### DELAWARE VALLEY CHAPTER • 59TH ANNUAL



## SCHOLAR · LEADER · ATHLETE



AWARDS-SPRING 2021



PSEG is committed to fostering access to fair and equitable opportunities throughout its communities.





# 59TH GEORGE WAH SCHOLAR LEADER ATHLETE AWARDS RECORDING SUNDAY, MARCH 21, 2021 • PRINCETON MARRIOTT STREAMING 6 PM EST, SUNDAY, APRIL 25, 2021

www.delvalfootballfoundation.com

21 Schools representing Burlington, Hunterdon, Mercer, Monmouth and Ocean Counties \$5,000 Jack Stephan Scholarship • \$2,500 Ron Rick Sr. Scholarship • \$1,500 Ed Cook Scholarship

### 2020 CHAPTER SCHOLARSHIP SPONSORS

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#### **ROY VAN NESS TROPHY PRESENTED BY PSE&G**

### 2020 CHAPTER AWARD RECIPIENTS

#### Robert F. Casciola Distinguished American

Tom McCarthy, Phillies TV play by play, CBS Sports TV play by play, Westwood One Radio-NFL & College Basketball

### George O'Gorman Contribution to Amateur Football

Rick Mantz, The Pingry School

#### Hank Johns Coach Award

Andrew Patterson, Robbinsville High School

#### Jack Millard Officials Award

Justin Johnson, NJFOA, Central Jersey Chapter

#### **Delaware Valley Chapter Little Scholar**

Harrison Kertes, Bordentown Bulldogs Youth Football

#### Eunice Kennedy Shriver Champion Award

David Wardell, SONJ

#### TCNJ Earl H. Dean Scholar-Leader-Athlete

Andrew Donoghue

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### ROBERT F. CASCIOLA DISTINGUISHED AMERICAN AWARD TOM McCARTHY





Tom McCarthy has never forgotten where he came from. As "T-Mac" has climbed the ladder of broadcasting success, from doing local Mercer County teams to becoming the Phillies lead television broadcaster.

A Brick Memorial product and proud Golden Mustang, McCarthy graduated from The College of New Jersey with a degree in communications before starting as a part-time sportswriter for the Trenton Times (where his nickname was Boog after Orioles great Boog Powell). He broadcast TCNJ football for the school station his senior year and moved to Trenton AM station WTTM to broadcast the Lions games, as well as call high school games and host a weekly show on the station. From there he hooked up with local cable TV station TKR as a sports reporter, and also did radio play-by-play for Rutgers football and Princeton University football and basketball.

McCarthy's big break came in 1993 when he was hired by the Trenton Thunder. He was a Trenton broadcaster for six years and went from director of public and media relations to assistant general manager. After paying his dues at the minor league level, T-Mac pursued a full-time broadcasting career, starting with radio work for ESPN radio. He hit the big time in 2001 as host of the Phillies pre- and post-game shows while doing radio play-by-play. He became a radio voice with his favorite childhood team, the Mets, in 2006-07 before returning to the Phils to do radio in the magical World Championship 2008 season. After the passing of Harry Kalas in 2009, Tom took over the TV play-byplay duties and has been a popular voice in the Delaware Valley ever since.

Blessed with crystal clear and exciting pipes, McCarthy is also doing NFL games for CBS, basketball and college football play-by-play for CBS College Sports Network, and NFL and college basketball games for Westwood One radio after three years of doing the NFL with Sports USA Radio. He also did St. Joe's basketball for five years.

His award shelf is getting more crowded by the year. McCarthy has won a Mid-Atlantic Emmy, and is a two-time winner of the Achievement in Radio Award for Best Local Sports Coverage. He also received the Radio/TV Excellence Award from the New Jersey Sportswriters Association in January 2007 and the Good Guy Award in 2009. The radio booth in the Thunder's Arm & Hammer Park is named after Tom, and he was inducted into the Trenton Baseball Hall of Fame in 2011. One of his biggest honors came in 2013, when he was named Sportscaster of the Year by the National Sportscasters and Sportswriters Association.

Despite all his professional success, McCarthy has always made time for others. It starts with his wife Meg, sons Patrick (who is also in the broadcast business) and Tommy, and daughters Maggie and Kerri, who were athletic standouts at Allentown High School. Despite a hectic schedule, dad attended as many of their sporting events as possible and even coached while always talking about their accomplishments more than his own.

With a career that could cause many to think only of themselves, Tom McCarthy never stops thinking about others. It's what makes him such a Distinguished American.

#### Past Distinguished American Award Recipients

2019 Wayne DeAngelo 2018 Angelo J. Onofri 2017 Michael J. Renna 2016 Richard Freeman 2015 Bernard M. Flynn 2014 Jeff Perlman 2013 Jesse Armstead 2012 Frank J. Lucchesi 2011 Eric Hamilton 2010 Richard P Lisk

2009 Glenn K. Rieth

2008 Kelly Myers 2007 Chris Vernon 2006 Marc Edenzon 2005 Cathy DiCostanzo 2004 Christy Stephenson 2003 Sen. Peter Inverso 2002 Patrick L. Ryan 2001 Maurice Perilli 2000 Jay Destribats 1999 William Faherty 1998 Thomas Bracken

1997 Win Headley 1996 Tim Losch 1995 Bob Prunetti 1994 Bill Granville 1993 Cosmo Iacavazzi 1992 George Chandler 1991 Alfred Bridges 1990 Eugene A. Renna 1989 Len Rivers 1988 Capt. Harry Masterson 1977 Francis McManimon 1967 Don Ehret 1987 Lawrence Tiihoonen 1976 Royce Flippin

1986 Albert DiMartin 1985 Robert Casciola 1984 Roy Schleicher 1983 Jake McCandless 1982 Earl H. Dean 1981 William Pierce 1980 Nicholas Gusz 1979 William McGuire 1978 Richard Landis

1975 Crosby Copeland 1974 Al Neuschafer 1973 Dr. Joseph Zawadsky 1972 R. Kenneth Fairman 1971 Sen. Richard Coffee 1970 Bert Gulick, Jr. 1969 Robert Cox 1968 James Kerney, Jr Fred Schluter

### GEORGE O'GORMAN CONTRIBUTION TO AMATEUR FOOTBALL AWARD RICK MANTZ

Few, if any, have done more for New Jersey amateur football over the last 35 years than Rick Mantz. He has impacted the game at so many different levels. We are proud to recognize him as the 2020 Delaware Valley Chapter of the National Football Foundation and College Football Hall of Fame winner of the George O'Gorman Contribution to Amateur Football Award.

Most recently, Mantz spent the last five years at his alma mater, Rutgers University, where he served as the all-encompassing Director of High School relations. There, his relentlessly upbeat attitude was a perfect fit for a job that entailed connecting youth and scholastic players and coaches to the Scarlet Knights program, coordinating clinics and functions on campus, managing camps, following up with incoming freshmen and transfer students regarding academics and adjustment to campus life, serving as a liaison to alumni groups, coordinating high school ticket requests, and many other day-to-day functions.

You name it, and if it was behind the scenes, Mantz was involved somehow. The opportunity to serve his alma mater came after a long and distinguished high school coaching career at Hillsborough, South Brunswick, and Passaic.



Most notably, Mantz won a state title at his high school alma mater, Hillsborough, in 2000, which was also notable in that it came 20 years after he kicked an overtime field goal to give the Raiders a state crown in 1980. At Hillsborough, he mentored three players who advanced to the National Football League, and two – Shaun O'Hara (Giants) and Shawn Mayer (Patriots) who won Super Bowls. Mantz was named the New Jersey Football Coaches Association state coach of the year in 2000 and Somerset Coach of the Year three times.

Mantz later spent four years on the sideline at South Brunswick, breathing new life into the Vikings program. In 2007, Rick led SB to the state playoffs for the first time in 30 years and followed that up by earning the top seed in the Central Jersey Group IV playoffs in 2008 and 2011. Coaching is just a part of Mantz's dedication to amateur football. A 1985 graduate of Rutgers, Mantz has put his Communications degree to good use for many years. He provided color commentary for Columbia University football games on Sporting News Radio and Sirius Satellite Radio from 2006 through 2009. Mantz has also served as color analyst for high school football games on the Madison Square Garden Network.

A member of the NJSIAA-New Jersey Coaches Association Hall of Fame and the Hillsborough High School Hall of Fame, Mantz has been heavily involved in fundraising wherever he has been. His efforts led to FieldTurf installation at Hillsborough and South Brunswick and numerous program capital improvements.

They also led him into involvement with numerous community service organizations. He's a member of the Shaun O'Hara Foundation Board of Directors, with the mission of increasing knowledge and awareness of life-threatening diseases that have little or no government funding. Rick has also served as chairman of the American Cancer Society's Teen Challenge and Somerset County Relay for Life.

Mantz has served as past president of the NJFCA and been a member since 1994. He has worked tirelessly for several high school all-star games, including the Sunshine Classic, which draws players from Hunterdon, Somerset, Mercer, and Burlington County. It truly has been an amazing football life for Rick Mantz.

Past Contribution to Amateur Football Award Recipients						
2019 Heather Andersen	2006 Jim Griffin	1993 Bob Jaroni	1980 George O'Gorman			
2018 Charles R Thompson	2005 John Curtis	1992 Edward Naylor	1979 Ed Cook			
2017 Dan Klim	2004 Steve Gazdek	1991 Roger Hendler	1978 Jack Stephan			
2016 Ken Fisher	2003 Vince Reed	1990 George Sperling	1977 Steve Muench			
2015 Dr. William Gomez	2002 Scott Brunner	1989 Ed Farley	1976 Dr. Paul Checbro			
2014 John Law	2001 Sam Jefferis	1988 Burtis "Bunker" Hill	1975 Jack Petrone			
2013 Rob Radice	2000 Troy Vincent	1987 Joseph Fruscione	1974 Fred Holmes			
2012 Rich Fisher	1999 Wes Kirkpatrick	1986 John Morris	1973 Roy Van Ness			
2011 Paul "Bones" Vichroski	1998 David "Poppy" Sanderson	1985 Eric Hamilton	1972 John Gorman			
2010 John D. McKenna	1997 Ron Rick, Jr.	1984 Jack Rafferty	1971 Robert Sinkler			
2009 Steven J. Timko	1996 The Santuzza Oilers	1983 Ron Rick	1970 Pete Morgan			
2008 Tom Murray	1995 Tony Persichilli	1982 Harold "Bus" Saidt	1969 Fred Schluter			
2007 Jim Fisher	1994 Harley Gaskill/Fred Stives	1981 Ken Kueffel	1968 Ed Zanfrini			

