

# Holding out for a Haleigh: Tolton's humbled hero

BY JACK PARODI

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The portrait looked nothing like Nick.

Tolton senior Haleigh Berrey was competing with one of her friends to determine who could depict their friend Nick better. She finished her masterpiece fully confident she'd win.

"Nobody chose mine," Berrey said.

She's far from a Picasso on the canvas, but art is one of her favorite hobbies. She uses it as an outlet to find tranquility in her life.

Berrey thinks it's odd she finds such joy in an activity in which she doesn't excel. While art has never come easy for her, sports have always come naturally for the Columbia College commit.

Berrey was named to the Missouri Class 3 first team for basketball in late March. Midway through her senior campaign, Berrey etched her name into the Tolton record books, setting the school record for career assists. And she did it while playing at Tolton for just three years. She will also be playing in the Mid-Missouri All-Star Showcase at 2 p.m. Sunday at Eldon High School.

Not only has Berrey been recognized for her performance on the court, but her performance on the course as well. She's one of four girls nominated for the Columbia high school girls golfer of the year award.

Berrey won't have a long trip to move into her dorm next year, as Columbia College offered her the opportunity to play both golf and basketball at the next level. While she is hesitant on whether or not to play basketball for the Cougars, Berrey is fully committed to golf for her hometown school.

She believes her future is brighter on the green, and playing two sports at the collegiate level might hinder her progression as a golfer.

"She's still my best shot at



Tolton senior basketball player and golfer Haleigh Berrey, right, hugs head coach Curt Riley after signing to play golf at Columbia College on Friday at Tolton.

having an LPGA golfer," Berrey's father, Jim Berrey, said. "Maybe Serena (Haleigh's older sister) is better right now, but she's been working on golf exclusively, so we'll see who's better in 12 months."

## #TheBerreyBashSisters

Jim Berrey was a collegiate golfer at Truman State University in the 1990s. After graduating, he built a driving range in the backyard of his Kirksville home, which he fondly called "The Rock Pile." It was there he taught golf lessons and grew his daughters' love for the game.

Haleigh Berrey's basketball coach at Tolton, Curt Riley, has known Berrey since she was born. Riley used to coach basketball at Kirksville High School and recalls a time when his family went to her house to use the driving range. Two-year-old Berrey was running around the range, chasing golf balls with a smile from ear to ear.

Berrey fell in love with

sports at a young age, and her drive to succeed never subsided.

"The kids have to make 10,000 shots in the summer, and Haleigh was there every single day. If the young kids see the older kids in there working hard, they learn how this is supposed to go," Riley said. "That's what being a leader is all about. Showing the other kids how you're supposed to have things done."

Not only did Berrey set an example for her teammates, but for the rest of Tolton's student body, as well. Riley pointed out Berrey works just as hard on her academics as she does athletics and leads the school with her attitude.

Berrey has a 4.1 GPA, is a member of the National Honor Society, and is a leader in the Fellowship of Christian Athletes. As Tolton's assistant athletic director, Riley said he sees every day just how much younger students at Tolton look up to Berrey.

"I would describe her as altruistic. Growing up with

her, she just puts others before herself a lot," Serena Berrey said. "Coming from a big sister standpoint, I just really appreciate that about her."

At certain times during the season, Riley pulled Berrey into his office to remind his leading scorer to shoot more.

"He'd be like, 'You know how many shots you took tonight? Five. You're our first leading scorer. If you're only taking five shots a game ... Stop passing the ball, just shoot the ball,'" Berrey said.

Riley coached both Serena and Haleigh Berrey at Tolton and witnessed one of Haleigh Berrey's favorite moments in her athletic career. He recalls when Father Mike Coleman yelled "Berrey to Berrey! Coast to coast!" after the two combined for a flashy play on the court. The two even had their own hashtag: #Berrey-BashSisters.

## Toothless hero

When Haleigh and Serena Berrey were little, their

father played a variety of the songs for them he grew up listening to, one of which was "Holding out for a Hero" by Bonnie Tyler.

