

CLASSROOM CORNER

Athletes chosen as Panthers this month

BY KEVIN FLANDERS
NEWS STAFF WRITER

SPENCER – Extracurricular activities have played a key role in the successes of David Prouty High School's May Panthers of the Month, who have both been heavily involved in athletics.

Hanna Rybicki and Samuel DuBois were nominated by their teachers after showing leadership in the classroom and on the playing field. But sports have transcended wins and losses for these two Panthers, allowing them to learn how to overcome adversity and set an example for younger students.

Rybicki, a junior from Spencer, is a member of the cross country, indoor track and outdoor track teams, in addition to her involvement in The 84 movement to take a stand against youth tobacco use. DuBois, a sophomore from East Brookfield, represents the Panthers as a member of the baseball and basketball teams. When he isn't fanning opposing hitters, he is hard at work in the classroom.

"My favorite teachers at Prouty are Ms. Mehringer and Mr. Bastion. They help me succeed and keep above average grades," DuBois said. "My favorite class is French because I like learning foreign languages and culture."

Rybicki described her favorite teachers as Mr. Hauske and Mrs. Gingras.

"They are very passionate about their subjects and I appreciate that," Rybicki said in an interview. "My favorite subject is history. I have always loved learning about the past and how the world has changed."

Both Panthers recommend sports as a great way for



Courtesy photos

Hanna Rybicki and Samuel DuBois were selected as the latest David Prouty High School Panthers of the Month. Courtesy photos.

incoming freshmen to make new friends and get involved in a team environment. They have learned at an early age that relationships forged with teammates and coaches are far more important than team records.

"I have met so many amazing people, and I've come out of my comfort zone by trying new sports and taking classes that I wouldn't normally take," said Rybicki, who plans to attend

college and eventually become a nurse. "I have learned a lot just by allowing myself to step outside of my comfort zone."

Joining the military is in DuBois's future plans. The leadership, teamwork and communications skills he has honed through athletics will greatly assist him in the next chapter beyond Prouty.

"The most rewarding part [of high school] so far has been the sports programs," DuBois

said. "My role model growing up was David Ortiz. He influenced me to get better at playing the sport I love."

Outside of school, DuBois enjoys hanging out with friends, fishing and playing basketball. One of Rybicki's favorite hobbies is running, which helps her condition to be a stronger athlete. She described her grandmother as one of her greatest role models growing up.

"She always took care of others and never hesitated to help. That's the kind of person I aspire to be," said Rybicki, who was described by her teachers as respectful and conscientious.

Prouty staff members are eager to see these two Panthers of the Month continue their leadership and guide younger students next year.