### **PAST SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS**

Year	Winner / High School / College / Award
2019	Ian Franzoni / Hun / Brown University / \$5,000
2013	Jayson Emery / Florence / Long Island University / \$2,500 Dylan Farina / North Hunterdon / Not Reported / \$1,500
2018	Nick Campbell / Allentown / Navy / \$5,000 Michael Quigg / Hightstown / Monmouth University / \$2,500 John Woolston / Florence / Rowan University / \$1,500
2017	Erik Dehkes / North Hunterdon / Carnegie Mellon / \$5,000 Mark Pacini / Florence / TCNJ / \$2,500 Patrick Holly / Hun / Harvard / \$1,500
2016	Richard Mottram / Allentown / Bucknell / \$5,000 Isaiah Wingfield / Lawrenceville / Harvard / \$2,500 Taylor Twamley / Robbinsville / Penn State / \$1,500 Thomier Richardson / Trenton / Gettysburg / \$1,500
2015	CJ Markisz / WWP-North / Bowdoin / \$5,000 Frank Lucchesi / Steinert / Muhlenberg / \$2,500 Xavier Lezynski / Notre Dame / Notre Dame / \$1,500
2014	Michael Curry / Allentown / Johns Hopkins / \$5,000 Brady Hudik / Bordentown / Wagner / \$2,500 Michael Whittington / Trenton / Georgetown / \$1,500 Matt Semple / Hopewell / Elon / \$1,500
2013	Nicholas DeMarie / Nottingham / Pennsylvania / \$5,000 Sam Follansbee / North Hunterdon / Pennsylvania / \$2,500 Kurt Frimel / New Egypt / Cornell / \$2,500
2012	Brian Schoenauer / WWP-South / Pennsylvania / \$5,000 Jadaen Bernstein / Voorhees / Naval Academy Prep / \$2,500 Nick Palladino / Allentown / Muhlenberg / \$2,500
2011	Chris Evans / WWP-South / Harvard / \$5,000 Richard Levy / Trenton / University of Connecticut / \$2,500 J. Walker Kirby / Lawrenceville / Harvard / \$2,500
2010	Ross Scheuerman / Allentown / Lafayette / \$5,000 Matt Berry / North Hunterdon / Johns Hopkins / \$2,500
2009	Bradford Bormann / Hunterdon Central / Lafayette / \$5,000 Douglas Bryant / Princeton / University of Michigan / \$2,500 Sean Eccles / Allentown / Ramapo / \$2,500
2008	Anthony Russ / Lawrence / Harvard / \$5,000 Brian Reilly / Peddie / Harvard / \$2,500 Jeffrey Riemann / WWP-South / Williams / \$2,500
2007	Daniel Fitzsimmons / Hunterdon Central / Princeton / \$5,000 Andrew Bourassa / Delaware Valley / Cornell / \$2,500 Douglas Borchert / Princeton / Lafayette / \$2,000 Eldred Richards / WWP-South / Albany / \$2,000
2006	Ryan Lupo / WWP-South / Williams / \$5,000 Joshua Scassero / Florence / Stockton / \$2,500 Nick Lezynski / Notre Dame / Notre Dame / \$2,500
2005	Imaniborn Etukeren / Lawrenceville / Arizona State / \$5,000 David Blitzer / Princeton Day / Williams / \$2,500 Gabriel C. Plumer / Delaware Valley / Johns Hopkins / \$2,500
2004	Andrew Riexinger / Notre Dame / TCNJ / \$5,000 Vincent G. Giacalone / Princeton / Carnegie Mellon / \$2,500 Matthew Ordog / Florence / Muhlenberg / \$2,500
2003	Brian Raike / Ewing / Pennsylvania / \$5,000 David Mosteller / Princeton / Wesleyan / \$3,500 Brian Waller / Hightstown / Coast Guard / \$2,500
2002	Robert Toresco / Hunterdon Central / Princeton / \$5,000 Stephen Ordog / Florence / Ursinus / \$3,500 Jay Graber / Notre Dame / Hofstra / \$1,250 JT Hutchinson / WWP-South / Pennsylvania / \$1,250
2001	Alexander Brun / Hamilton / Rutgers / \$5,000 Charles Nagy / Bordentown / Wagner / \$3,500 Jonathon Johnston / Peddie / US Naval Academy / \$2,500
2000	Jason Vida / Pennsbury / William & Mary / \$5,000 Joe Crupi / Hamilton / US Marine Corps / \$3,500 John Brodowski / Bordentown / Muhlenburg / \$2,500 Matthew Krantz / Allentown / Wake Forest / \$2,000
1999	Brian Lyons / Hamilton / Post Grad / \$5,000 Isaac Bethea / Trenton / Pennsylvania / \$3,500 Adam Allen / Nottingham / Lafayette / \$2,500
1998	Alex Wade / Council Rock / Duke / \$5,000 Jamal Lundy / Florence / Lehigh / \$3,500 Adrian Wall / Lawrenceville / Harvard / \$2,500
1997	Mike Azzara / Lawrence / Middlebury / \$5,000 Brian White / Hamilton / Villanova / \$3,500 Dave Czehut / North Burlington / Princeton / \$2,500
1996	Buck Adams / Hightstown / West Point / \$5,000 Brett Martz / North Burlington / Pennsylvania / \$3,500 Don Povia / Nottingham / Monmouth / \$2,500
1995	Joe Andolina / WWP / Princeton / \$5,000 Hank Johns, Jr. / Pennsbury / Georgetown / \$3,500 Greg Gorla / Steinert / Johns Hopkins / \$2,500

1994 Anthony Apicelli / Ewing / Princeton / \$5,000 Brian Vannozzi / Notre Dame / Johns Hopkins / \$3,500 Rick Dittman / Pennsbury / Brown / \$1,500  1993 Matt Rader / Pennsbury / Duke / \$5,000 Ian Halpern / Princeton Day / Brown / \$2,500 Dan Schramek / Council Rock / Penn State / \$1,500  1992 Ricky Durst / Pennington / Middlebury / \$5,000 Noah Harlan / Princeton / Williams / \$2,500 Gus Burmeister / Florence / Lafayette / \$1,500  1991 Rob Beetel / North Burlington / Trenton State / \$5,000 Greg Coleman / Steinert / Trenton State / \$2,500 William Warrick / Lawrenceville / North Carolina / \$1,500  1990 Todd Luyber / Florence / Rutgers / \$5,000 Terrance Stokes / Trenton / Pennsylvania / \$2,500 Ron Duld / Council Rock / Pennsylvania / \$2,500 1989 William Buffaloe / Bishop Egan / Yale / \$5,000		
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Year	Winner / High School / Head Coach
1981	Douglas Paul / Princeton / Bill Cirullo
	Larry Ostema / Lawrenceville / Ken Keuffel
1980	Albert Yunkus / Peddie / Bob McClellan
1979	L. Hunninghake / Princeton / Jim Beachell John Freda / Princeton Day / Jim Walker
1978	Roncalli-Amici / Peddie / Duke Oxford Jeffrey Guzy / WWP / Rex Walker
1977	Donald Gips / Princeton Day / Bob Hoffman Joe Garefino / South Hunterdon / Sam Jeffris
1976	Darren Ford / Pennington / Bill Long James Annett / Council Rock / Walt Snyder
1975	Mark Blaxhill / Princeton Day / John Boneparth Rich Hagen / Hamilton / Bill McEvoy
1974	Wayne Buder / Pennsbury / Chuck Kane W. Ellsworth / Princeton Day / John Boneparth
1973	Brian Bestwick / Delhaas / Bob Hart David Ballard / Lawrenceville / Ken Keuffel
1972	Harold Brown / Lawrence / Ed Shirk Stuart Gordon / Lawrenceville / Ken Keuffel
1971	Andrew Varga / Morrisville / Ray Feldman Alan Chalifoux / Hun / David Leete
1970	Richard Ziegler / Hun / David Leete Jerome Varcallo / Woodrow Wilson / Lou Sorrentino
1969	Lewis Bowers / Princeton Day / Dan Barren James Boyle / Bishop Egan / Dick Bedesem
1968	Edward Hryn / Hamilton / Dave Bryan Paul Dahlman / Pennsbury / Ernie Baugher
1967	Tom Butterfoss / Princeton / Dick Wood Mike Drulis / Notre Dame / Walt Porter Robert Krugler / Peddie / Edmund Paul
1966	Sylvester Micir / Bishop Egan / Dick Bedesem Stephan Kessler / Pennington / Howard Poore
1965	James Colbert / Neshaminy / John Petercuskie Warren McManus / Peddie / Edmund Paul
1964	Mark Savidge / Hun / Hawley Water
1963	Will Dickey / Lawrenceville / Jack Reydel
10.00	D. D. JAY. D. JAYLED.

1962 Pat Ryan / Notre Dame / Walt Porter

#### HISTORY OF THE SCHOLAR-LEADER-ATHLETE AWARDS DINNER

The first Scholar/Athlete dinner hosted by the Delaware Valley chapter was a lot like a small family get-together as a group of prominent area business leaders and sportsmen, brought together by local sportswriter Jimmie McDowell gathered at The Carteret Club in Trenton to honor a high school senior football player who had been even more successful in the classroom. In 50 years, that small gathering to honor Notre Dame senior Pat Ryan has grown to become the most prestigious football dinner in the Delaware Valley, possibly in the entire Garden State.

No longer is it just one player being saluted and receiving a certificate. Now the Delaware Valley chapter of the National Football Foundation and College Hall of Fame honors graduating senior football players from 30 schools in six Central Jersey counties, each of them receiving at least a \$1,000 scholarship with money raised from various businessmen and women throughout the area.

Just as the great game of football has grown over the last 50 years, so has the Delaware Valley chapter dinner, which awards a scholarship pot of \$50,000—largest in the nation. The chapter is also the oldest in the U.S. with an honor roll of Distinguished American and Contribution to Amateur Football award winners that is a 'Who's Who' of the football world.

Co-sponsored by the Trenton Times and later the Mercer County Chamber of Commerce, the Scholar/Athlete program grew from the cozy surroundings of the Carteret Club to venues like Barrett's El Condado Restaurant in Ewing, the Colonial Firehouse Ballroom in Hamilton and the West Trenton Ballroom Ewing to the Princeton University campus and eventually to the grand ballroom of the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Princeton.

The tradition of bestowing the Distinguished American Award on prominent area business leaders like Don Ehret, Times publisher James Kerney Jr. and Fred Schluter eventually saw political leaders Sen. Franny McManimon, Mercer County executive Bob Prunetti—a scholar/athlete at Trenton High in 1972—Sen. Pete Inverso, former Hamilton mayor Maurice Perilli and New Jersey banking legends Bill Faherty, Tom Bracken and Tim Losch headline the top dias. Educational leaders Dr. Crosby Copeland of the Trenton Public Schools and Al DeMartin of Hamilton, athletic leaders Ken Fairman, Royce Flippin, Jake McCandless and Bob Casciola of Princeton University, Coca Cola president Bill Pearce of Princeton, NJSIAA executives Roy Schleicher and Steve Timko and lifelong football men and prominent coaches Win Headley, Len Rivers and Cosmo Iacavazzi were among the honorees named Distinguished Americans for having taken the lessons learned on the gridiron to become prominent area leaders.

Baseball Hall of Fame sportswriter Harold 'Bus' Saidt of the Times, former NFL stars Troy Vincent (Eagles) and Scott Brunner (Giants), popular area radio sports broadcasters Vince Reed and Roger Hendler, the father-son tandem of Ron Rick and Ron Jr., and local coaching legends Dr. Ken Keuffel (Lawrenceville), Eric Hamilton (College of NJ), Steve Muench (Ewing), Sam Jefferis (South Hunterdon), John Curtis (Princeton) and Jim Griffin (Hightstown) helped add to the DelVal chapter's reputation for saluting the best of the best and continue the reputation the Delaware Valley chapter has always held for being the first—and the most successful—of the National Football Foundation and College Hall of Fame chapters.