He looked at his girls and said, "Hey, I need a hero." This short and simple saying motivated the two and has stuck with them ever since. Whenever the two sisters were on their way to compete together, they'd do their fist-bumping handshake, look each other in the eye and utter the same words sung to them when they were little. It's been a staple of their pre-game routines for as long as they can remember.

Although Serena Berrey is one year older, Haleigh Berrey played on all of her teams growing up. Haleigh Berrey said playing beyond her age pushed her to perform at a higher level, one Serena Berrey said was difficult to keep up with.

Serena Berrey's favorite memory of her sister, however, comes from one of her less athletic moments.

"She's going to kill me for telling you this," Serena Berrey said.

When she was in fifth grade Haleigh Berrey and her two sisters (Serena and Jayden) were playing frisbee outside with their mom. All of a sudden, Haleigh leaped up in an effort to make a miraculous catch, and her typically trustworthy hand-eye coordination turned on her.

"Her teeth fell out! I don't know why, but I just thought it was the funniest thing," Serena Berrey said. "She's probably scarred for life, but I thought it was so funny."

Berrey's mom tried to salvage her daughter's two front teeth by having the local dentist glue the remains back in. Unfortunately, the glue wasn't effective and they fell out at lunch in front of all her friends the next day. She was forced to walk around with no front teeth for the next couple of weeks. At least it was close to Halloween.

Six years later at her junior year Homecoming, Berrey's teeth decided to let loose again.

"We're at dinner having a good time, I've had my braces off for a couple months, and my bottom tooth hits it harder than usual. I went to take another bite, about to open my mouth, and I feel my tooth just drop," Berrey said. "I went to the dentist that night, and was only 10 minutes late to the dance! My face was numb, though. Like, I'd drink water and it'd just drip down my face."

## A different avenue

Berrey recognizes professional golf and basketball may not be in her future, and she's OK with that. She's always wanted to work in the medical field, but isn't too fond of being a sports trainer or working in an emergency room.

"I've always wanted to be a doctor, but cutting off somebody's leg or seeing someone's leg that's dislocated or something, I can't do that," Berrey said. "I love sports, but I don't think I could ever be a sports trainer or something like that. Too much blood."

She has, however, shadowed her uncle, a Mohs surgeon. Mohs surgeons are dermatologists that specialize in treating and removing skin cancer. Berrey's experience shadowing him has helped her realize an avenue where she can continue to put others before herself.

"The fact that I would get to tell people, 'Guess what, you don't have skin cancer,' and that makes me happy. I'd be able to tell people some of the best news they'll ever hear," Berrey said.

"She is going to make the coaches at Columbia College extremely happy," Riley said. "You never have to worry about Haleigh Berrey."

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# Local seniors ready for all-star games

BY ANDREW MCCULLOCH

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Although their seasons are finished, many of the area's top high school basketball talents will return to the hardwood to play in Missouri RoundBall's Mid-Missouri All-Star Games on Sunday in Eldon.

Teams of senior boys and girls representing schools across mid-Missouri were selected by Missouri RoundBall Magazine and Team Carroll Premier, a boys AAU program established by former University of Missouri and Brooklyn Nets forward DeMarre Carroll.

In addition to the two games, the weekend's all-star festivities also include 3-point and slam dunk competitions. Action is scheduled to get underway at 2 p.m. at Eldon High School.

In the boys all-star contest, Team Carroll Premier features Tolton's Isaiah Johnson after he helped lead the Trailblazers to a fourth district title in five years. He'll be joined by a trio of Jefferson City-area standouts on the team — Helias Catholic's Landon Harrison, Jefferson City's DaMani Jarrett and Blair Oaks' Tim Fick.

Jarrett averaged 15 points per game on 70 percent shooting this season for the Jays. He, like many of the players suiting up one

more time Sunday, played in the Missouri Challenge in March.

