

Looking back on the 2011-2012 year in Wilson County prep sports, it's hard to imagine a senior athlete going out with a bigger bang than Mt. Juliet High's Caleb Chowbay.

The Belmont basketball signee enjoyed tremendous success in three varsity sports, a feat almost unheard of in today's era of athletic specialization.

The first Division I signee for the Mt. Juliet boys' basketball program since the legendary Tom Marshall back in the early 1950's, Chowbay could have had his pick of scholarship in either football or baseball had he chosen those paths.

Case in point, he threw for 1,555 yards and 23 touchdowns his senior year as quarterback for the Golden Bears -- leading the team to a record of 13-1 and a berth in the state semifinals; in baseball he went 7-1 as a pitcher with a 1.60 ERA as MJHS went 34-4 and reached the state tournament.

In fact, Chowbay gave up baseball at Mt. Juliet to concentrate on basketball during the spring of his junior year -- but came back after his scholarship to Belmont was locked up.

"Baseball was hard to give up for a year, but basketball is my passion and I knew that's what I wanted to do in college," Chowbay said. "By giving up baseball, it gave me an opportunity to get better each day in basketball."

"Caleb is a competitor at whatever he does," said MJ baseball coach Mark Purvis. "He is first a great kid and also a great athlete. He just loves playing the game -- whatever game that is."

But basketball was the love of his athletic life and it showed every time he went on the floor.

"Caleb earned a starting position during the summer going into his sophomore year as our

shooting guard, but our point guard was injured early in a game versus Beech and Caleb had to move to point guard," said hoops coach Troy Allen.

"He really struggled for the rest of the game dealing with the Beech 1-3-1 zone. I can remember being really worried after the game about our team and how Caleb was going to handle playing point guard as a sophomore for the rest of the season.

"Caleb came out the next practice and was just amazing, controlling the team, taking care of the ball, taking his game to another level. He finished out the season as the point guard with a 3 to 1 assist to turnover ratio, averaged 12 points per game and made the all district team.

"Caleb is the most dedicated player that I have coached since arriving at Mt. Juliet. His willingness to spend time in the gym, his god giving talent, and his almost unnatural ability to rise to the toughest occasion are what separated him from most athletes we coach."

Chowbay scored 1,200 points in his career and was a two-time District 9AAA Player of the Year -- helping Mt. Juliet to a record of 25-8 his senior year and the regular season 9AAA championship.

Mt. Juliet football coach Roger Perry usually tosses around accolades like manhole covers, but he speaks in glowing terms of Chowbay.

"Caleb is the total package in what a coach looks for in a student-athlete," Perry said.

"He is a winner at whatever he sets out to do. Caleb has many great qualities and the one that stands out to me is being coachable. He always did it the right way. Guys like him are few and far between."

Chowbay was no slouch in the classroom, graduating with honors at Mt. Juliet, earning a 3.859 GPA. A standout academically as well as in basketball, baseball and football, Caleb Chowbay

## **Chowbay - a man for all seasons**

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was truly Mt. Juliet's man for all seasons.

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