



## Wager defies stereotype, kicks for freshman team

Chloe Russell  
Sports Editor

While watching a freshman football game, one might spot a ponytail; this is not just some player. This is freshman Kara Wager. Wager is the kicker and wingback of the ninth grade team and is the first girl football player in George County High School's history.

Head football coach Matt Caldwell describes Wager as a football player through and through.

"She blocks like everyone, she gets tackled like everyone," Caldwell says. "She is just like everyone out on that field despite her gender."

Caldwell might see her as the same as the other football players but that is not the case for everyone. Wager has been picked out specifically by other team's players in many cases. Many are shocked and even dumbfounded when they figure out Wager is a girl.

"Most of the them are like 'woah, that's a girl' and other expressions

like that," Wager said.

While other team's players might react badly, her teammates always welcome her with open arms. Despite having to have own locker room she does not ever feel excluded.

"My brothers always make sure I'm included," Wager said.

Parents might wonder what parents would allow their daughter to play such a high contact sport. Wager is the daughter of Jennifer and Randy Wager. The parents loved to support their daughter for using the gifts God has given her.

Many people believe Wager is on the team not for her skills but for getting attention. Wager has been working on her football skills since she was in pee wee football. Wager began playing football

in the second grade and loved the sport and all it offers. She started by playing football at recess with the boys and then it developed into something more.

"She is a good attribute to the football program," Caldwell said.

Wager is an amazing addition to the team due to her constant effort and positive attitude.

"Kara always makes sure the team is positive and doing what they're supposed to do," Caldwell said.

No matter what adversities Wager faces she will never give up her love for football.

"I practice hard, work hard and pray hard," Wager said. "If I don't get something down then I do it again and again until I get it right."

**"She blocks like everyone, she gets tackled like everyone. She is just like everyone out on that field despite her gender."  
- Football Coach Matt Caldwell**

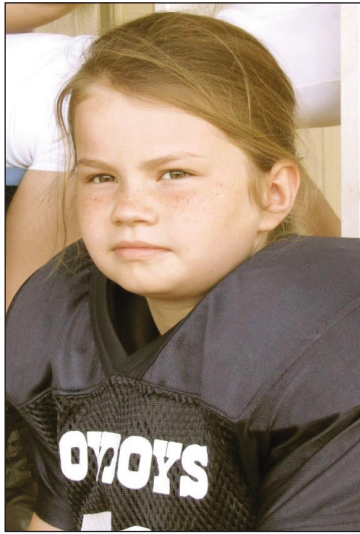


photo courtesy Jennifer Wager

**'Not just for boys'**- Freshman Kara Wager has been playing football since second grade and now kicks for the freshman team.

## ELL student places fourth at national competition

Haley Berry  
Features Editor

"I've been in the public school for two years, I'm an English Language Learner and this is what I have seen since I've arrived," junior Sara Rangel said.

This is the introduction to Rangel's speech given in Phoenix, Arizona for the Educator's Rising National competition.

Rangel placed a monumental fourth place in the nation of Educator's Rising for Prepared Speech. With 21 opponents, Rangel represented the CTE, Teacher Academy program by outshining 17 other students competing.

"I was very proud of myself. I started crying because I couldn't believe what was happening," Rangel said.

"The problem that we're having now in this nation is that while the diversity of students is increasing, teachers in the United States are still primarily white, American middle-class workers," said Rangel in her speech.

Rangel's speech was unveiling the issue of diversity among teachers and students of different cultures and ethnicities in the nation. Her speech was given in support of providing ideas about improving the understanding and communication among students and teachers.

When teacher academy instructor Patricia Demko learned of the topic for competition, she knew Rangel was the perfect competitor. Demko describes Rangel as a student with a drive to be the best and with the ability to take on any task that comes her way.



photo courtesy Patricia Demko  
**'Let your voice be heard'**- Junior Sara Rangel gives a speech that placed nationally.

"From the beginning I was really impressed with her speaking voice and her presence," said Demko.

Heaps of hard work and preparation went into making the competition for regional, state and national a great success for the teacher academy class.

Demko and Spanish teacher Monica Ainsworth worked with Rangel, helping her with research and the basic writing of her speech. Rangel and her classmates also spent countless hours at the library practicing and preparing for the national competition.

"She blew the judges away with her speech," Demko said. "They even pulled her aside afterwards to ask questions and talk to her."

Demko describes the impact of Rangel's speech to everyone around her, as well as the judges.

After learning the English language in just two short years, Rangel provides words of encouragement to students, "No matter what it is, you can do it. Nothing is impossible."

Bring this coupon in to get **20% off any item**

Don't forget to come out and support your downtown merchants on October 14 for Second Saturday.

This is available for one time use only.

**Lucedale Insurance Agency, Inc.**

329 Oak Street  
Lucedale, MS 39452  
Telephone: 601-947-8155

ALEX LEWIS  
Manager  
CERTIFIED CROP ADVISOR

**CO-OP GEORGE COUNTY CO-OP**

220 DEPOT STREET • LUCEDALE, MS 39452  
PHONE (601) 947-8145 • (601) 947-8146  
FAX (601) 947-3869 • RES. (601) 947-4137

**Spirit Week Photo Booth**  
Oct. 10-13  
\$2 per photo  
5 photos for \$8

601-530-YUMM (9866)

**Aunt Fancy's TAKE & BAKE**

We make it. You take it and bake it!

5161 Main Street, Lucedale, MS 39452

**Beau • Bella's • Salon**

5189 Main Street • Lucedale, MS 39452  
601-947-0157

Christina Eubanks  
Lori Hokanson  
Amberlee Hokanson

**Lucedale Tire Company**  
*In business since 1967*

"Where experience and quality still count"

- Alignment • Goodyear
- Brakes • Kelly
- A/C • Dunlop

Owned and operated by Mark and Frances Kelley

973 Winter Street  
Lucedale, MS 39452  
Phone: 601- 947- 3138

**Floral Expressions**

Deborah Goldman,  
Owner

601-947-7377  
601-947-7877  
floralexpress5140@att.net

74 Allman Street  
Lucedale, Ms 39452

**Kings Collision**

601-947-1114  
kingscollision@gmail.com  
17256 Highway 26 West • Lucedale