#### THE SELECTION PROCESS

The name of the young man selected as the top Scholar-Leader-Athlete was not pulled out of a hat. He has gone through a rigorous screening process. His credentials on the field, in the classroom and in the community have been scrutinized and discussed many times over by the members of the Delaware Valley Chapter of the National Football Foundation and College Hall of Fame's Scholarship Committee. The scholarship committee is made up of several members of the Delaware Valley Chapter who have a deep and abiding respect and love for scholastic football. What the scholarship committee is looking for is someone with:

#### 1. Outstanding academic application and performance – a Scholar

He doesn't necessarily have to be the smartest student in his school, but he should be a good, solid student. He doesn't have to be a "book worm" or even a straight-A student, but he should be studious, persevering, dedicated and have a proper knowledge of what study means to the value of education. He should be a better than average student who is genuinely interested in his studies without a serious subject weakness.

#### 2. Outstanding school leadership and citizenship – a Leader

He doesn't necessarily have to be involved in every club or program at his school, but he should have a well-rounded approach to his extracurricular activities. He doesn't have to be the president of his class, but he should be a leader, someone who is looked up to. He doesn't have to be the most popular student in his school, but he should be well-respected by his classmates, teammates and opponents.

#### 3. Outstanding football ability and performance – an Athlete

He doesn't necessarily have to be the best football player in the area, be he should be a good one with a proven record of performance. Ideally, he should be a player who is more concerned with team accomplishments than his personal statistics. He should display courage, persistence and sportsmanship and an overall feeling for the game of football as well as have respect for his coaches, teammates and opponents.

It's the combination of all of these attributes that make the winner, and all the young men honored, a true Scholar-Leader-Athlete.







Dylan Angelucci proved his leadership ability to Princeton head coach Charles Gallagher before the 2020 season started.

"Dylan has helped to try and resurrect PHS football through his commitment, play, and leadership," Gallagher said. "It was never more evident than it was this past offseason, when football and high school sports at PHS never had anything that even resembled a normal summer. Our trio of captains, which included Dylan, led our offseason program with daily practices working on all facets of the game including individual and team-related activities. Usually consisting of 20-25 players, Dylan and his co-captains rallied their peers to make a commitment to a season that was in jeopardy of never taking place."

But it did – at least in abbreviated fashion – and Angelucci showed his mettle on the field, thriving at strong safety and having an impact all over the field. Dylan also carries a 3.6 GPA at one of the state's top high schools and takes a litany of high level courses. Dylan has donated his time during his high school years to helping the Princeton Junior Football League.

Additionally, Dylan is a member of the Italian Honor Society and a former Odyssey of the Mind State Champion. He has participated in the school's choir and band.

"Dylan provided inspirational play and resembled what it means to be a real team player and leader," Gallagher said. "He has been an excellent ambassador for Princeton High football."





### ELIJAH BALDWIN NOTTINGHAM

A leader among his peers, Elijah Baldwin displayed impeccable character on the gridiron for head coach Milo McGuire's Northstars.

"During his time in our program, Eli demonstrated strong leadership skills and a wonderful work ethic that was unmatched by anyone on our team," McGuire said. "He has a strong set of values and he is a role model for his teammates and peers. Eli is an unselfish teammate and a high character young person. Moreover, I feel Eli has always been a positive influence on the younger members of our programs."

A four-year Honor Roll student at the Klockner Road school, Elijah is a former Mr. Northstar football award winner and a three-sport varsity athlete at Nottingham. He is part of the school's Peer Leadership program and in the top quartile of the Nottingham senior class.

Elijah earned a selection to the prestigious Hamilton N.E.W.S. club, where elite students from all three Hamilton Township high schools unite and do certain activities to better the community as a whole.

"Eli possesses a high level of integrity, and selection to this group is an extreme testament to him and his character," McGuire said. "He continues to demonstrate the same positive characteristics that I saw from him as a player early in his high school tenure. I'm proud of the man Elijah is becoming. He is not just a versatile individual as evidenced by the activities he was a part of while in high school, but he's also a winner."

### **THOMAS BELSKY**

**HOPEWELL VALLEY** 

Tommy Belsky has been a leader in all aspects of the Hopewell Valley high school community. On the field, the Bulldogs captain finished a fine career as a second-team, all-county selection at running back and was a key linebacker for head coach Dave Caldwell's squad. A three-year varsity starter, Belsky had an impact in all areas of the Hopewell program.

"On the football field, Tommy's influence on his teammates means the world to me as a coach," Caldwell said. "Tommy consistently provides our team with leadership by his superlative actions and tremendous work ethic in the classroom and the community. Whether the task is specific, general, or pressure-packed, Tommy tackles it with a fervor that is worthy of praise."

Belsky is a model of school standards and positive attitudes in all areas. He is strongwilled in the face of adversity, challenges, and opportunities. A four-year member of student government at HVCHS, Tommy battled acute myelogenous leukemia in elementary school and is involved in the Students Movement Against Cancer to support those in need.

A two-year member of the National Honor Society and German National Honor Society, Belsky was accepted into the Naval Academy Summer Seminar and was a Semper Fidelis All-American finalist. He's played the saxophone for six years and has been a member of the school band for four.

"Tommy meets challenges with enthusiasm, effort, and efficiency," Caldwell said. "He would be a valuable asset to any organization that associates itself with character and leadership."





### ROHAN DASH LAWRENCE

Rohan Dash is the consummate student-leader-athlete. He excels in all three areas and was someone Lawrence head coach Rob Radice could count on in the most untraditional of football seasons.

A two-year starter on the offensive line, tight end, and defensive end, Rohan seemed to switch positions weekly due to injuries and his ability, football intelligence, and adaptability.

"Rohan was the only player assigned two numbers – 56 and 86," said Radice, noting that Dash had one number if he was going to be called on as a lineman that week, and another if he started as an eligible receiver. "He always put the needs of our team above any individual needs or goals – truly a selfless attitude. He was our Iron Cardinal Award winner – the top team award given by the coaching staff for his outstanding play, commitment, and dedication to the team."

One of the top students at Lawrence, Rohan has a rigorous academic schedule loaded with Advanced Placement classes. He is active within the school as a member of the Concert Band, DECA, Jazz Band, Model Congress, Model United Nations, the National Honor Society, and as a Peer Leader.

Rohan also enjoys volunteering at both the Somerset Food Bank and the Trenton Area Soup Kitchen.

"High character, outstanding work ethic, strong values, great leader, compassionate, committed, respectful toward others," Radice said. "Those are just a few of the traits that Rohan possesses. He ranks as one of the top student-athletes I've had a chance to coach."









### DAYNE ELLIS EWING

With Dayne Ellis on his team, Ewing head coach Matt Dalessio never had to worry about the Blue Devils being outworked.

"Dayne is truly a great young man, and one of the hardest working student-athletes I've ever had the pleasure of coaching in my tenure at Ewing," Dalessio said. "One of the qualities I admire most about Dayne is that he was the type of player you could coach hard without the fear of "losing" him. He would take the coaching, make the adjustment, and continue on with a maximum effort for the betterment of the team."

His performance on the offensive line was one of the major reasons Ewing finished with a winning record during the abbreviated 2020 season, as the Blue Devils remained focused during challenging times.

That explains his success in the classroom as well. Accept teaching, make the adjustment, get better, continue forward. An honor roll student and member of the school's Peer Leadership program, Dayne finished with the highest GPA on the team.

"Dayne was not only a dominant force on our offensive line, but also in the classroom," Dalessio said. "Dayne works diligently to be successful on his academic path through Ewing High School. It has been an honor to have him as a member of the Blue Devil family and not one that will be easily replaced in the foreseeable future."





### DREW FRIEDMAN LAWRENCEVILLE

In the storied history of Lawrenceville football, the Big Red never faced a challenge like the 2020 season. Practices, but no games.

Quite a way to test the leadership of senior quarterback Drew Friedman. The four-year varsity member passed with flying colors.

"My definition of mental toughness," head coach Harry Flaherty said, "is the ability to be one's best, regardless of circumstance. Drew is a model for this demeanor, and finds himself a natural leader as a result. He is not the type to give motivational speeches, but he conducts himself in a manner that serves as a model to younger student-athletes in our program."

A true two-sport star at Lawrenceville – Friedman received offers in football before committing to play lacrosse at Yale – Drew is a great competitor in everything he does, from football to lacrosse, and certainly in the classroom, where he maintains an A average at one of the most challenging high schools in America.

"I experienced a student who was not only diligent, but one who maintained a consistent interest in improving," said Flaherty, who also served as Friedman's junior year United States history teacher. "Drew is the ultimate competitor, who brings his best regardless of the opponent. He embodies the well-rounded pursuit of excellence this award intends to highlight."

A volunteer at Special Olympics of New Jersey and the St. Baldrick's Foundation, Drew is also a writer for the school website. He has played acoustic guitar for 10 years and enjoys surf photography and videography.

### **DEVIN HAIRSTON**

**TRENTON** 

Trenton head coach Greg Hyslop knew he had someone special in Devin Hairston right from the beginning.

"When I first met Devin before his freshman year," Hyslop said, "I told myself he is that old-school player I love coaching. He is a fierce competitor who is going 100 miles an hour as soon as the whistle blows. But being a better teammate and leader to his football program put him into another category."

A four-year honor roll student, Devin did it all for the Tornadoes as a safety, linebacker, and tight end, putting up strong numbers on both sides of the ball.

But just as notably, he volunteered his time to the Lawrence Junior Cardinals football program as well as the Joyce Kilmer Middle School boys' basketball team.

Hairston is a talented football player who understands that academics comes first. He's just outside the top 10 percent of the senior class at TCHS.

"Knowing the type of person that Devin is, that's not surprising at all," Hyslop said. "He prides himself on being team first. Devin puts it on himself to make sure the 11 guys on the field are in the best position to do their job in order for the team to be successful. Not only does Devin hold himself to the highest of accountability, but he holds the entire program accountable. Whether it is in practice, a game, or even the hallways at school, Devin is always team first and will make sure his teammates are doing the right thing."





### MOSES HARRIS

It takes a special type of leader to guide a team through a season that was taken from them through no fault of their own.

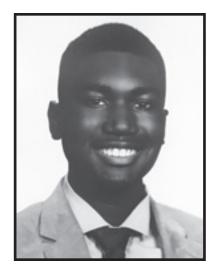
West Windsor-Plainsboro did not play in 2020 due to safety concerns from the COVID pandemic. But that didn't take away from the leadership of someone like Harris, who was a key component as the team brings together players from both WW-P North and South High School.

"Moses exemplifies leadership both on and off the field with his fiery competitiveness and complete understanding of the game of football," WW-P head coach Jeff Reilly said. "He is always first to point out what is the best course of action for his team to be successful and identify what our team needs to accomplish to win the football game."

