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Athlete for all seasons: Nault excels in three sports

By CRAIG REMSBURG-Senior Sports Writer

NEGAUNEE - Tyler Nault of Negaunee says he's into athletics for one major reason:

"I just love to play," the Negaunee High School senior said prior to today's 5 p.m. scheduled district tournament baseball game against visiting Superior Central. "All year round, I'm playing or practicing, so it is time-consuming.

"But I love it. I wouldn't want to do anything else."

Nault, a 6-0, 175-pounder, played football in the fall, hockey in the winter and is finishing up his high school baseball career this spring.

When the baseball Miners finish their season, he'll play American Legion baseball with the Diamonds.

"It's fun to be on the field or the rink," he said. I love the competitiveness."
It's not just that he's a three-sport athlete. It's that he has excelled in them all.

In football, the Mid-Peninsula Conference First team linebacker also gained Class ABC All-Upper Peninsula honors at the position. He recorded 85 tackles and seven sacks for NHS.

"He's easily our best defender," NHS head football coach Paul Jacobson said at the time. "He has game presence and is just a headsy football player."

Nault will play in this month's U.P. All-Star football game at the Superior Dome in Marquette.

In hockey, the center scored 26 goals and recorded 16 assists for 40 points in 20 games for coach Fred Dick's squad.

Nault was named a First Team Great Lakes Hockey Conference selection.

"Hockey's my favorite sport," he said. "I've been playing it since I was 5 and I feel I'm the best at that sport with my all-around skills. I know the game and have a hockey sense.

"I like the speed, the hitting, the physical part of the game."

This spring, Nault has been playing shortstop for the NHS baseball team. Again, he has put up some solid numbers.

At the end of the regular season, he's batting .396 with 21 hits - including five doubles and two home runs - and has scored 19 runs.

Manager Dave Speaker Sr. reports Nault's on-base percentage is .522 and his slugging percentage is .604.

"He's also third on our team with 14 stolen bases in 15 attempts and has a .924 fielding percentage," Speaker said.

"He's just steady. He plays at an even keel and mixes his offense and defense well. He's so valuable at shortstop, it's almost impossible to replace him."

Speaker added there's one more trait Nault exhibits that sets him apart:

"He does everything in practice like he does in a game. That's what makes him such a great player."

For his part, Nault said he just tries to "do my best and work my hardest."

"I also try to help out the team as well as I can," he added.

A 3.7 student, Nault plans to attend Michigan Tech University and major in computer engineering.

"I'll try to make it as a walk-on for the hockey team there," he said.

"If that doesn't work, I may play some club sports there."

Just because he loves athletics, of course.

