

Clinton High bowlers Grimmett and Upton earn statewide honors

By Andy Kanengiser

Lecia Grimmett and Casey Upton earned statewide honors for excellent performances on the lanes as Clinton High bowlers.

In fact, these two student-athletes were recently selected to *Clarion-Ledger* all-state bowling teams.

Grimmett was named to the girls' first team at Mississippi high schools. Upton landed a spot on the boys' second team.

Sports reporters at the Jackson-based daily newspaper selected the squads after consulting high school coaches across the Magnolia State.

A Class of 2020 member, Grimmett led the Arrows to a top-two finish in Class III at the state tournament. The senior's score of 570 (over three games) was ranked as the highest individual performance in the class.

As for Upton, the Clinton High sophomore turned in amazing performances, too. He finished with the third-highest score in Class III at the 2020 state

tournament in Jackson. He knocked down 654 pins.

Grimmett is a top-notch student-athlete who's multi-talented. Name a sport, and she does it.

"During my time at Clinton High



Casey Upton

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School, I played nearly every sport Clinton had to offer," she said. "But the one I devoted myself to was bowling."

Grimmett is a tremendous competitor determined to win. Her positive attitude rubs off on her teammates and makes them better. "I always wanted my team to be #1, and we were for two

years in a row, but this year came up short."

Grimmett isn't ready to let her bowling balls collect dust. "Now I get the chance to travel with my mother and fight for No. 1 in future bowling tour-



Lecia Grimmett

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naments."

Bowling gets traced back to ancient Egyptian time, around 5,000 BC. The ancient Egyptians rolled stones at various objects with the goal of knocking them down. Fast-forward to 2019, and there were two million league bowlers playing in the U.S. That includes less than 1.2 million in sanctioned leagues.

For Grimmett and Upton, rolling bowling balls to rack up strikes and spares never gets old.

Clinton High bowling coach Charlie Melton salutes both standouts who helped spark the Arrows' success.

"Lecia has been a great leader for the Clinton Arrows bowling team for the last four years," he said. "Lecia has been one of the top performers on the team. We will miss her next year."

An emerging eleventh grader, Upton will return when the Arrows begin practices this fall.

Upton "has worked hard to earn and keep his starting position," Melton said.

Having Upton on the Arrows team two more years will be a plus, said Melton.

"I am looking forward to see what he can do for the team and himself," Coach Melton said. "I am so proud of what Casey has done this year in bowling."

Bowling teaches important lessons, says Grimmett, who's college-bound this fall. "I'd say facing my failure head on is what motivates me to work harder, not only in bowling, but in life."

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