv laments. On the morning of the meet Paxton was nauseous, but continued on to the race, she couldn’t abandon her team.

One minor setback didn’t keep her down; Liv has gone on to set many South Pointe records for multiple events in track and cross country. Paxton did go on to win the 2015 York County cross country meet on October 17th with a time of (19:05.9). Being her first win at a county meet and also one of the hardest races she’s ever run Liv says, “This is my biggest accomplishment of this season so far.” Furthermore, she has been the individual champion of the 1600 meter (5:21), 3200 meter (11:17), and 4x800 relay for three years in a row, Paxton has earned college scholarship offers from a few well-known institutes.

On Aug. 1, 2015, Paxton officially committed to run at Winthrop for her freshman year of college.

"I've thought long and hard on this very important decision before coming to the conclusion that Winthrop feels like home, probably because it always has been. I'm very excited to run for my dad as well as excel academically." she posted on her Instagram account along with a picture of her and her parents smiling proudly.

Paxton did admit she had been considering taking her offers from Lehigh University and the University of South Carolina.

"My parents would be fine with whatever I chose, but I've felt like an Eagle for as long as I can remember," she grins.

Aside from excelling on the track, Paxton is an IB Full Diploma student and proudly sits at number 19 in her class. Liv has always taken her grades very seriously and would not be the successful runner she is today if she had not been able to maintain her grades and her athletics. Her tip for staying a star athlete and student is to put academics first. She explains how she manages to complete assignments while having a rigorous practice schedule, "I make sure that if I have to do homework on the bus to a meet or in between events that I get it done."

Liv has a major passion for fashion. “I’m hoping to win the ‘Best Dressed’ senior superlative this year” she says. Paxton is never afraid to take a risk with her clothing choices. You can catch her sporting anything from neon green converse to authentic vintage bell bottoms. Her style is what her peers call “unique” and “classic” with just the right amount of trend.

Whether it is on the track or in the classroom you can catch Liv Paxton slaying her opponents one stride at a time. Every runner in the region knows what they're in for when they see her iconic "space buns" roll by.

From her Hilton Head Half Marathon championship this past February to her closet solely for her shoes obsession, Paxton basically has just one gear: full speed ahead.