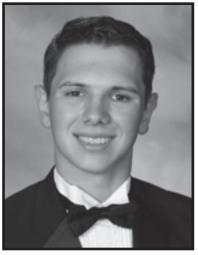
A "lead by example" type of captain, Moses was a strong advocate for commitment, according to Reilly.

"Commitment both to each other and towards the common goal on the field," Reilly said. "Off the field, Moses was a conscientious member of the student body and an exemplary student in the classroom."

A Homefront volunteer, Moses is a participant in the school's Radio Club and hosts an on-air show with two others. He is part of the WW-P South Peer Leader program, where he is a responsible for helping a group of new students to feel welcome in the school environment. "Moses," Reilly said, "will always be remembered for the impact that he has had on WW-P High School South."









### THOMAS HURLEY

In this most unusual of years, Thomas Hurley's leadership was even more vital to continue the incredible tradition of football at Florence High.

One of only five seniors on the entire roster (and two were first-time football players), Hurley helped guide a team of freshman and sophomores through all of the challenges, restrictions, conditions, and protocols of an abbreviated COVID season.

"Tommy's leadership, maturity, and experience was more than ever so critical to our success this past season," head coach Joe Frappolli said. "It has been extremely challenging, so different, and Tommy helped many younger players see their way through the season by demonstrating how to navigate through it all."

In the classroom, school, and community, Hurley excelled as a conscientious student, volunteer, and multi-talented young man. A two-year National Honor Society member, Thomas was accepted into the State Police Trooper Youth Week program, as well as the New Jersey Boys State program. He tutors high school and middle school students, and volunteered with American Legion Post 39 as well as the Red Cross blood drive. Hurley also served as the social media administrator for the annual Florence Township Meats and Eats festival to support medical causes and assist people in need of help and support.

"It's hard to measure the intangibles, the value, worth, and importance of special people like Tommy Hurley," Frappolli said. "As a running football team, surrounded by practically all-new, first-year linemen, we counted on Tommy to be our rock, to show the way for the new guys. He did just that."





### **KYLE MADDEN**

**HIGHTSTOWN** 

Kyle Madden was kind of like the trusted Swiss Army Knife for Hightstown head coach Ryan Fullen. Whenever Fullen and the Rams needed something big, Madden seemed to take care of it – and the end result was Hightstown's first winning season since 2006.

Three touchdowns, including the game-winner late in the fourth quarter against Steinert? Check. Game-winning, pick-6 against Ewing? Check. TD on the last play of the first half against Cherry Hill East? No problem. Madden finished with 339 yards receiving, eight TDs, three interceptions, and 2.5 sacks in just six games. And they all seemed to come at exactly the right time.

"Kyle demonstrated the ultimate characteristics of leadership, as well as mental and physical toughness," Fullen said. "He led the athletes on our team in voluntary workouts this past summer, when the pandemic did not allow for them to be officially held. He helped take the place of the coaching staff and was invaluable in that role."

An honor roll student, Madden has taken more than a dozen honors classes and three Advanced Placement courses while at Hightstown. Also a star lacrosse player, he actively volunteers with the RISE community service agency serving Hightstown/East Windsor, including his help with the annual holiday party and Thanksgiving meal distribution.

"Kyle Madden is the epitome of what we want from a student-athlete in our football program," Fullen said. "Tough, compassionate, intelligent, and a first-class person. He is the ideal candidate to represent our program."

### AIDAN McHUGH

If the mark of a leader is how they stand up under adversity, then Aidan McHugh is up there with the tallest people who walk the Earth.

It would have been easy for McHugh to turn his back on football this year. He was one of the most prolific passers in the state of Pennsylvania in 2017, setting Monroe County (PA) records for yardage before transferring to Peddie and sitting behind more established signal callers in 2018 and 2019.

And just when it was McHugh's time to take the reins of the Peddie offense – the Falcons cancelled their 2020 campaign due to COVID safety concerns. Someone lesser may have turned his back on football completely. But to expect that from the Peddie captain would be not to understand what McHugh is all about.

"He decided to serve as the ultimate leader for this team," head coach Patrick Loughlin said. "Aidan did this to perfection, helping to shape the culture of the Peddie football program for the future. I am in gratitude for his efforts this fall. He did not have to be out there every day at practice, as football was giving him so little back."

A model student, Blue Key (distinguished) tour guide, student ambassador, and member of the Peddie Gold Key society, McHugh has left a legacy off the field as well. Aidan co-founded an annual winter clothing drive for a Hightstown charity and has developed a budding talent in Art.

"His interests are endless," Loughlin said. "It is a testament to his thirst for knowledge and experience, but also his fearlessness. Aidan loves putting himself into situations where he can grow. He embraces his curiosity and experimentation. Aidan is without a doubt the most well-rounded student-athlete I've ever coached."



A leader on the field, in the classroom, and in the community, Austin McHugh did it all for North Hunterdon in 2020.

On defense he made the calls and directed a young squad, finishing second on the team in tackles and first in sacks. Austin's ability to move pre-snap and block any defender on the field made him the "most valuable player on the offense" according to his offensive coordinator.

An all-Hunterdon County selection, McHugh's role as a leader made him stand out even more. "He is one of the best leaders by example I've been around at this level," head coach Kevin Kley said. "He developed his vocal leadership skills throughout the season as well. He did a lot behind the scenes for the team and acted as an excellent liaison between the players and coaches."

With an academic schedule full of both honors and Advanced Placement classes, McHugh maintains a weighted GPA over 4.0 at the school. He's actively involved with Special Olympics of New Jersey, the Relay for Life, Key Club, and the Interact and Able organization. With the Special Olympics, he's served as a coach the last two years and is slated to be a head coach this year.

Austin is a two-year member of the National Honor Society, was inducted this year into the Science Honor Society, and has maintained high honor roll status each marking period since he started high school.

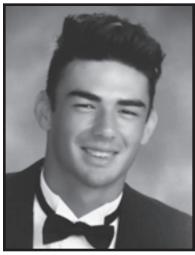
"Austin," Kley said, "exemplifies the traits of a true student-athlete. He has made the North Hunterdon community very proud."















With more than 6,000 career passing yards, there have been few quarterbacks in area history more prolific than Dan Merkel. A four-time, first-team, all-area selection, Merkel finished his illustrious high school career with 9,216 all-purpose yards – 6,011 passing and 3,205 rushing.

Eye-popping, ridiculous numbers.

But more important to the Allentown community was his success in the classroom and the community.

"Throughout his tenure at Allentown High School, Dan demonstrated the ability to achieve top level grades and be a positive contributor to the school and in all of his classes," said Allentown head coach Andrew Lachenmayer, also a Social Studies teacher at the school. "Dan is passionate about succeeding in everything and his attitude about his grades directly translates to what he has accomplished in the classroom as well as the athletic field."

While Merkel will ultimately play baseball in college, the Wagner University commit marked an end to an incredible gridiron career by earning the Frank "Mammy" Piscopo Memorial Award as Offensive Player of the Year from the area's 12<sup>th</sup> Man TD Club chapter.

"Dan's attention to detail in the way he prepares himself for assessments and activities are second to none," Lachenmayer said. "He has been a positive role model for our younger student-athletes and possesses so many leadership qualities that will help him in the future to become a successful young man."





### NICHOLAS MUSCARA PENNINGTON

Reliable. Consistent. Hard working.

That's any football coach's ideal description of a lineman. It's also veteran head coach Jerry Eure's description of Nick Muscara, who will be difficult for the Red Raiders to replace in the trenches next year.

"When you combine those qualities with his leadership ability," Eure said, "you get a great lineman on the football field. Nick has been starting both ways on the line for us since he was a freshman. Even then, we felt he had the strength, intelligence, and toughness to play this important position. He's been better than we even expected."

Couple that with outstanding character and a mature attitude, and it is easy to see why the younger players really looked up to Nick for guidance and direction.

But football is just one way that Muscara distinguished himself during his high school years. A high honor roll student at the prep school, Nick has competed in multiple Math and Investment club competitions for Pennington. A three-time Iron Man award winner for the Red Raiders, Muscara has also served as an ISP volunteer judge.

"Nick has earned the respect and admiration of the coaching staff, the players, and his teachers and classmates," Eure said. "He is no doubt one of the finest young student-athletes that I have had the pleasure of coaching over the last decade. He is a most worthy candidate for this esteemed award."

#### 2019 Scholar · Leader · Athlete Awards Dinner

### **MICHAEL NIELSEN**

**HAMILTON** 

In Michael Nielsen, head coach Mike Papero's team had the ideal leader to get them through a 2020 season that was much less than ideal.

The Hornets' signal caller and his steady brand of leadership was more important than ever in a season that was altered by multiple COVID shutdowns.

"A coach or teacher can only hope that he is lucky enough to find a player or student who has just some of the characteristics that Michael encompasses," Papero said. "Never have I coached a student-athlete who has such a deep understanding of the game. He always plays with passion, intelligence, and composure – three things that will help him find success in the future."

Whether on the field or in the classroom, Michael is an effective, open-minded, and driven leader. A four-year, high honor roll student, Nielsen is a National Honor Society member and among the top students in his senior class. A youth mentor at the Kuser Road Elementary School, Nielsen also gives his time as an assistant baseball coach for Sunnybrae Little League.

"There is not a teacher, administrator, or student in this school who has ever voiced anything but positive comments about him," Papero said. "Michael is someone who others look to for guidance. He dedicated himself to his team and always had the best of the program in mind. It has been an honor to coach Michael, and I'm even more thankful for having built a strong, lifelong, personal relationship with him."





### JONNY PERCODANI NEW EGYPT

Maybe the best way to describe Jonny Percodani is that of a quiet difference maker. Someone who is a star on the football field but also someone who just prefers to make life better for those around him.

One of the top students in the senior class at New Egypt, Percodani led the Warriors to a winning season on the field in 2020.

"It was expect that Jonny would establish himself as a leader o this league in statistical categories, but I was delighted to see up close what a coachable and upstanding young man Jonny really is," New Egypt head coach Steven Fence said. "He is quietly determined and gifted in his abilities, but not arrogant on or off the field. He is a shining example of someone who consistently does his best and pushes those around him to do their best as well. He personifies what a teammate and leader should be."

Percodani enjoys helping others, whether it is raking leaves for the elderly or making food for the homeless. His goal is to be a Registered Nurse.

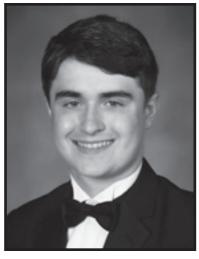
"Whether it is a patient or their family," Percodani said, "that way I will be doing my part to make sure people are safe and healthy."

Truly a difference maker in the community, there's no doubt Jonny's absence will be felt next year at the school.

"Johnny sets his goals high and does his utmost to achieve them," Fence said. "I feel confident his successes here will translate to success for him after high school."









### DANIEL POINSETT

#### **BORDENTOWN**

Through hard work, Daniel Poinsett recovered from a gruesome knee injury that ended his junior season early. His determination was a perfect symbol of the success the Scotties program had in 2020, as Bordentown finished with its best record in six years.

