

Powerball Frenzy

By Brianna Holtmeir

Financial freedom is the mission of nearly everyone, but the path to this goal is often long and requires hard work and perseverance. Some fortunate souls find a shortcut via winning the lottery. The Powerball craze that struck America prompted millions to storm local convenience stores, hoping and praying for a lucky ticket. So far, only one of three jackpot winners have claimed their third of the 1.586 billion dollar jackpot.

The three tickets that won the jackpot were sold in California, Tennessee, and Florida. John and Lisa Robinson are the Tennessee couple that have cashed in on their \$528 million and they appeared on the Today show to announce their good fortune. Despite their financial freedom to do whatever they wish, they are choosing to continue living their lives in their small town just as before. They went back to work at their jobs, because as Mr. Robinson stated, “We’re common people, we’re just like ya’ll are.”

The millionaire couple has received an overwhelming sum of cash, but they have not changed their lifestyle. Mr. Robinson remarked, “I’ve got my wife on my arm, what more could I ask for? I’ve got plenty of money now.” The Robinsons appear to be embracing the lifestyle that Pablo Picasso once wished for when he said, “I’d like to live as a poor man with lots of money.”

There are different amounts of money that can be won through the Powerball lottery. The chance of winning a cash prize from this gamble is 1 in 24.9 million. These seem like relative manageable odds, but prizes from these range from \$4 to \$100. One can win one of these prizes by matching one red or up to four of the white balls drawn from the drums.

The larger payoffs result from matching four white balls and the red powerball to walk away with \$50,000. The next highest cash caliber is when one has a ticket with the same five white numbers for a reasonable \$1 million. In order to win the grand prize, one must match all of the five white numbers and the red powerball.

The Powerball lottery originally began as Lotto*America in 1988, but was changed to Powerball in 1992. It then became the very first gambling game to use two different drums from which the numbered balls were drawn. The Powerball lottery is played in 44 states, the U.S. Virgin Islands, Puerto Rico, and the District of Columbia. Powerball has always been a well-played lottery, but all of the recent hype about the Powerball is resulting from it producing the largest lottery jackpot in history on January 13, 2016.

Female Athlete of the Month

Anna Schmitt

By Jakob Kounkel

Concordia’s women’s basketball team, after a tough start to the year, has been playing well, and with no end in sight. Now taking on a new interim head coach after long time coach Paul Fessler decided to step down earlier this winter, the women’s team was looking for leadership, and they found it in freshman sharp shooter Anna Schmitt.

Schmitt is not a stranger when it comes to having success on the court. In high school, she was named to prestigious All-State honors twice; once as an honorable mention when she was just a sophomore; and then earning All-State honors her junior year. Her most notable accomplishment in high school may have come in the scoring department. Throughout her basketball career as a Waconia Wildcat, Schmitt set the school record for points with 1,809. She averaged 29.8 points, 5.7 assists and 6 boards per game during that time.

This season so far, she’s achieved an impressive stat line: 15.4 points, 3.8 assists, 3.7 rebounds and 1.7 steals per game, as well as averaging 32.7 minutes per game. She’s scored 29 points in a game, and she’s recorded 11 assists in a single game. Any basketball mind would take those numbers any day. She’s incredibly athletic and a multi-faceted scorer, but her ability to score isn’t the only way she can hurt than opponent.

When I asked her what some of her best accomplishments were throughout high school and into her freshman year of college, she didn’t talk about her basketball career as much as she talked about helping out in the community. The first of which she mentioned was a group called Peer Helpers, a group whose mission statement is, “In the [Peer] Helpers program, students promote the notion that it’s okay to seek help—from classmates and adults alike.” Schmitt also

participates in other philanthropic groups like America Reads and SAC.

Schmitt claims her family is a big motivator for her and they’re always there when they can be. She attributes her success on the court to her family. When I asked her what her biggest motivator is, she said, “I would probably just say my support from my family. They always ask how everything’s going; my sister and brother check in and come to games. They tell me how to improve and what to do better.” She goes on to say, “I’d say they all push me to be the best I can. They all know my potential. We’re just kind of there for each other—we’re all super close.” Schmitt’s family tries to attend as many of her and her siblings’ games as they can, but sometimes that means they have to miss some due to overlapping schedules. However, Schmitt says whenever her brother doesn’t have anything during the weekend, her brother, sister, and parents will go to her games. Her biggest influence has been her brother and sister, although she reluctantly gave me this information because she didn’t want to leave her parents out.

Schmitt also thinks she’s found the right school in Concordia-St. Paul. She plans on sticking around because she loves the quality in the classroom with professors who get to know their students on a personal level. Schmitt also mentioned being able to recognize the majority of the student body as another positive of being at CU. Another reason she’s going to stick around is for the team. She gives a lot of credit to her teammates for her success, and she talks highly of them.

Anna Schmitt is a proficient scorer and efficient basketball player. More than that, she legitimately enjoys helping other people, she’s family oriented, she’s friendly and she’s more than deserving of Female Athlete of the Month.

