NEWS BREAK

Article: ‘It was a big change for everybody and a learning experience’

Section: SPORTS, C1

Sunday’s News Break selects an article from Sunday, October 28, 2018 of The Seattle Times print replica for an in-depth reading of the news. Read the selected article and answer the attached study questions.

You are encouraged to modify this lesson to fit the needs of your students. For example, some classrooms may be able to use this as a worksheet and others might need to ask and answer the questions in a small group or larger, class discussion.

*Please be sure to preview all NIE content before using it in your classroom to ensure it is appropriate for all of your students.

Standards:

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.4.1

• Refer to details and examples in a text when explaining what the text says explicitly and when drawing inferences from the text.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.4.2

• Determine the main idea of a text and explain how it is supported by key details; summarize the text.

Objectives:

Students will talk about how they feel about girls playing on historically male-dominated sports teams. They’ll discuss what impact these young female athletes will have. They’ll define feminism and talk about whether they see girls and women as inspiring and strong athletes. They will define work ethic, tenacity and determination and whether they try and develop these same life skills in their lives now.
Pre-Reading Discussion:

- What do you think the article will be about?
- Are there clues in the pictures?
- What can you infer?
Vocabulary Building:

Read this sentence, what do you think the highlighted words mean using context clues? A context clue is a word or words that are hints and refers to the sources of information outside of words that readers may use to predict the identities and meanings of unknown words.

“Martz has parlayed her love for football into a successful national powerlifting career.”

Write your guess and then look up the definition and write it below your guess. How close did you come to the correct definition?

**Parlay Guess:**

**Parlay Definition:**

Comprehension Questions:

1. It took losing whole fingernails at practice before Newport senior Jenna Martz found a coating as tough and innovative as she is on the football field. She’s one of a growing number of girls across the nation who continue to chip at barriers for whom?
2. Martz is the first girl to play four years for the Knights. Unassuming, at 5 feet 3 and 148 pounds, she’s a crafty defensive lineman who found her ____________ through football and wants to leave a path for other girls to do the same.
3. Martz has parlayed her love for football into a successful national ________________ career.
4. She also hopes that her football experience will make her application to the ____________________________ stand out from the pack.
5. She’s been a __________________________ at Newport for other girls who might want to play football, but Martz says football has taught her some valuable life lessons too.
6. To reach her goal, Martz knew she needed to bulk up. But as a freshman, she couldn’t even lift the 45-pound bar. At competitions, Martz remembers being a mess of nerves. Now, she bench-presses ________ pounds.
7. From the terminology down to the culture, football, with its macho ethos and often militaristic structure, is inescapably patriarchal. Yet, she has also taken inspiration from growing up in the era of Tarana Burke’s #MeToo movement, and the Women’s March, where throngs of women
have flooded the streets nationwide to protest for ________________________________.

8. These movements have shaped Martz’s ideals of feminism, and she’s used her position as a girl in a male-dominated environment to remind her football teammates that ________________________________.

**Discussion Questions (small/large groups), Journal Prompts or Essay Questions:**

- What do you think about girls playing on historically male-dominated sports teams?
- How will these young female athletes make an impact? How will they change the future of girls playing football, wrestling or weightlifting?
- What’s your definition of feminism?
- Do you see girls and women as inspiring strong athletes? Do you know any?
- How do you define work ethic, tenacity and determination? Do you try and develop these same life skills in your own life? How? In what ways? How will this help you in your future?

However, it didn’t provide a blueprint on where to place Martz in the lineup. She started at wide receiver, then cornerback. Too often, Martz says, girls on football teams are penciled in to play kicker. Martz wanted to hit.

“I got totally wrecked,” Martz said of getting knocked backward. “But I hurried and got back up. Even though I was still kind of shaken, I didn’t let it stop me. I assisted on a tackle and it worked.

“I put my body out there and realized it doesn’t matter. I’m probably going to get beat half the time and the other half, I’m going to work to get that assisted tackle or tackle. It’s those small moments that give you the confidence eventually to get there.”

- What does this say about her strength and drive to be a better player? Did she gain more confidence?

But the developing bond between Martz and her new teammates was tested early.

A former teammate on her freshman squad often made jokes about Martz within earshot. Opponents would yank her braided pigtails, call her “it” or expletives and target her on tackles, double-teaming Martz and plowing her to the ground.

During her sophomore season in October 2016, Martz recalls sitting in a common area of the boy’s locker room with eyes full of tears. She had
barely made the varsity football team and, as a third-stringer, didn’t play a down, her Knights uniform still clean. Yet, that didn’t stop opponents from not wanting to touch her as part of the postgame tradition where players slap high fives and say, “good game.”

“When you’re constantly being exposed like that to a point to where it’s not football anymore ... I just want to play football, man,” Martz said, not wanting to cry then or now in reliving the moment. “Can’t we just hit like that? If I get knocked down, I’m going to get back up. But if you’re going to be talking smack like that, what is the point?”

- How difficult would that be to experience teasing and jokes and physical harassment from fellow team members? Why do you think she kept going, when she could’ve just quit?
- Why do people put others down? What does it do for them?

This was her response:

“I kept playing through it,” Martz said. “Eventually, they saw me for who I was and we grinded together, and we grew together. Now, if people start targeting me or they say something, I just tell my teammates and either they help me handle it, or they go handle it. Because you just don’t let that happen to a teammate — whether they’re a girl or boy.”
Newsbreak Answer Key: October 28, 2018

Pre-Reading Discussion:

Answers will vary

Vocabulary Building:

**Parlay:** Transform into (something greater or more valuable). "A banker who parlayed a sizable inheritance into a financial empire."

Comprehension Answers:

1. Women and girls in sports
2. Strength
3. Powerlifting
4. United States Naval Academy
5. Trailblazer
6. 135 lbs.
7. Equal rights
8. Girls belong too

Discussion Questions (small/large groups), Journal Prompts or Essay Questions: Answers will vary