

CREATURE OF HABIT

Basketball standout Dave Knapke '10 follows a strict pregame ritual: compression shorts, left sock and ankle brace, right sock and brace, and so on right up through a fist-bump with his dad, seated behind the Lords' bench. Superstitious? Don't argue with success. Knapke became the first Kenyon men's player to be named North Coast Athletic Conference Newcomer of the Year. He's a three-time All-NCAC forward. Entering his senior season, he had 545 career rebounds, just 135 caroms shy of earning a place as one of the top-ten rebounders in College history. Here's a look at a few of his other quirks. —Mike Andrews

Bedside cornucopia

Whenever his mom or grandma visit campus, Knapke can count on their bringing fresh-baked cookies, bags of chips, candy, and other snacks. He stores all of these goodies in a tub under his bed in an attempt to keep his roommates from helping themselves to some treats.

'Tis the beard-growing season

During winter break every year, the players move out of their regular rooms and into temporary housing. As a freshman, Knapke forgot his shaving things and couldn't get back into his locked dorm to retrieve them. Rather than spending money on a new razor, he opted not to shave for the month. And so a tradition was born: the winter-break beard.

Man of one hat

The staple of Knapke's wardrobe en route to games is his Kenyon winter hat. He was so upset when he lost it during the team's trip to Chicago last season that coach Matt Croci gave his own to Knapke. The way Knapke wears the hat high on his head is a style Croci's four-year-old daughter mimics when wearing her own stocking cap.

Plenty of other fish

Knapke's athletic interests go well beyond basketball. He was a highly recruited high school football player. He enjoys golfing with teammates to relax and amps up the intensity on their intramural volleyball team. Among his favorite sporting pursuits is fishing with his dad and grandpa. "Whenever I'm back home or I get a free weekend, we try to get together and go out on the boat."

Smells like team spirit

In the summer of 2007, the Lords spent eight days on a sightseeing and exhibition-game tour in Italy. Following their first game, Knapke, who admits to perspiring a lot when he plays, tied up his jersey in a plastic trash bag, stuffed it in his duffle bag, and forgot to wash it. When he pulled the uniform out before the next game, "It was the worst smell." He had a good performance, and the rest of the team joked that no one would guard him because of his odor and suggested he wear a dirty jersey more often.