"It was pretty exciting being able to see a lot of the best players in our state compete with and against each other," Jarrett said. "I was just glad to be a part of it."

Battle's Trae Meny and Alex Smith feature for Team RoundBall. They're joined on the team by Harrisburg's Cade Combs, who averaged 20.1 points and 9.1 rebounds per game for the season.

Meny, who scored a team-high 21.8 points per game as the team's primary offensive option, helped secure the Battle boys team's second straight district title and the program's first ever 20-win season.

"It's a great accomplishment for those two young individuals," Battle coach and Trey's father Brian Meny said. "As a parent, you're excited for your child and, as a coach, you're excited also because you always (want to) see your kids be successful and have their hard work paying off. ... Trae ended up with almost 1,700 career points and Alex ended with almost 1,000. That's a lot of points to replace next year."

In the girls all-star game, Tolton's Haleigh Berrey and Christina Walker will team up with Jefferson City's Ilean Chably to represent Team

RoundBall.

The Trailblazers topped Battle, Blair Oaks and Helias in a dominant regular season before being bounced in the first round of their district tournament.

On the other side, Team Carroll Premier sports a local flair with several players and coaches alike representing Columbia and Jefferson City.

Three Rock Bridge girls — Addison Logsdon, Katey Klucking and Payton McCallister — join forces with the Helias duo of Lauren Alexander and Erin Wyrick.

Rock Bridge coach Jill Nagel will join the three senior Bruins and serve as the coach for Team RoundBall in the girls all-star game, while Scott Rowland from School of the Osage leads Team Carroll Premier.

"I was honored to be asked to coach these highly decorated players from mid-Missouri," Nagel said. "I'm excited for Addie, Katey and Payton to have another chance to play the game they love and be on the same court together one last time. They were part of a great senior class for us which continued to build on our winning tradition of excellence."

The two coaching staffs in the boys all-star game feature another area head coach and two members of the Missouri Basketball Coaches

Association Hall of Fame.

Team Carroll Premier is coached by Eugene coach Craig Engelbrecht and retired MBCA Hall of Fame inductee Jim Byland, who coached at Salisbury, Eldon and Jefferson City high schools, leading the Jays to the 1993 Class 4A Missouri State Championship.

A father-son duo will man the other bench, as Helias coach Josh Buffington joins his father, Don, to lead Team RoundBall.

Don Buffington, another MBCA Hall of Fame inductee, coached basketball in Missouri for 32 years, making stops at School of the Osage, Blair Oaks and Hannibal-LaGrange University.

"It will be very special to me this time around while coaching Landon and coaching with my dad," Josh Buffington said. "Landon has been a staple to our program for quite some time now, a very special player and person ... My dad has taught me everything I know and I will always look up to him. I know he will coach this game along with me like it is a state championship, and I would expect nothing less from him."

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## IN BRIEF

### Reed, McIlroy chase green jacket at Masters

Patrick Reed and Rory McIlroy meet again, this time for a green jacket instead of a gold Ryder Cup trophy.

Reed seized control of the Masters on a wet Saturday at Augusta National with a pair of eagles on the back nine and a 5-under 67 that gave him a three-shot lead. McIlroy, who chipped in for eagle on the front nine to briefly tie for the lead, made an 18-foot birdie on the final hole for a 65 to nudge a little closer.

Reed ran off three straight birdies around the turn, and he stretched his lead to as many as five shots with his eagles.

He made a 15-foot eagle putt on the 13th, and then he showed he was not in the mood to play it safe on the 15th. From just under 270 yards, as the rain made the air heavy, Reed hit 3-wood just over the water and short of the bunker, and his chip from 80 feet slammed against the pin and dropped. Reed pumped his fist, the kind of emotion he typically saves for the Ryder Cup.

He narrowly missed a 10-foot birdie putt at the end and was at 14-under 202.

McIlroy can only hope he didn't use up all his luck. A chip that likely would have gone off the green at the par-5 eighth banged into the pin and dropped for eagle. He managed to find his second shot among the azaleas on the 13th to escape with par. And he got into the final group, an ideal position as he goes after the final leg of the career Grand Slam.

