

## The Herald Palladium

### ATHLETE SPOTLIGHT



Photo provided

Lakeshore's Deven Hengey looks to excel in the high jump at the Division 2 state finals Saturday.

## Deven Hengey:

### Lakeshore's 'high' quality jumper

By **BEN SPENCER**  
HP Sports Writer

Lakeshore senior Deven Hengey has put in four years of hard work to become Lakeshore's best high jumper.

Now, Hengey, 17, who carries a 3.0 GPA at Lakeshore High School, will get the opportunity to prove himself amongst the state's elite jumpers at the Division 2 state finals on June 3 at Zeeland.

"Deven has been a two-sport athlete for us," said Lakeshore track coach Gregg Buschlen. "He's run cross country and track all four years. He was a 5-foot high jumper as a freshman, so he's worked extremely hard at his craft and has done a really nice job over the last four years to get where he is today."

Hengey placed first at the Benton Harbor-St. Joseph Rotary meet on May 5 with a jump of 6-6, a personal best for Hengey. No other jumper cleared 6 feet that day.

Two weeks later Hengey jumped 5-10 on a rainy Friday at the Division 2 regional meet at Sturgis, enough to finish first and send him to the Division 2 state finals.

Hengey also runs the 300 and 110 hurdles for Lakeshore, but he and Buschlen made the decision for Hengey to sit out those events so that Hengey could focus solely on the high jump and avoid placing further strain on an already aggravated hip.

"He's seeded at 5-10 (for the state meet), but his 6-6 jump gives him as good of a chance as anybody else in the state right now."

**Do you have any plans to run track in college?** I hadn't really planned on running in college. I had thought about it and I had a couple col-

leges look at me. They've only been private schools and they're schools that I haven't wanted to attend. My plan is just to go to Lake Michigan College for two years to study business. I want to be a state trooper.

**Is there any specific training that you've done to help you improve so much over the last four years?** I wrestled my freshmen and sophomore years, but at the end of my sophomore year, after I jumped 5-8, I started to realize that I was getting more potential at it. Instead of wrestling for the winter my junior year I went to a couple indoor meets.

**You jumped a personal best of 6-6 at Rotary, so could you describe that experience a bit?** I was doing well, but I missed one set. I think it was 6-2, so I thought I was going down hill from there. But Buschlen told me to keep running and staying warm, and that helped a lot. I surprised myself with what I did that day.

**What was it like jumping at the regional meet with that bad weather?** That was actually really strange, because it was raining on and off.

It started to rain pretty good as soon as we started jumping. (The bar) started at 5-7. I jumped that on my first try, but about half the kids got out on 5-07, which was really surprising.

**How are you feeling about the state meet?** I'm feeling pretty good about it. In the beginning of the season I was having some issues with my hip. We were pretty sure that hurdles were a big factor in it, so at regionals (coach) actually pulled me out of hurdles and that actually helped a lot.

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The Herald-Palladium's Athlete Spotlight appears weekly on Monday in The HP Sports section during the school year. Athletes are chosen by HP staff members. This is the final Athlete Spotlight of the school year.