

# **Midwest Members Credit Union Male Athlete Of The Month: Brady Barker Rises To Captain Role At East Alton-Wood River**

by Dan Brannan, Content Director  
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WOOD RIVER - Brady Barker, a senior at East Alton-Wood River High, is being recognized this year for soccer after working his way from junior varsity earlier in high school to a captain's role on his varsity team.

Barker said his path in the sport has shaped his growth.

"I went from JV my freshman and sophomore year, and I didn't get to play my junior year, and now I am a captain on my team this year," Barker said.

Barker has played soccer for five years. He said the sport has given him more than competition.

"I find soccer to be a way of relieving stress and making new friends," Barker said.

Barker credited his mother with helping him continue in the sport.

"My mom, she helped me by allowing me to play soccer and pushing me to be better every year, giving me the necessary supplies I need to do that," he said.

He also thanked his former coach at Hancock Place High School.

"My last coach from Hancock High School, he helped me by telling me the best ways to improve and still helping me after I left that school," Barker said.

Barker's current coach is Chris Johnson. Barker also played three years under Robert Brotherton at Hancock Place High School.

Barker said his high school career and involvement in sports have helped teach him the value of effort.

“This has helped me become who I am today by showing me I have to work for what I want,” Barker said.

Barker said he hopes to continue playing soccer in college. He said his future interests include “either the MLS and playing in the World Cup for Germany, or a career in Computer Science.”