

just UNMATCHED DETERMINATION

Despite countless surgeries and physical challenges, Lilly finds strength in her passion

"My doctors always thought that I wouldn't be able to run, dance, or do any sports," junior **Lilly Perry** said.

Lilly was born with a medical condition called CFD, which has affected her life since she was young. She has gone through surgeries since she was four years old: to lengthen the femur on her left.

"Every single year of school, I've gone to get surgeries done. So on top of missing school, I missed a lot of my social life and it was hard just wanting to stay connected with everybody," Lilly said.

However, even through it all, she never gave up on her passion to play sports, be involved in school, and stay connected to her friends. Even with limitations on what she could do in a sport, she never gave it a second thought and played every sport she could.

"I tried to play as many sports as I could. I think a lot of my friends and I joke around about it that I probably played every sport that you know, because even with not being able to play sports a lot, I really just tried to hit it hard and do every sport," Lilly said.

She started her music journey when she was in elementary school and she couldn't play any sports. Music is now not just something she listens to or enjoys on the side; it's the life she's built up through perseverance and passion.

"I started playing violin because I

couldn't do sports in elementary school. I was wheelchair bound and my mom came up with something for me to do while I was in a wheelchair, which was playing violin. So that music really made me able to do something and feel like a normal kid," Lilly said.

Even with frequent visits to hospitals all the way in Chicago and Florida, Lilly has managed to learn music on her own for Spartanares with the support from her mom and Mr. Black.

"When she was down in Florida I would send her PDFs of the music, and recordings of the music and choreography videos. I think that's wonderful and awesome to have someone that's super motivated and she's always just had a great attitude about it," Mr. Gregory Black said.

Lilly hopes to keep performing the pieces she loves while continuing to connect with her friends and family despite the setbacks she faces in life. As someone who has supported her while she is going through obstacles in life, sophomore Cameron Dawson describes what kind of person she is.

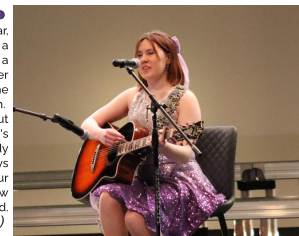
"Lily is the strongest girl I've ever known, ever met, in my entire life. Half the stuff that she goes through, nobody else could ever imagine going through, and for her to get out here and do the stuff that she does every single day, it's amazing. It's really a miracle," Cameron said.



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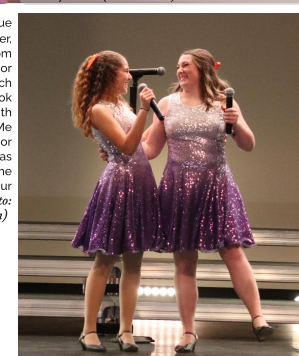
Moment to Shine

Taking the stage with her guitar, senior Lillian Daniel, performs a solo written by herself. It took her a few months to finish writing her song that was inspired by what she and her friend were going through. "I really felt like I should write about it and the song is about how it's your moment to shine. Everybody else around you is normally always in the spotlight, but it's your moment to step out and show everybody who you are," Lilly said. (Photo: Khim)



Just About Right With a little less anxiety in the showcase, junior Brooklyn Berming gives it her all in front of all her friends and family. For her, it feels normal to perform on stage because she had been practicing a lot and felt confident. "I wasn't really nervous, it felt normal like going through the motions because we've been practicing for a while. My favorite part of the showcase is the environment and everybody there because they are all really accepting and you can talk to anybody there." Brooklyn said. (Photo: Khim)

Rhythm in Sync With unique handshakes choreographed together, the showcase started with a duet from sophomore Lailynn Hecht and junior Violet Beronja. They have known each other since elementary and it took them only two weeks to fully sync with each other's rhythm for their duet. "Me and Violet have never done a duet or anything together like that, so that was a little nerve wracking but cool at the same time because we were in our own bubble," Lailynn said. (Photo: Khim)



Elementary Memories

Sharing their favorite memories from their elementary schools



"I made a lot of new friends that I'm still friends with to this day, and the teachers were really nice there." (Courtesy Photo: Avery Borden)



"I still talk to the friends I made and teachers to this day, specifically my third grade teachers." (Courtesy Photo: Jacob Forman)



"I built a lot of good relationships with the staff there, and a lot of my teachers I still talk to even now." (Courtesy Photo: Leah Helms)

Avery Borden, sophomore

Jacob Forman, junior

Leah Helms, sophomore

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