

Home > New Jersey High School Athlete of the Week > Boys fencing

High School Top Performer - Week 4: Chris Denecke (boys fencing), Randolph

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Robert Sciarrino/The Star-Ledger

Chris Denecke of Randolph is The Star-Ledger's top performer for boys fencing this week.

CHRIS DENECKE, RANDOLPH Senior, 5-11, 169 pounds

JUST THE FACTS: Denecke took home a first-place finish in the individual sabre competition and helped his team earn the overall title at Saturday's inaugural Morris County Tournament in Randolph. The senior team captain finished 12-1 at the event, including a 7-0 performance in the team competition. Denecke is 17-4 this season in dual meets.

HOW IMPORTANT TO YOU WAS WINNING AT THE MCT? "It was very important since it was the first one and my school was hosting it."

START IN FENCING: "I went to a summer camp where fencing was an activity choice and I loved it, so I joined the school team freshman year."

TEAM GOALS: "I'd like to see the team make it all the way to the state finals and win. If we can't do that, then it would be great to make it further in states than we have in previous years."

BEST MOMENT AS A FENCER: "Winning the Morris County Championship. It's the first tournament I have ever won."

PERSONAL GOALS: "To fence strong and help my team, squad and myself make it to States."

FAVORITE THING ABOUT FENCING: "Hitting other people with a weapon."

BIGGEST INFLUENCE IN FENCING: "My personal coach, Philip Dolata. He's taught me everything I know, especially my preparation."

STRENGTHS: "Preparation and learning from my mistakes."

WEAKNESS: "I tend to rush my attacks."

IF I WASN'T FENCING I'D BE... "Probably on my couch watching TV."

PLANS FOR THE FUTURE: College.

FAVORITE FOOD: Cucumbers.

FAVORITE MOVIE: "Shawshank Redemption."

FAVORITE MUSIC: "I like everything but rap."

FAVORITE SUBJECT AT SCHOOL: Physics. "I love having fun with weird labs."

FAVORITE ATHLETE OR ROLE MODEL: "Dan Herzczak, my former team captain."

FAVORITE BOOKS: "1984."

DREAM VACATION: "I'd take a cruise around the world."

IF I COULD HAVE A SUPERPOWER: "It would be cloning myself. So I could be in multiple places at once."

ONE THING TO CHANGE IN THE WORLD: "I would make sure that all energy is produced from renewable sources."

THREE FOR DINNER: "Alexandre-Edmund Becquerel (inventor of the photovoltaic solar cell), Thomas Paine (author of 'Common Sense'), and Leonardo da Vinci (Renaissance man)."



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