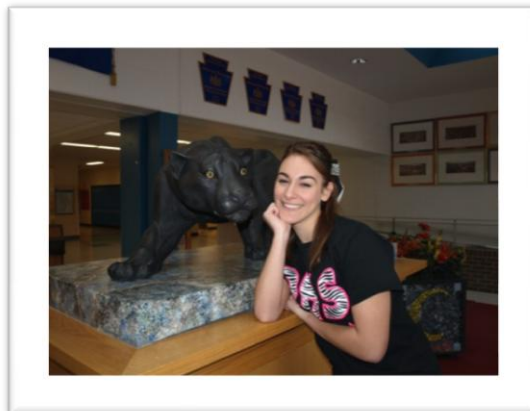


## Nicole Soskin: Motivated, ambitious, dedicated student

By Ricki Stein, QCSD Community Relations Coordinator

Nicole Soskin knows what she wants to do with her life and she's taking purposeful steps to get there. The Quakertown Community High School senior recently finished a fall semester that included three college courses and four Advanced Placement (AP) classes.

The down-to-earth, friendly QCHS cheerleader carries greater than a 4.0 grade point average and tested well on the SATs and ACT exams. She applied to Harvard, Cornell, Brown, Duke, Ithaca, Bryant, Providence, Wake Forest, Michigan and her first choice, Stanford University. She first visited the Cardinal campus in sixth grade on a trip to visit California family members.



"I work really hard," she said. "I don't think people realize that this doesn't come easily to me. I have a lot of initiative and I'm taking advantage of experiences and opportunities."

Invited by the guidance department to the University Scholars Program, Nicole capitalized by driving three days a week to classes at DeSales University in Center Valley and Moravian College in Bethlehem. She took a Bucks County Community College course inside QCHS. She started her days with a 7 a.m. class, AP Statistics, at the high school. She left a bit early so she could drive to DeSales for an 8 a.m. class, Sports Management. She returned to the high school for four more classes, including the BCCC class in Principles of Macro Economics. She helped out in the Athletic Office as an intern before driving to Moravian for a 2:30-3:45 p.m. Sociology class. She returned to QCHS for cheer practice, then drove home to eat dinner and do homework.

Last July, Nicole enrolled in a 10-day student leadership program at Fordham University in the Bronx, N.Y. She learned about it because she "actually read one of those packets that comes in the mail, the ones we mostly throw away." She said the program was the best experience of her life. Thanks to guest speakers, she learned about International Management Group, the biggest agency in the world that represents models, sports figures and other professionals in 30 countries.

"I thought I wanted to be a journalist, but that program convinced me that I want to go into sports marketing," she said. "I want to work for IMG!"

The Sports Management class at DeSales presented a perfect opportunity to get started on her future. She learned how business practices, including marketing, sponsorships and sales, are applied to sports ticketing for arenas and stadiums. She said the class watched clips of the Tom Cruise movie *Jerry Maguire*.

"Sports marketing is not nearly as glamorous as that movie," she said, chuckling. "The hours are insane. But I won't mind that."

For the rest of the school year, Nicole will take all of her classes at QCHS and continue to help in the Athletic Office. Though her schedule will be slightly less hectic, it's a sure thing she will work hard to finish her high school career at top speed. She said she inherited her work ethic from her parents, Carla and Craig Soskin. Her brother Evan, a ninth grader, also works very hard, she said.

"It's a lot of stress, but it's going to be all worth it," Nicole concluded.