

1) Name: Jessica Ackerman

2) New Trier sport(s): Cross Country, Track & Field

3) Suburb you lived in when you went to New Trier: Wilmette

4) What year did you graduate NT? 2013

5) Where do you live now? Boulder, Colorado

6) Who was your coach? John Burnside

7) HS sports accomplishments/awards/honors:

- Team cross country state champs in 2011
- 2013 4x800m relay IL state champions
- 3-time all-state medalist in cross country
- 8-time all-state medalist in track
- Set school record in the 800m

8) Favorite high school *individual sports* memory:

Sophomore year, coming down the final straightaway at the state track meet in the 3200 and in contention for the title. I ended up second place but will never forget the feeling of racing all out on that track, the stands full of family, friends, teammates and coaches.

9) Favorite high school *team* memory:

In the last high school meet I ever competed in, our 4x8 team came away with the state championship. It was a great feeling to walk away with the win, but an even better one to share it with my sister and Kathleen and Mimi.

10) Who was your biggest team or individual rival in HS, and where did they go to school?

@Courtney Ackerman, even though the races where I beat you were few and far between, thanks for keeping me motivated and pushing me to be my best self.

11) Favorite class and/or teacher at NT: Sports med w/Mr. Lee!

12) Where did you attend college? Princeton

13) Compare your HS sports experience to your college experience:

In high school, I was a fierce competitor. In college, I worked on being the best teammate possible, which was about all I had to give as I was plagued with injury after injury.

14) Favorite college sports moments:

Most of my favorite college sports moments did not involve competitions. I was blessed to be surrounded by a fantastic group of women who consistently made each practice the highlight of my day. Oh and there was that one time my mom signed up to compete in the open heat of a 1500m collegiate race and CRUSHED IT. What a boss.

15) Area of study: Environmental Engineering

16) What do you do now?

I work for a utility-scale solar developer out in Boulder, Colorado. I have also found my calling in the sport of triathlon and competed in my first Ironman this year. More of them to come.

17) If you could go back in time and give yourself advice/wisdom as you are starting Freshman year at New Trier, what would that advice be?

Enjoy it. (Not that I didn't, but the extra reminder never hurts.)

18) What would you do differently if you could do it again?

Absolutely nothing. I probably would not be who I am today if things had gone differently, so I wouldn't change a thing.







Flashback Completed 9/2019