"I had the opportunity to observe Danny day in and day out," head coach Skip Edwards said. "He worked his way back to being the player he is today. Through sheer hard work and a keen knowledge for the game, Danny was one of our leaders."

Bordentown finished 5-3, its best mark since winning seven games in 2014, and the play of Poinsett, a fullback and long-snapping whiz, was a major reason why. In addition, Daniel excelled in the classroom as a four-year honor roll student.

Poinsett participated in the Spanish club, the Biology club, and was a volunteer for the Bordentown Bulldogs youth football program. An Advanced Placement Computer Programming student, Poinsett has plans of graduating with a degree in Cybersecurity.

"There isn't a subject that Danny has attempted to complete that he hasn't overcome," Edwards said. "If you look at his transcript, you will see through his hard effort the success he has met during his four years as a student at Bordentown. Danny is respected by his peers and the coaching stuff. He was a positive for the young players involved with our team."

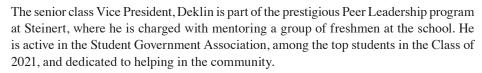


### **DEKLIN SMITH**

#### STEINERT

Dan Caruso has had some incredible leaders during his tenure as the head of the Steinert football program and so when he says Deklin Smith is one of the best he's coached, that's some pretty heady company.

"A captain like Deklin leads, he doesn't just bark orders," Caruso said. "His dedication to the team and school is unquestioned. He is willing to fill any role on the team I ask of him. He took reps on the scout team all the time. Deklin is a coach's dream because of his coachability and character. His enthusiasm for the game is contagious and he makes the players around him better. Deklin is the epitome of a renaissance man."



Caruso likens Smith to having another coach on the field, always willing and eager to help younger players to better understand their roles within the game.

"Beyond this," Caruso said, "he is the type of young man that other players look up to - not only on the field, but off it as well. He helped set up the field every day, he cleaned up and helped break down the field every day, he organized the sanitation of equipment that we all needed to do this year. He didn't expect someone else to do the work nor did he order others to do it. That's what being a captain is all about."





### **KELVIN SMITH**

THE HUN SCHOOL

Kelvin Smith came to Hun before his junior year as a basketball player and will leave the Princeton prep school as a prized Yale Bulldog football recruit.

"I've never hit the actual lottery," Hun head coach Todd Smith said, recalling his first meeting with Kelvin, at a Hun re-visit day in 2019, "but I knew within 30 seconds with Kelvin that I hit the football player lottery."

The 6-foot-3, 230-pound star lined up at numerous positions for the talented Hun squad – wide receiver, tight end, halfback, defensive end, linebacker. Wherever Smith was needed, there he was making a big tackle on a kickoff, blocking downfield to spring another talented teammate, and even making some big plays himself.

"For someone who was new to the game of competitive football, Kelvin took it very quickly," Coach Smith said. "He never took a rep off in practice or a game and his work ethic was contagious to the kids around him. Kelvin was a difference maker for us week-in and week-out."

Kelvin is an outstanding student who has been recognized by the National Merit Scholarship Program. He has participated in Habitat for Humanity, been a mentor in the Black Student Union and tutored middle school students in math. Smith is part of the National Society of High School Scholars.

"Great student, great athlete, great teammate," said Coach Smith, who was indeed correct about hitting the football player lottery. "Kelvin is a perfect fit for this prestigious award."





### MICHAEL SURTZ ROBBINSVILLE

The way Robbinsville coach Andrew Patterson figures it, everyone should be fortunate enough to coach their own Michael Surtz at least once in a career.

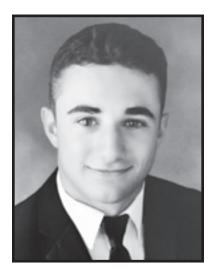
"In a recent conversation about Michael with a teaching colleague," said Patterson, this year's Delaware Valley chapter Hank Johns Memorial Coach of the Year recipient, "I used flawed cliché when I said Michael was the ultimate team player. "He is actually the ultimate person, whose demeanor and character has enveloped our team. Mikey is not on our team, he is our team."

As Patterson explains it, Surtz didn't produce the gaudiest stats during his high school career, but he was a major reason for the dramatic culture change in a program that went from one of the worst in the state when Surtz was a freshman to a 15-2 record over the last two seasons.

"Mike has the ability to make everyone with whom he associates feel welcome," Patterson said. "When you speak with Michael, he treats you as if you are the most important person in the room. He is a fantastic big brother, not just to his actual siblings, but to any peers who need one. Everyone trusts him. Michael Surtz embodies every single quality and virtue a coach could ever want on a team or any parent could ask of a son."

A top student at Robbinsville and a Math tutor throughout his high school years, Michael gives his time as a camp counselor for the Robbinsville Ravens youth football program, a food bank volunteer, and a member of the school's Green Team.

He helped establish a winning tradition at Robbinsville. His legacy will last a long time.









### **EVAN TRITT**

**NOTRE DAME** 

One of the top defensive players in the area in 2019, Evan missed his senior year due to an injury. But he made sure head coach Sean Clancy's team still had the emotional presence of one of the area's best leaders.

"Despite his adverse situation, Evan always demonstrated his commitment and leadership to Notre Dame football," said Clancy, the 2019 chapter Coach of the Year. "(Evan) never missed a practice, a workout, or game. Evan leads because the role comes naturally to him, but not all natural leaders put the needs of others first. Evan demonstrated under adversity that he is always willing to put the other fellow first."

The president of the school's Catholic Athletes for Christ chapter, Evan is active in the school's Italian Club and volunteers at a local food bank. Evan has worked to help feed homeless families and provide birthday and Christmas celebrations for children living in local shelters. He has developed into an excellent all-around student known for his straightforward style, ability to communicate ideas, and his well-developed leadership abilities.

"Confident and expressive around adults, his smile is the big giveaway that this young man is outgoing and relaxed with peers," Clancy said.

Tritt is a two-sport captain, equally competitive in lacrosse as he is on the gridiron. He has become someone who will be quite difficult to replace.

"Evan has a comprehensive academic, leadership, and service foundation that he has earned here at Notre Dame," Clancy said. "He is a great representative of our school."

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Alla	NAME OF			

### DELAWARE VALLEY CHAPTER LITTLE SCHOLAR HARRISON KERTES

Harrison Kertes is more than just an excellent student and athlete he is also an entrepreneur and the best part is the young man is successful in all his endeavors.

A member of the Bordentown Bulldogs Youth Football Program he is deserving of the National Football Foundation Delaware Valley Chapter Little Scholar Award.

"This honor means a lot to me and really shows that I can be a good athlete on the field, while still succeeding in my school work at the same time," said Kertes.

An honor student in the Bordentown School District, the young man has excelled in math and also was in the extended learning program for the academically talented.

On the field, Kertes has helped his team to a championship and he traces his enjoyment in the game back to his dad.

"I developed a love for football through my father and the NFL," said Kertes. "I used to play soccer as a young kid and after my brother started playing I decided that I wanted to play also."

Besides football he plays basketball and has been a two-time all-star in the Bordentown Area Basketball League, he helped his Catholic Youth Organization team to a championship and was named to the all-star team.

At the MacFarland Middle School Kertes was the Student Council President.

Also, a trumpet player Kertes is a member of a concert band and a jazz band. But, the young man's many talents don't stop there, Kertes also is a member of the Chess Club and Art Club.

Kertes took a trip to Dallas and received a plaque that has slots for sports cards, so after a visit to a local sports card show, HJK Sports Cards was formed.

"I started to collect sports cards after I got a plaque after a trip to Dallas in 2017," recalled Kertes. "The plaque had a space for a sports card and my dad found that there was a show that happened once a month right near our house. I found a love for the cards and began collecting them, after a while of collecting it seemed like I had too many cards, so we decided to start selling them and kept reinvesting the money we earned into more cards for more profits. We do it once a month now and have fun doing it."

A student-athlete, a leader among his peers, a business owner and just a great all-around young man Harrison Kertes is a deserving honoree.





	Past Delaware Valley/Pop Warner Little Scholars							
2019	Kole Briehler Hopewell Valley	2013	Hamilton PAL	2007	David Dudeck III, Burlington County	2001	Daniel Clark Hillsborough Dukes	
2018	Pop Warner Jack Rice	2012	Will James Hamilton PAL	2006	Pop Warner Connor McElwee,	2000	Bassil Salmon East Windsor PAL	
	West Windsor Wildcats	2011	Kyle Liedtka Hamilton Pop Warner		West Windsor Wildcats	1999	Robert Damiano Hamilton Pop Warner	
2017	Jayson Jenkins West Jersey Youth Football League	2010	Carson Vey Hopewell Valley Pop Warner	2005	Michael Garofola Hamilton Pop Warner Ryan McDermott	1998	Ryan Biolsi Flemington Pop Warner	
2016	Alfred Woods Florence Flashes	2009	Harvey E. Butler III, WW-P Pop Warner	2003	Hamilton Pop Warner James Bea	1997	Jason Auletta Hamilton Pop Warner	
2015	Kyle Dowgin Bordentown Bulldogs	2008	Brian Schoenauer, WW-P Pop Warner	2002	Hillsborough Dukes Marc Zamarin	1996	Michael Taylor Hamilton Pop Warner	
2014	Joseph Brown Warrior PAL		*		Hillsborough Dukes		·	

### EARL H. DEAN SCHOLAR-LEADER-ATHLETE ANDREW DONOGHUE • THE COLLEGE OF NEW JERSEY



Over the last three years at The College of New Jersey Andrew Donoghue has established himself as a remarkable student, a talented athlete and a leader. His numbers and commitment in the classroom and on the field have made Donoghue a worthy recipient of the TCNJ Earl H. Dean Scholar- Leader-Athlete Award presented by the Delaware Valley Chapter of the National Football Foundation.

"To receive the Earl Dean award and represent the TCNJ football program is truly an honor," said Donoghue. "The list of student-athletes who received this award before me is impressive and to be a part of this group means a lot to me. I would never have received this award if I did not have an excellent supporting cast in my life, and I thank my family, classmates, teammates, coaches, professors, and mentors who have provided guidance along the way."

Donoghue was the Lions starting quarterback in the 2018 and 2019 seasons before his senior season was curtailed due to the pandemic, playing in 24 games throwing for 2,616 yards, including 1,781 in the 2019 season. He averaged 178.1 yards passing a game and 19 times the ball was caught in the endzone.



"Playing football has given me plenty of ups and downs throughout my career, but it has also taught me important life lessons along the way. It has given me skills in leadership, teamwork, emotional intelligence, perseverance, along with the understanding of how to maintain a strong work ethic. The gridiron blessed me with these skills at a young age and I am now able to take into the workforce where I will be able to stand out amongst my coworkers. I am eternally grateful for the coaches, teammates, and this sport we all know and love, and I will cherish the memories we made on the field for the rest of my life."

"Andrew is such a talented, smart individual with so much untapped potential," said TCNJ football coach Casey Goff. "He was still growing as a leader and in so many ways still finding his voice with this program. He is going to be hugely successful when he leaves TCNJ. When he puts it ALL together...look out. This is the type of kid that you will see on the cover of magazines 10 years down the line. We're going to miss Andrew greatly around here." Andrew is excited to start his career after graduation. He will be heading into the business world as an analyst with JP MorganChase.

