David Occhiuto Grand Ledge High School

     Even from an early age, freshman Jamie Humphrey knew she had a talent for sports. When she was younger she played football with the boys. Now that she’s older, she feels like she can take on a bigger challenge, the Comet-Gladiator (CG) boys’ hockey team.

    When Humphrey was 11-years-old, she started playing football in the boys league. After the fall season ended, she realized that she loved the physicality and intensity that football brought to the table. Humphrey needed to find a winter sport that could bring the same excitement. In the winter of her fifth grade year, Humphrey decided to play ice hockey.

    “I had been playing football,” Humphrey said. “I wanted to keep playing intense sports, and hockey was a good choice.”

    Her parents put her on a house team, which mean there were no tryouts. Humphrey fell in love. She started going to camps, working out and practicing everyday. It was at these camps that made her feel like she could start competing at a guys’ level.

    “I realized I wanted to play at a guys’ level,” Humphrey said. “So I started going to goalie camps, and I started getting better and better.”

    In eighth grade, when Humphrey was 15-years-old, she started playing on a 15 and under boys’ hockey team. She noticed many differences in playing with the boys, rather than the girls.

    “Its definitely a faster game,” Humphrey said. “It’s a lot more violent, and you get tons of playing experience.”

    Humphrey felt that she could take her talents to the next level because during her freshman year, she decided that she was going to try out for the Grand Ledge-Fowlerville men’s team.

    As expected, there were a lot of obstacles standing in the way of Humphrey trying out for a high school men’s team.

    “I definitely had to work a lot harder,” Humphrey said. “I had to do a lot more extra curricular work outs.”

    Being a goalie, Humphrey was quickly accepted by her new teammates. Even though she is a girl, they treat her like one of their own.

    “They just treat me like one of the guys,” Humphrey said.

     Currently, Humphrey is playing the starting goalie position for the men’s CG hockey team, and captain Alec Faggion thinks she is doing great.

 “She is doing really good,” Faggion said. “She is keeping us in a lot of games, but she is not getting enough credit for her saves because we are not scoring enough goals to win games.”

 Currently, Humphrey plays the starting goalie position. For those who come out to support, she wears number 50. Humphrey is the first woman to play on the Grand ledge- Fowlerville hockey team.