

Sports



Catching up with Kevin Brown

How much work did you and your team put in during the off-season, to be at the level of play that you're at now?

We put in a lot of work, a lot of dedication went into it, to be where we are at right now. Sometimes we have conditioning and practice, which is about six hours. Sometimes we have two-a-days [practices], which are the whole day.

Have there been any challenges, for you or the team, this season so far?

We have some players that are injured early in the season, so we have to put the twos and threes in [second and third string players]. And with the heat we faced, we had to lift each other up. We had to have dedication. And we had to be there for each other as teammates.

How did you feel when you were named the MVP at Sertoma [Aug. 14]?

I was shocked. Someone had to call me and tell me I was the MVP. I started jumping up and down, and yelling at my mom about it. I asked "Why me? Out of anyone else at Sertoma, why was I chosen to get the MVP award?"

What has been your favorite part of the football season so far? What are you looking forward to?

My favorite part is starting. I did not get to start last season. I'm looking forward to winning that state championship, and to being the best player I can be.

-compiled by Avery Buskill



Senior Rebecca Groves sits on the starting block in Lane 1 at LTP Swim Club, a team she swims for outside of Wando. Groves broke her foot Aug. 13 but has continued to practice every day.

Mary Prickett // photo

Just keep swimming

Dedicated swimmer continues to practice despite broken

Devon Lee
sports editor

Kick, kick, kick... One stroke at a time, she slices through the shimmering water, along with her teammates. Trailing behind her, a cumbersome white boot protrudes from her wake — heavy, defiant, unforgiving. Pushing her forward: friends, her coach and a fiery will and determination that can only be that of senior Rebecca Groves.

Since she was 5 years old, Groves -- now girls' swim team captain -- has always lived in the water. Participating in the selective Futures swim meet, placing on state levels and being offered the chances to swim at the University of South Carolina and UNC-Greensboro, the young swimmer has a promising career ahead of her.

With everything going for her, disaster struck. On Aug. 13, Groves broke her fifth metatarsal, a bone in her foot where one bears the most weight.

"I was walking down the stairs, and I missed the last step. And I broke it. Not in a very interesting way," she joked.

The time following directly after her injury was laced with anxiety.

"I was like, 'Oh, no. What am I going to do?"

This is my senior year, and I'm going to start it off with a broken foot," she said.

The doctors first put on a hard cast, which added to the stress. "Oh my, gosh, I'm not gonna be able to swim," said Groves on her reaction to the hard cast.

The doctors -- after failing to apply a working waterproof cast -- told her she could get a walking boot. She jumped at the opportunity. The boot enabled her to practice, it was a huge deal to miss as little time as possible in the water, according to Groves.

The road to recovery was not easy. The boot showed no sympathy to Groves. "I used to not be able to kick [while swimming]," said Groves. "At first it really hurt. I couldn't move it. I would try to wiggle [my foot], and it wouldn't move."

This setback didn't stop Groves. Little by little, she overcame her handicap. "I just kinda

pushed myself," said Groves. "I was like, 'Okay, let me try kicking today, slowly. And then, I did. And then the next day, I said I was gonna kick harder... And eventually I finally started kicking. If it hurt, I said, 'Just forget about it. Keep going.'"

Though Groves couldn't do meets, she showed up at every practice, eager to work, "[Rebecca] has become one of the best role models since her injury," said Durden. "She is a no excuses, just do it kind of leader. She wakes up at 5 a.m. to come practice in her cast..."

Groves said the thing that inspired her to keep going most was her teammates, "I love my teammates," she said. "I grew up with them... We've been together through thick and thin. They really kept me strong though it all."

Groves is expected to make a full recovery, and with three more swim meets left after she heals, can still qualify for the State Championship.

The injury was more than just an obstacle to Groves, "It made me realize that you have to be really strong-minded," said Groves. "And you have to keep a positive outlook, no matter what happens... I was determined to swim through it. And to keep going."

"If it hurt, I said, 'Just forget about it, keep going.'"

Senior Rebecca Groves