	Past Trenton St	ate/	The College of New Jerse	y Sc	cholar-Athletes
Year	Nominee/Coach	Year	Nominee/Coach	Year	Nominee/Coach
2019	Erik Graham/Casey Goff	2003	Scott Paterson/Eric Hamilton	1987	Joe Clifton/Eric Hamilton
2018	Max Busca/Casey Goff	2002	Tim Kosuda/Eric Hamilton	1986	Ernie Liberati/Eric Hamilton
2017	Trevor Osler/Casey Goff	2001	Mike Wendell/Eric Hamilton	1985	John Papa/Eric Hamilton
2016	Tom Cilla/Wayne Dickens	2000	Curt Monday/Eric Hamilton	1984	Jim Ball/Eric Hamilton
2015	Andrew Lachawiec/Wayne Dickens	1999	Richard Falletta/Eric Hamilton	1983	Bruce Peditto/Eric Hamilton
2014	Joe Urciuoli & Jake Weiss/	1998	Michael Feeney/Eric Hamilton	1982	Sam Miserendino/Eric Hamilton
	Wayne Dickens	1997	Joe Sciarrone/Eric Hamilton	1981	James Carvalho/Eric Hamilton
2013	Chris McLaughlin/Wayne Dickens	1996	Joe Scaravaglione/Eric Hamilton	1980	Ron Anello/Eric Hamilton
2012	Greg Burns/Eric Hamilton	1995	Steve Guidette/Eric Hamilton	1979	Steve Butfilowski/Eric Hamilton
2011	Jay Donoghue/Eric Hamilton	1994	Scott Dickson & John Reising/	1978	Tom Hendricks/Eric Hamilton
2010	Andrew Mason/Eric Hamilton		Eric Hamilton	1977	Tom Thompson/Eric Hamilton
2009	Colin Weber/Eric Hamilton	1993	Tom Maxwell/Eric Hamilton	1976	Keith Waters/Carmen Piccone
2008	Marc Fabiano/Eric Hamilton	1992	Corey Landing/Eric Hamilton	1975	Doug Prefach/Carmen Piccone
2007	Dan Dornacker & Andy Larkin/	1991	Chris Shaw/Eric Hamilton	1974	Eric Hamilton/Dick Curl
	Eric Hamilton	1990	Mike Tierney/Eric Hamilton	1973	William Paskewich/Pete Carmichael
2006	Ryan Ross/Eric Hamilton	1989	Bob McGinty/Eric Hamilton	1967	Robert Taylor/Bob Salois
2005 2004	Leeaire Brown/Eric Hamilton Jim Dabrowski/Eric Hamilton	1988	Mike Wargo/Eric Hamilton	1965	George Strattman/Bob Salois

### HANK JOHNS COACH OF THE YEAR **ANDREW PATTERSON · ROBBINSVILLE**

When the Robbinsville High football team set a school record for wins by going 9-1 in 2019, cynics insisted the Ravens were a one-hit wonder.

Head coach Andrew Patterson promptly sent out a letter to all his returning players, urging them to ignore such talk because they would be winners again.

When RHS came back to go 6-1 this year with several new players in key positions, those critics were quieted and Patterson was proven correct.

And much of the credit for that success goes to Patterson himself. The former Manchester High player not only knew how to coach the talent he had, but also how to keep them to believing in themselves when few others did. He accomplished that by constantly stressing the team. Even in newspaper articles about an individual, the seven-year head man always made sure to talk about the team. It was that confidence in every player that made them realize what they could accomplish.

On his resume, Andrew lists under accomplishments "I have the privilege of coaching the best kids in the world." Well those kids have the privilege of playing for a one of the best men around, which is why Patterson is the Hank Johns Coach of the Year.

Andrew was an assistant on Robbinsville's first football team in 2004 and he remained in that spot through 2009. He left to become an assistant at his alma mater, The College of New Jersey, for three years, before spending one season as a Princeton University assistant.

Having always remained a teacher in the school – and earning 2020 Teacher of the Year honors - Patterson was dismayed when the arrest of his coaching predecessor sent the program into disarray after 2013. "I didn't know how important Robbinsville football was to me until that happened," he said.

Patterson hated the fact that players who he taught had to watch the story play out on ESPN each night, and decided he knew enough about coaching football to finally run his own program.

He also put together an outstanding staff, and his ego was never threatened by bringing in two former high school head coaches this past year. Were Patterson to have his way, every assistant on his staff would be receiving this award.

But if it can only go to one man, few people would argue with it going to Andrew Patterson.





### **Past Hank Johns Memorial Coach of the Year Recipients**

- 2019 Sean Clancy Notre Dame High School 2018 Joe Frappolli, Florence High School 2017 Jared Mazzetta North Hunterdon 2016 Drew Besler, Ewing 2015 Todd Smith, Hun
- 2014 Jay Graber, Allentown 2013 Dave Caldwell, Hopewell Valley
- 2012 Jon Adams, Nottingham Joe Frappolli, Florence
- 2011 Dan Caruso, Steinert
- 2010 Luke Sinkhorn, New Egypt

- 2009 Chappy Moore, Notre Dame 1996 Keith Hartbauer, Hamilton 1985 Bill Long, Pennington 2008 Dave Caldwell, Hopewell Valley
- 2007 Matthew Perotti, Hunterdon Central
- 2006 Tom Hoglen, Hamilton West
- 2005 Todd Smith, WWP South 2004 Ken Mills, Lawrenceville
- 2003 Joe Frappolli, Florence
- 2002 Kevin Kelly, Conwell Egan 2001 Frank deLaurentis, Peddie
- 2000 Frank Gatto, Steinert
- 1999 Jon Adams, Nottingham 1998 Jim Meert, Hunt. Central
- 1997 Len Weister, Lawrence

- 1995 Charlie Pirrello, North Burlington
- 1994 Jerry Eure, Pennington
- 1993 Ken Keuffel, Lawrenceville
- 1992 Keith Wadsworth, Princeton
- 1991 Joe Frappolli, Florence
- 1990 Harold Beatty, Trenton
- 1989 Tim Hadden, Burlington Twp.
- 1988 John Mackay, Peddie
- 1987 Tom Stuart, WWP
- 1986 Kurt Vollherbst, Princeton

- 1984 Mike Ortman, Morrisville
- 1983 Chappy Moore, Notre Dame
- 1982 Pete Quinn, Trenton
- 1981 Bruce Martz, Ewing
- 1980 Jim Walker,
- Princeton Day 1979 Bruce Martz, Ewing
- 1978 Bill Long, Princeton
- 1977 Bob Hart, Bensalem
- 1976 Chappy Moore, Notre Dame
- 1975 Sam Jefferis,

### THE JACK MILLARD OFFICIALS AWARD **JUSTIN JOHNSON**



The Delaware Valley Chapter of the National Football Foundation and College Hall of Fame proudly announces Justin Johnson as the 2020 recipient of the Jack Millard Official of the Year Award.

By earning this elite status, Justin helps to make some chapter history. He joins his older brother, Abraham Johnson III, who was recognized by the chapter in 2018, to become the first duo of brothers to earn the prestigious Millard Award.

Born and raised in Hamilton, Justin is a 2004 graduate of Hamilton West, where he was a three-sport athlete, excelling in football, basketball, and track and field. But it was on the gridiron where Johnson's excellence and passion truly shined. Through his hard work, dedication, and determination, Justin earned the right to continue his playing days in college at Kean University.

Like many, Justin looked for a way to channel his love for the game after his playing days were over. He wanted a chance to give back to others. In 2012, his older brother – already a rising official across the river in Pennsylvania – suggested becoming a referee, and Justin wisely listened.



Justin began his career that Fall as he trained with the NESAC Pop Warner program in Philadelphia. In 2014, Johnson enrolled in the Officials Cadet Program and became a certified official in New Jersey with the NJSIAA. Justin rose through the ranks quickly – in 2016 and 2017, he had the opportunity to work two NJSIAA championship games - one at MetLife Stadium in East Rutherford, and the other at Rowan University in Glassboro.

While 2020 was a season of great challenges, the opportunity to get on the gridiron – even for an abbreviated season – was an example of the amazing things that can happen when people pull together. From players to coaches to administrators to officials everyone did their best with the "new normal" just to get on the field in any fashion.

Justin Johnson was no exception. He is a fantastic choice to receive the Millard Award and is hopeful for many more exceptional years to come.

### 2019 Eugene P. Ferguson, Jr 2018 Abraham Johnson 2017 Sabrina Isom 2016 Hank Johns, Jr. 2014 Scott Heiser 2013 Tom Carr

2010	James S. Moscarell
2009	Joe Shaw
2008	Raymond F. Stupienski III
2007	Jim Wilno, Jr.
2006	Ed Harris
2005	Karl "Tinker" Johnston
2004	John Welling III
2003	Troy Stephenson
2002	Al Verdel
2001	Vince Boccanfuso

2000 Tim Teel

**Past Jack Millard Offic** 

2012 Greg Bellotti

2011 George Wah

cials	<b>Award Recipier</b>	nts
1999	Jim Cleary	198
1998	Tom McCreesh	198
1997	Merckle Cherry	198
1996	Larry Gunnell	198
1995	Barry Cicale	198
1994	Tom Considine	198
1993	Jim Wilno, Sr.	198
1992	Angelo Giambelluca	197
1991	John Terry	197
1990	John Sheets	197
1989	Byron Crammer	197
1988	Ernie Coluccio	197
1987	Ron Hoehn	197

1112	
1986	Jim Wilno, Jr.
1985	Jack Watro
1984	Paul Chopko
1983	John Zorzi
1982	Al Fullman
1981	Vince Boccanfuso
1980	Jack Millard
1979	George Wah
1978	Norm Van Arsdalen
1977	Chuck Schroeder
1976	Jake Bartolino
1975	Sam Cortina
1974	Tony Mascherin

### DAVID WARDELL

David Wardell has taken great pleasure in being an active member of the Special Olympics New Jersey for over 15 years. A three sport athlete, he has competed in basketball and softball along with bringing his skills to the flag football program. During this time, many of the teams he has participated on have gone on to win gold medals at several state competitions.

Things haven't always come easy for David. Born in Vineland, NJ, he was faced with many challenges from a young age. In his early teens he was placed in a group home which provided a different upbringing. Despite his struggles, he was able to excel at Vineland High School where he played varsity football.

Cindy Godown, David's coach since 2005, has witnessed first hand his growth through the years. "Early on, he was very insecure and unsure about what the future held. With the help of SONJ, his teammates and mentors in life, David has blossomed into an incredible young man, a leader among his peers and one that I am honored to have the privilege to coach."

Currently, David is employed by Amazon, who he notes is a proud sponsor of SONJ. In his free time, he enjoys surrounding himself with family, friends and teammates through competitive sports. When he is not competing, he is proud to be a leader among the athlete population, serving as a committee member in Atlantic, Cumberland and Cape May counties. He also has served as a member of the state Special Olympics committee for softball.

