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Jantzen, Anderson named SWR Athletes of the Year

By [Joe Werkmeister](#) | June 21, 2011 in [Featured Stories](#), [Sports](#)

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It didn't take long for Debi-Michelle Jantzen to establish herself as a top field hockey player in Suffolk County. She did that before starting high school.



ROBERT O'ROURK PHOTO | Debi-Michelle Jantzen led all of Long Island in points during the field hockey season.

As an eighth grader she was an honorable mention All-County player, helping lead Shoreham-Wading River to its first county championship since 2000. Each year since the Wildcats have maintained that spot atop the county.

And now Jantzen is not only among the top players in Suffolk County, but in the nation.

For her success in field hockey, the North Shore Sun named Jantzen the Shoreham-Wading River Female Athlete of the Year. She becomes the third member of her family to be honored with an award from Times/Review Newsgroup. Her older brothers both received Male Athlete of the Year Awards during their runs of state championships in wrestling. Corey Jantzen won most recently in 2006 and 2007.

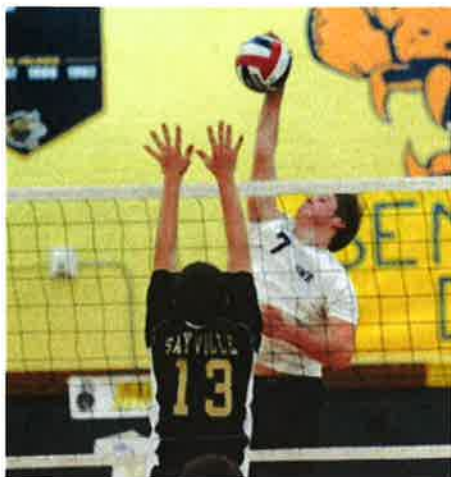
For Debi-Michelle, her junior season was filled with myriad accomplishments. She was an All-American and first-team All-Long Island player. Her 42 points scored was the most of any player on Long Island.

In the Wildcats' county championship win she tallied a hat trick in a 6-2 victory over Sayville.

On top of her success on the school team, she was also selected to play for U.S. Under 17 National Team. Her first tour came in March 2010 when she competed at the Youth Pan American Championship in Montevideo, Uruguay to face teams from Bermuda, Chile, Uruguay and Argentina. The U.S. team finished with a bronze medal.

Most recently in April she traveled to Holland. The U.S. team went 6-2 playing in the DOMO International Easter Tournament while facing some of the top competition from around the world.

Jantzen also went on to be selected for the New England Region Tournament team that is currently playing at the Junior National Championship. The team includes some players who are already in college.



ROBERT O'ROURK PHOTO | Shoreham-Wading River senior Erik Anderson excelled in both volleyball and track & field.

When Erik Anderson began his volleyball career at Shoreham, his first two years on varsity were spent as a setter. By the time he moved full-time to an outside hitter — the position where kills are most easily obtained — it seemed unlikely he would have enough games to reach a career milestone of 500 kills.

But after a monster senior season where helped lead the Wildcats into a county championship match, Anderson's hard work paid off. In the second to last match of the regular season Anderson eclipsed the milestone mark of 500 kills. Only he didn't know.

Shoreham coach Mary Mitchell waited for Senior Day at home the following match to announce it and Anderson was honored in front of his home fans with a commemorative ball.

Then Anderson did what he does best, powering balls into the hardwood as Shoreham swept all three games to finish 10-4 in League III.

The fall season was just the beginning for Anderson. In the winter and spring he competed on the track and field teams where he was one of the top high jumpers in the county, all helping him become the Shoreham Male Athlete of the Year.

He was the league champion in the high jump and also competed in the long jump and 55-hurdles during the winter season. He again took first at the small school county championship in the high jump and posted a top mark on the season of 6 feet, 4 1/2 inches. He finished second in the state qualifier and advanced to the state championship where he finished seventh overall.

In the spring season he won first place at the Division III Championship and was a fourth-place finisher at the state qualifier.

Anderson will continue his track & field career next year at Monmouth University.

SWR Athletes of the Year

2011: Debi-Michelle Jantzen, Erik Anderson

2010: Kaitlyn Brosco, Ryan McAlary

2009: Rachel Wiederkehr, Steven Keith & Bobby Andrews

2008: Marie Cordaro, Brendan Kelly

2007: Katie Conway, Corey Jantzen

2006: Erin Hays, Corey Jantzen