

IN THE NEWS



at University School of Nova Southeastern University

Wendy's Heisman State Finalist Knows How to Go the Distance



Interviewing Wendy's Heisman State Finalist Sydney Schneider proved easy -- "I run track, I can just sprint over," said the University School senior. Keeping up with the student government president, dancer, Cappie journalist, chorus member, academic over-achiever and cross-country record holder, now, that's a different story.

Schneider runs her young life like her cross-country events; she sets a fast pace and goes the distance. Her latest honor, as one of 10 girls chosen as state finalist in the Wendy's High School Heisman Program, recognizes Schneider's high level of achievement with learning, performing and leading in the classroom, on the field and in the community.



"Wendy's Heisman recognition is the cherry on top," Schneider said. "They look at everything, so it was a huge compliment."

The dually-honored dancer and runner first qualified for the cross-country state championship in 8th grade. Schneider said she will always remember that the school allowed the entire girls team to travel to the state meet to support her.



"It was below freezing and I remember that the upperclassmen that I looked up to were so kind," Schneider said. "At USchool, when we say we are like a family, we are."

Family-like friendships also outlast high school. Schneider, the boys' cross-country captain Brent Stone, and alumni runners Staci Hill and Eric Branse decided to run their first half-marathon together. So, less than a month after Schneider made her fifth state championship appearance, the four met at Disney World to start a new tradition.

Schneider's real family also serves as a source of motivation. "My grandma and my mom are the most extraordinary women I know," she explained. "They balanced so many things to get where they are. I think I've learned from them to spread your wings and experiment to find exactly what you love."



The fact that University School fosters well-rounded students further explains why Schneider makes no apologies for juggling meets, musicals, mid-terms and more.

"University School gives you a little taste of everything that's out there in the real world to explore," Schneider said. "I'm not overwhelmed. I am excited to see where it all takes me."

"I have coached some of the nation's best athletes," said cross-country head coach Philip Reingowsky. "However, not until this season did I meet a person like Sydney. To get to the state finals five times!? That is completely unheard of. While she needed to run at the front of pack because she was one of the fastest runners, there were many instances that she would finish first and then turn around to find and run with other teammates. That is the mark of a true champion."

"From the first time I met Sydney it was apparent that she had all of the qualities to be a leader," added athletic director Paul Herfurth. "Her ability to focus and believe has raised her level of success not only on the course, but also in the classroom. Sydney Schneider is what USchool is all about."