"I am incredibly proud of the man that David has become" Coach Godown states "and I can't think of a more worthy recipient of the Eunice Kennedy Shriver Champion Award than David Wardell."





### **Past Eunice Kennedy Shriver Award Recipients**

2019 Casey Mann2018 Brian Pitts

2017 Chris McCormac2016 Kevin McCormac

2015 Steve Rodenbeck

# Congratulations Michael Surtz!

### 2020 Delaware Valley Chapter National Football Foundation Scholar • Leader • Athlete





We are so proud of what you've done, what you are doing and what you will do.

Love, Mom, Dad, Matt, Tommy and Jimmy

# Congratulations Coach Andrew Patterson!

### 2020 Hank Johns Coach of the Year Delaware Valley Chapter National Football Foundation





Thank you for everything you do for the Robbinsville Football Program

Robbinsville REDZONE Booster Club

# CONGRATULATIONS TO RICK MANTZ

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"The price of success is hard work, dedication to the job at hand, and the determination that whether we win or lose, we have applied the best of ourselves to the task at hand."

- Vince Lombardi

"The man on top of the mountain didn't fall there."

- Vince Lombardi

Vince said it better than I could. Sometimes good guys do finish first!

~Ken and JoAnn Fisher~

BEST WISHES TO ALL

SCHOLAR • LEADER • ATHLETES



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### **CONGRATS COACH MANTZ!!**

Such a well deserved honor for a coach that has given so much to so many young men.

I have such fond memories of the PRIDE that you brought back to the BORO over 25 years ago.

The work ethic that you instilled in all of us both on and off the field still resonates with me today.

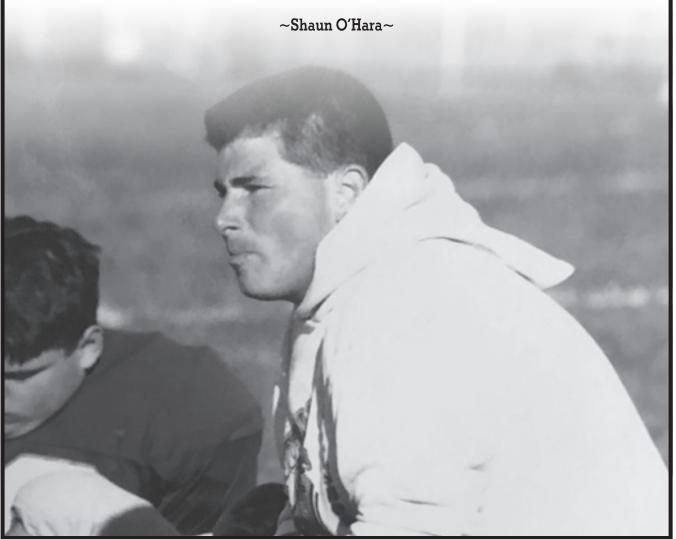
**DISCIPLINE:** "Doing what you are supposed to do, when you are supposed to do it."

You were never just a coach though, as you taught us about so much more. Like how to sod and seed a field, how to spit between your teeth, how to make a water trough out of PVC pipe, along with how to handle a jackhammer, and the dangers of Poison Ivy, to name a few!

High School football is such a special time in a young man's life, creating lasting memories for us to share. Thank you for making a life-lasting impact on all of ours.

We are all grateful for your dedication and selflessness.

#WorkHardHitHardBeatCentral



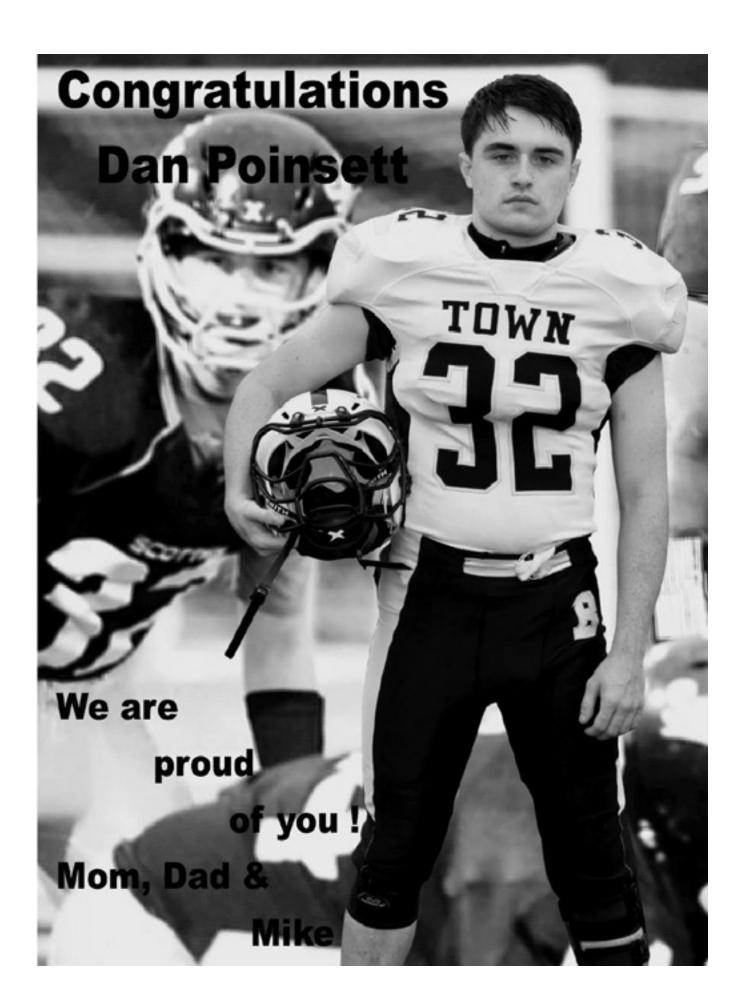


### David Wardell Eunice Kennedy Shriver Champion





AREA 08 Atlantic, Cape May & Cumberland Counties



### **TOMMY HURLEY #68**



Dedicated Athlete.
Gifted Student.
Amazing Person.



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AND RESPECT FOR AUTHORITY.
VINCE LOMBARDI



Best wishes for your future at Kings College!



Thank you for being all of the above & representing what Florence Football is all about!

Florence Flashes 2020 Coaching Staff, Team & Parent Pit Club





The Bill Denny / Rutgers Football Letterwinners Chapter of the National Football Foundation and College Hall of Fame

Would like to Congratulate

### RICK MANTZ

On receiving awell-deserved award, being a great man, a friend and a valued member of the Bill Denny Rutgers Football Letterwinners Chapter

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and applauds this year's chapter award winners including

### Tom McCarthy

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and

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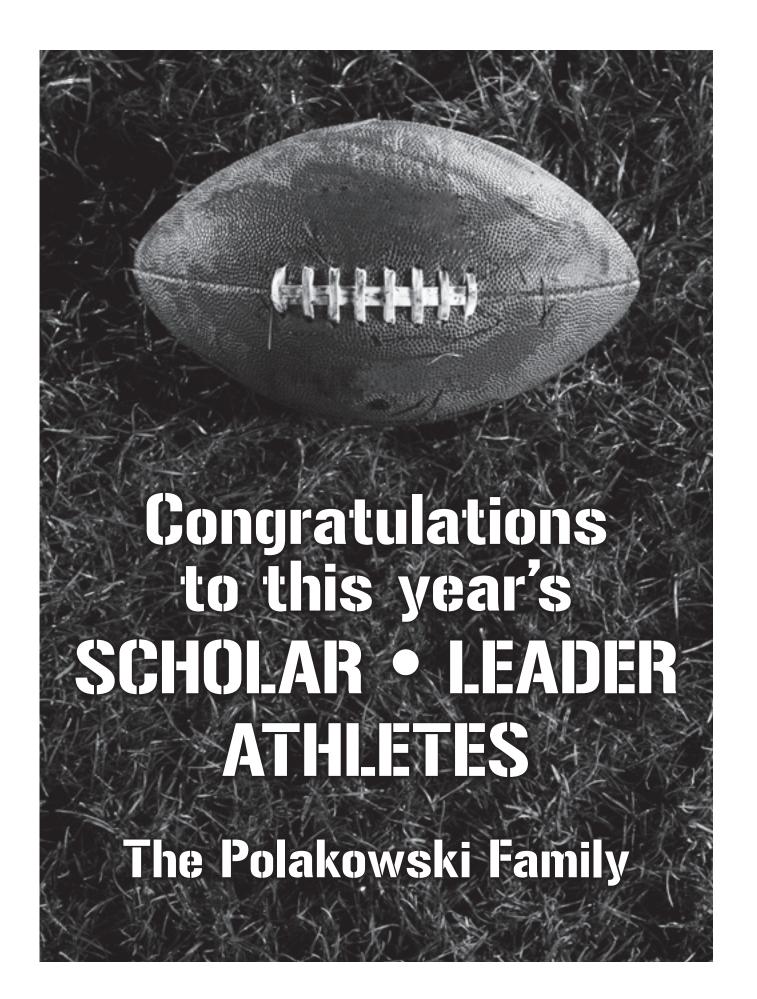
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Dr. Jim is a Board Certified Behavior Analyst-Doctorate who has worked in the field of Special Education and Autism for 30 plus years.

He is the Immediate Past Chairman of the Autism Society of America's National Board of Directors and is currently an appointed Community Member of the Interagency Autism Coordinating Committee.



# **Tommy Belsky**

## **Congratulations!**

Hopewell Valley H.S. 2021 Delaware Valley Chapter Football Scholar Leader Athlete



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- ✓ Three year Varsity letter winner
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# Congratulations, Evan Tritt '21!





Notre Dame is proud to join the Delaware Valley Chapter of the National Football Foundation and College Hall of Fame in honoring our Scholar-Leader-Athlete.



