

# LAUZON SUFFERS FROM CRITICAL ACCIDENT, PROMISING RECOVERY AHEAD

By Chloe Anderson

staff writer

On Oct. 7, OHS sophomore Madi Lauzon was in a life-altering side-by-side accident. Since then, Madi has returned to school with a refreshed outlook on her life.

The Lauzon's rented their house out for the Ole Miss vs. Arkansas football game and went to their family's farm along with Knox Dixon.

"We were driving down a gravel road, lost control and flipped several times with the side-by-side landing on my head, neck, and back," Madi Lauzon said. "Knox and Wyatt were also in the crash. They lifted it off me."

Madi Lauzon's parents got to them as soon as they could and rushed to the Grenada hospital. Once arriving, Madi was airlifted to Jackson. Not only was this scary for Madi Lauzon, this was hard to watch for her parents.

"Watching her get strapped onto a gurney to be airlifted to Jackson was one of the absolute scariest moments of my life," Lauren Lauzon said. "Once she got to Jackson, she went into emergency trauma surgery."

In Jackson, the Lauzons were informed that Madi Lauzon had dislocated her shoulder as well as elbow with top and bottom bones in her arms sticking out of her skin. All tissues and ligaments in her arm were ripped out. Also, her jaw was broken in three places which entrapped her eye muscle. They were told by doctors and surgeons that Madi Lauzon was expected to be in the hospital for at least two weeks.

"At first, the doctors were just trying to save her arm," Lauren Lauzon said. "We were concerned that she may lose it. Once the doctors were able to save it, the next obstacle was getting any range of motion back. The last doctor was able to call her last arm surgery a success."

The Lauzons are very thankful for the progress on her arm.

"We do not know if she will ever be able to use her arm at 100 percent," Lauren Lauzon said. "The fact that she has recovered so well shows that there are no limitations to what faith, prayer, and hard work can do."

Everyone's support was much appreciated.

"The community of Oxford and surrounding areas all came together to pray for Madi and our family and that has made a huge difference," Lauren Lauzon said. "You could actually feel the weight being lifted the more people said they were praying or are still praying."

Despite what they were told, Madi Lauzon was out of the hospital after one week and five surgeries. She now goes to Jackson every other week for appointments and attends physical therapy two to three times a week.

"It has been awesome to see myself defy the odds and cut all of the time barriers set for me in half," Madi Lauzon said.

Madi Lauzon's timely hospital stay is just one of the many things she is grateful for.

"At the beginning of my journey I had no clue what to expect," Madi Lauzon said. "As I have gained understanding of what is to come in my recovery journey, I have become more optimistic of the future, while being aware that it could take more than a year to be 'normal' again. I know that I will never be completely 'normal' again, though, because this has been a life-changing experience."

Not only was Madi Lauzon's time in the hospital quicker than expected, but she has also continuously surprised everyone with her quick recovery since being home.

"So far, recovery has been kind of nerve-wracking and stressful because every appointment determines the next surgery and every surgery determines how slow or fast my recovery will be," Madi Lauzon said. "It has also been very rewarding to see how far I have come since the night of the crash."

Even though recovery can be stressful at times, pain has not been a big issue.

"Pain-wise, it is not as bad as you would expect, but I also have an extremely high pain tolerance," Madi Lauzon said. "I have not taken pain meds at all since the accident."

After taking time at home to rest, Madi Lauzon returned to school on Oct. 30. Madi teachers have been vital in her return, specifically her teacher Genella Texada has been very supportive.

"One thing I will say about Madi is that she does not make excuses," Texada said. "She finds a way to make life work."

Madi Lauzon's work ethic is

something that has made a massive impact in her coming back to school.

"I think Madi has learned to adjust to the unexpected," Texada said. "She is still learning how to maneuver in a familiar environment in an unfamiliar way."

Considering Madi Lauzon's return to school was prompt, she has handled challenges at school remarkably.

"I am sure she could have stayed out longer and healed, but she made the decision to continue to heal while at school," Texada said. "I admire her resilience and optimism."

Returning to school also meant returning back to her OHS cheer team. Cheer is something Madi Lauzon is very passionate about, and she has been doing it since she was very young.

"Cheer is something she has done since she was at Dixie Dance, cheering with the Dixie Dolls before Ole Miss games," Lauren Lauzon said. "Watching her grow up cheering competitively and at school has been a big part of our lives."

Cheer continues to play a role in Madi Lauzon's life, just in a different way right now.

"I have struggled with seeing my team cheer at football games and competitions and not being able to be up there with them," Madi Lauzon said.

There is no doubt that Madi Lauzon is eager to cheer again soon and will try her hardest to get there as quickly as possible.

"Everything she has done so

far has been at an accelerated rate," Lauren Lauzon said. "Her different teams of doctors can not believe her progress and brag on her everytime they see her. Madi's faith is stronger than ever. The way she has leaned on her family, friends, and God through this is inspiring."

It is certain that the people closest to Madi Lauzon have played a key role in her recovery.

"My parents have helped me through everything by consistently being positive, celebrating with me through the highs, and being my shoulder to cry on in the lows," Madi Lauzon said. "My best friends have also been there for me and have laughed and cried with me."

Along with her parents and best friends, Wyatt Lauzon has been essential in Madi Lauzon's recovery.

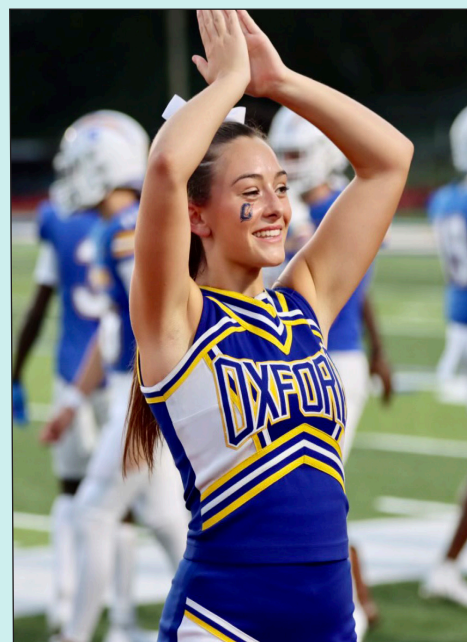
"Wyatt has kept me laughing through every hospital visit, surgery, and just the hard days," Madi Lauzon said.

Madi Lauzon has been persistently in good spirits in her journey and carries that on as she progresses.

"I hope I can handle the rest of my life with as much grace, positivity, happiness, and love as Madi," Lauren Lauzon said.

Madi Lauzon's positivity has been inspiring to many people. There are numerous things that keep Madi motivated and that she looks forward to as she moves forward.

"I am really excited for when I can go out without any arm braces or wrappings to show off my crazy scars," Madi Lauzon said.



"The idea of cheering at football games again and doing normal things has kept me motivated throughout my recovery journey."

**Madi Lauzon**  
sophomore