"There's a lot more players in this tournament than just Patrick and I," McIlroy said. "It won't be quite as intense, but we'll still be feeling it. Patrick is going for his first (major), and I'm going for ... something else."

He paused to smile when he heard a few chuckles. That "something else" is a collection of four majors that only five other players can claim. "It's going to be good fun," McIlroy said.

### Canadians mourn loss of 15 in bus crash

A semi-trailer slammed into a bus carrying a youth hock-

ey team in western Canada, killing 15 people and injuring 14 in a catastrophic collision that a doctor compared to an airstrike and left the vehicles obliterated in the snow. The crash sent shockwaves through the team's small hometown and a country united by the national sport.

Canadians were moved to tears on Saturday as they learned of the identities of the deceased on the bus that was driving the Humboldt Broncos hockey team to a crucial playoff game Friday against the Nipawin Hawks.

"An entire country is in shock and mourning," Prime Minister Justin Trudeau said. "This is every parent's worst nightmare. No one should ever have to see their child leave to play the sport they love and never come back."

The bus had 29 passengers, including the driver, when it crashed at about 5 p.m. on Highway 35, police said. Among the dead are Broncos head coach Darcy Haugan, team captain Logan Schatz and radio announcer Tyler Bieber.

Canadian police said the truck driver was initially detained but has since been released and provided with mental health assistance. Royal Canadian Mounted Police Assistant Commissioner Curtis Zablocki said it's too early to state a cause for the crash.

### Stewart-Haas Racing in control of Cup Series

Kurt Busch is on the pole, Clint Bowyer is coming off his first victory in six years and Kevin Harvick has won half of the races so far on the NASCAR Cup Series schedule.

Aric Almirola, the newcomer to the team, has been steady, too, finishing 14th or better in every race.

With Stewart-Haas Racing already off to a sensational start this season, the decade-old team will now have the top three starters in a race for the first time Sunday.

Busch, Harvick and Bowyer qualified their Fords 1-2-3 at Texas Motor Speedway, while Almirola was 12th at the 1½-mile track.

— The Associated Press

# 'Weather and stuff' complicate Cards', Royals' wins

The Associated Press

In the coldest home start in Cardinals' history, Jose Martinez homered and drove in four runs as St. Louis ended the Arizona Diamondbacks' four-game winning streak with a 5-3 victory Saturday.

It was 37 degrees at game time with a wind chill of 29. The previous recorded low in St. Louis was 37 degrees for the first pitch on April 16, 1961, against Cincinnati.

"When you start thinking about the weather and stuff, you got to go through it," Martinez said. "You've got a

game to play."

Martinez had a three-run homer and also singled in a run. His .357 average and eight RBI are team highs.

## Bauer blasts new rules after loss to Royals

Trevor Bauer felt the rules beat him before the Royals did.

Bauer allowed Lucas Duda's homer on his first pitch in the seventh inning for the game's only run and Ian Kennedy pitched six shutout innings, leading Kansas City to a 1-0 win over the

Cleveland Indians.

Duda's shot off Bauer (0-1) was one of only three hits by Kansas City and a rare highlight as the teams survived nine innings with the temperature hovering around freezing.

But afterward, Bauer complained he didn't have enough time to warm up following the sixth inning. In an attempt to speed up play this season, Major League Baseball has cut the time between innings from 2 minutes, 25 seconds to 2:05.

"First pitch of the inning, coming out, I tried to get

loose, but with the new (Commissioner) Rob Manfred time (nonsense) we have only a certain amount of time between innings, it's hard to get loose sometimes, especially in conditions like that. It's not safe, but, whatever."

Bauer said at one point plate umpire Will Little told him to speed up and he refused.

"I was like, 'Look, I'll take the fine if I need to, but I'm not going to put myself at risk and I'm not going to put the team at risk of me having exactly what happened happen,'" Bauer said.