# Congratulations to

Robert F. Casciola Distinguished American Award Winner

## TOM McCARTHY

and

George O'Gorman Contribution to Amateur Football Award Winner

## RICK MANTZ

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Scholar • Leader • Athletes

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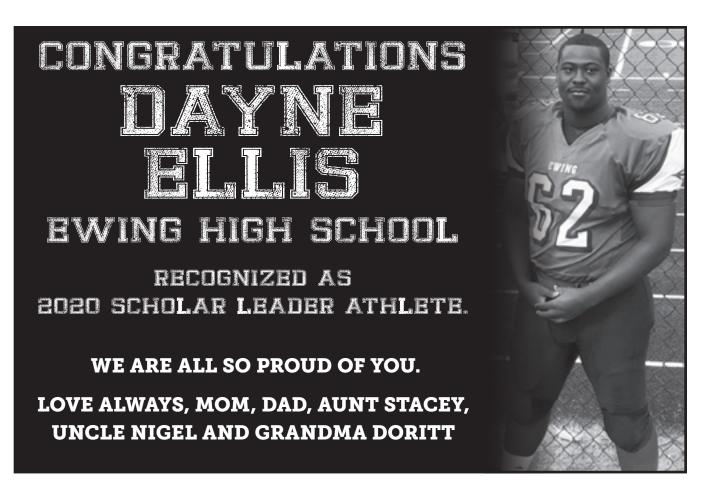
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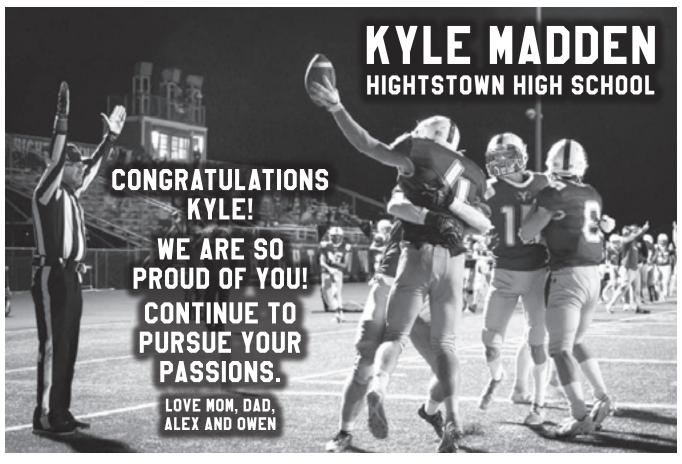
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# Congratulations DYLAN ANGELUCCI

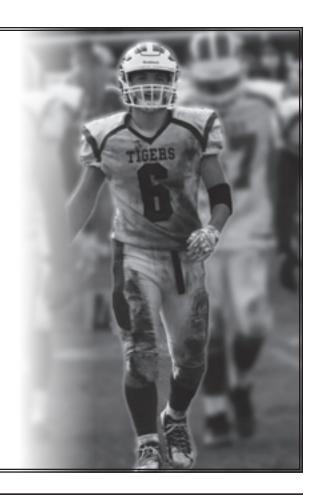
Princeton High School · Captain #6

Your commitment to Academics, Athletics, and Leadership successes are a cornerstone of what a PHS athletes strive to accomplish.

Many thanks for your 4 years of service.

Best of luck in all your endeavors!

TIGER FOOTBALL



# Congratulations Dan Poinsett! Scholar Leader Athlete for Bordentown

- Bordentown Scotties Huddle Club and Coaches -



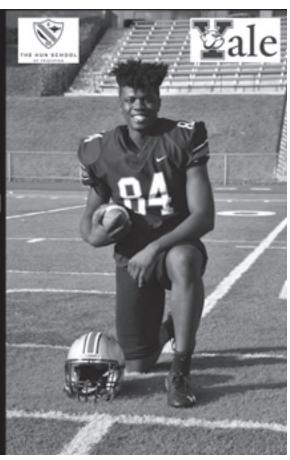
Congratulations to The Hun School's

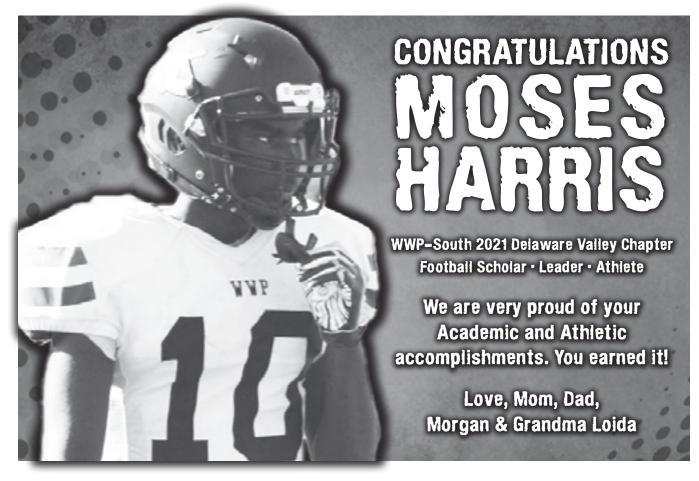
## **KELVIN SMITH**

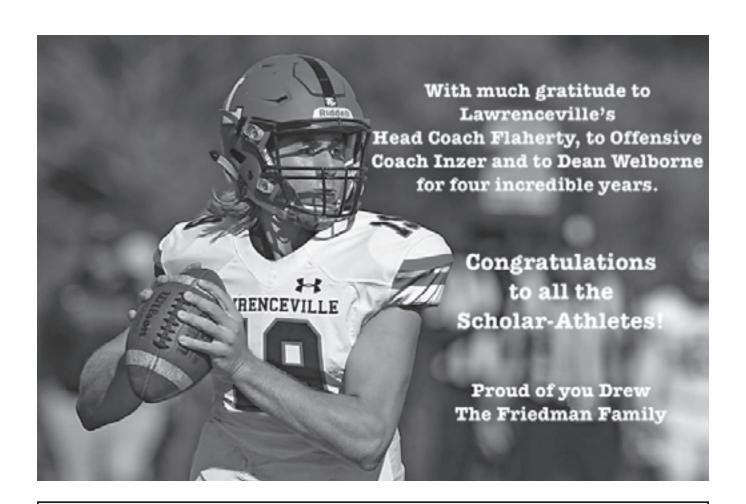
on being named
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SCHOLAR-LEADER-ATHLETE

We love you and are incredibly proud of your academic and athletic accomplishments! We pray God's continued blessings upon you!

Love Mom, Dad & Jaz







# Congratulations ANDREW PATTERSON

HANK JOHNS COACH OF THE YEAR AWARD



**ROBBINSVILLE HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETICS DEPARTMENT** 

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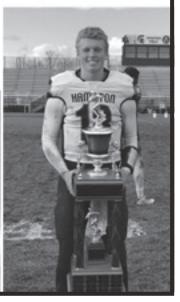
## MIKE NIELSEN #18

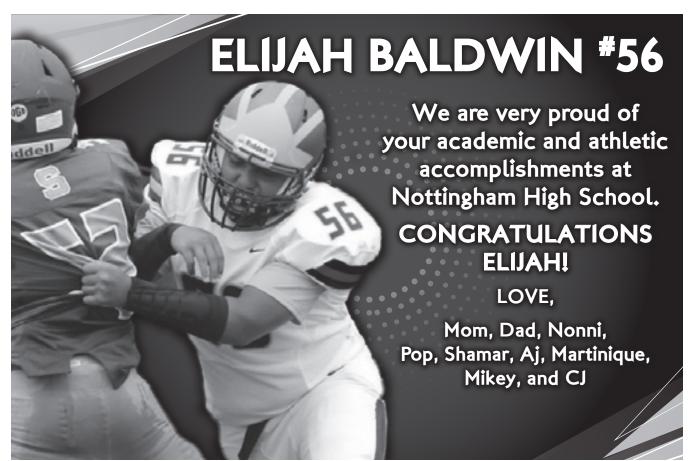
Congratulations on being named the
Hamilton High West Delaware Valley Chapter
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We're so proud of you!



Love, Mom, Dad & Jayni





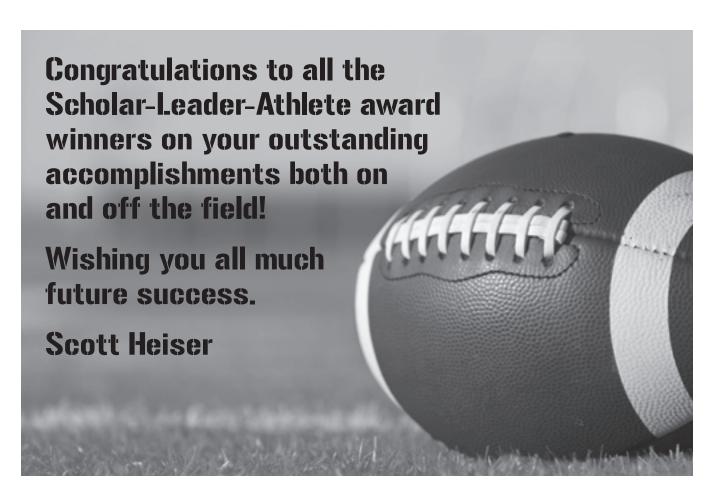


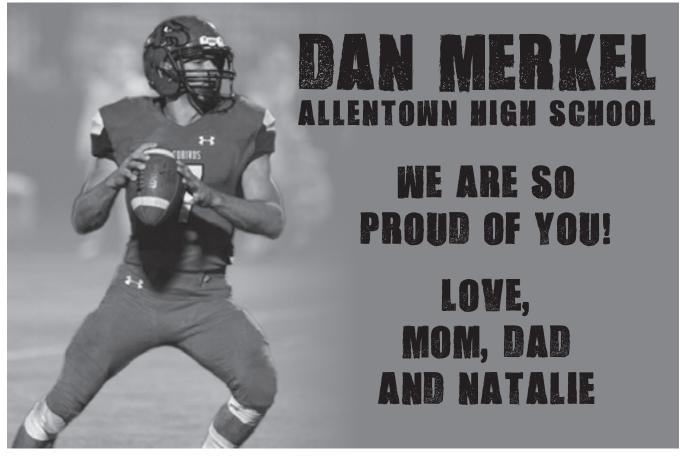


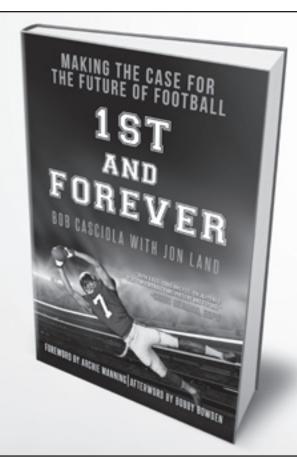
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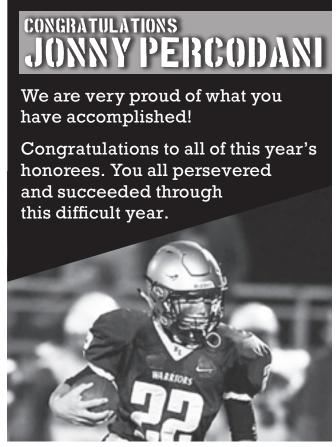
Part memoir and part homage to the game he loves, former National Football Foundation president Bob Casciola mounts a persuasive case in support of football's relevance to life.

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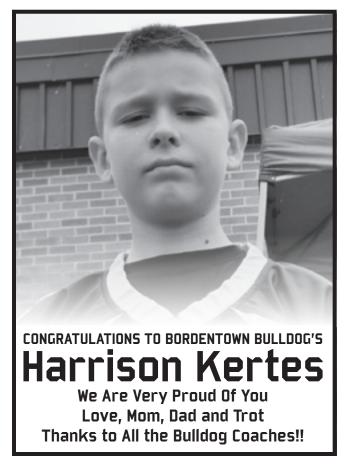
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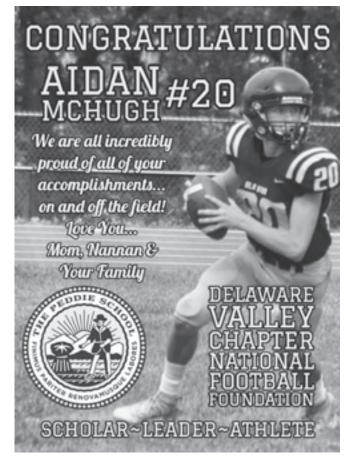












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George O'Gorman

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# **RICK MANTZ**

Best Wishes to all

Scholar Leader Athletes