

AN UNEXPECTED RETURN

Senior Andrew Couse makes the varsity team after a four-year break from soccer

CHELSEA PARK editor-in-chief

It is common for athletes to take short breaks from sports throughout their athletic careers. Injuries and busy schedules get in the way, off seasons occur, and rest is needed. However, it is unusual for athletes to return to a sport at a high level after four years. Senior Andrew Couse, embraced this anomaly and tried out for the varsity soccer team.

Couse last played soccer competitively when he was in eighth grade. Although, he enjoyed the game, he gave it up to concentrate on baseball.

"In eighth grade I felt like soccer was a really fun game," Couse said. "But baseball got competitive, so I had to drop [soccer]."

As a senior, Couse wanted to find a new activity to join alongside baseball.

"I was thinking about something extra I could do [as a] senior" Couse said. "Originally I was thinking about joining cross country, but then Tommy Sulentic reached out to me and asked me if I wanted to join soccer because [one] goalie tore his ACL and their other goalie decided to transfer to another school."

After tryouts, Couse received the news that he made the varsity soccer team as the goalie. While rewarding, making the varsity team after four years away from the sport came with its challenges.

"I am a little frustrated with where I am at right now [in soccer], so I'm just working to get better," Couse said.

Couse works to find a balance between the two sports, scheduling off season baseball workouts

Anything's worth a shot and if you give it all you got, then you know you'll be happy at the end.

SENIOR ANDREW COUSE

around his soccer practices and games

Though Couse favors baseball over soccer after being committed to it for 14 years opposed to his 10 years of experience in soccer, he recognizes the importance of both sports.

"I have always preferred baseball over soccer, but now that I'm getting back into it, my

perspective has changed in a way that I value friendships outside of the sport," Couse said. "And having this [friendship] brings a lot into the sport (soccer) having that kind of chemistry between each other."

Trying something new can be intimidating. However, Couse encourage others to pursue their interests.

"If you ever want to do something, go for it, or else later in life you might look back on it and regret it," Couse said.



Photo by Zoey Grenberg

Photo by Lydia Berutti