



Fiona



Madeline

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## FIONA MCCORMICK

McCormick was a very busy 5-year-old.

"I started out with dance, then gymnastics, then soccer," she said. "I don't think I was very good at dance or gymnastics, but I was good at soccer. So that was the one I stuck with."

McCormick was a member of Farnell Middle School's two-time county champions, which won 26 straight matches. She moved on to Sickles and has continued her maturation as a center back.

She has started practically every game since arriving with the Gryphons and has great anticipation for this season.

"This should be our best team, no doubt," McCormick said. "I can't wait."

But that's the thing. She has been waiting...and waiting...and waiting. Sickles had finished its soccer season when the coronavirus hit, so it has been a long time since McCormick has practiced or played with her teammates.

Idle time has been filled with her hobby—painting. She does mini-portraits, filled with detail, and the art of creating them has been a relaxing activity.

McCormick said she's eagerly awaiting a more hectic schedule for her senior year. She hopes to continue soccer in college—the University of Tampa and

Emory University are possibilities—but academics are the priority.

Either way, it's certain she'll make a name for herself. Fiona? McCormick quickly says she wasn't named after Princess Fiona from the Shrek movies. Instead, as family lore goes, the name came from a lady met by her parents on a hike.

"There's no one else at my school with that name," McCormick said. "It's unique."

So is McCormick's soccer background. Since a young age, she has been a winner.

## MADLINE RIDEOUT

Rideout has a dream for her senior season. She hopes to qualify for the Florida State Swimming Championship Meet.

It would help to erase the disappointment of her freshman season, when she finished two-tenths of a second out of a 200 individual medley spot in the state meet.

"That was pretty tough," Rideout said. "I guess I thought there might be lots of chances, but it hasn't worked out."

As a sophomore, Rideout battled injuries. As a junior, her 200 IM time improved by three seconds, but the competition heightened as Sickles was elevated into Class 4A.

So now it's her last opportunity.

When Rideout was 8, she remembers watching a television show about mer-

maids with a friend. It fascinated them, so they hopped in the pool and grew to love swimming. She has pursued the sport ever since.

"That's a lot of swimming," Rideout said. "At times, it gets old. But I have a lot of friends helping to motivate me and push me. There's a lot of time to think and sometimes you wonder if it's all worth it."

"But when I feel physically and mentally ready for a meet and I perform my best, yes, it is definitely worth it."

Rideout, who has a 5.6 grade-point average, hopes to swim in college. She has been studying the programs at Rollins College, Florida Southern College and the University of Tampa, so there's a good chance she will stay close to home.

But before moving on, she has some unfinished business.

"Honestly, making the state meet would be just a great thing for my senior year," Rideout said. "It's kind of scary with the world the way it is right now. I hope everything happens OK. You want to have the football games, the prom and graduation, all the normal senior stuff."

"You can work so hard in swimming and it all comes down to just a few seconds—or even less than that. It would mean a lot to make up that time and make it happen as a senior."

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