



GEORGE WAH
SCHOLAR LEADER
ATHLETE
AWARDS

DELAWARE VALLEY CHAPTER • 60TH ANNUAL
MARCH 13, 2022



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1934-2022

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Maryland Boxing Hall of Fame

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Father of Coach Kelly Myers,
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Delaware Valley Chapter





60TH GEORGE WAH SCHOLAR LEADER ATHLETE AWARDS

SUNDAY, MARCH 13, 2022 • PRINCETON MARRIOTT

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

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2021 CHAPTER AWARD RECIPIENTS

Robert F. Casciola Distinguished American

Ron Dilatush
National Football Foundation
and College Hall of Fame

George O'Gorman Contribution to Amateur Football

Steve Tuckerson

Hank Johns Coach Award

Skip Edwards

Jack Millard Officials Award

Terrance Stokes

Delaware Valley Chapter Little Scholar

Dominic Cuniglio III

Eunice Kennedy Shriver Champion Award

Michele Asher-Coddington

Princeton University Judge Arthur Lane Scholar-Leader-Athletes

David Hoffman
Reily Radosevich

Tony Persichilli Meritorious Service Award

Merkle Cherry

Nick Gusz Good Guy Award

Mary Ellen Cassidy

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2021 SCHOLAR LEADER ATHLETE AWARDS

ROBERT F. CASCIOLA DISTINGUISHED AMERICAN AWARD

RON DILATUSH



Little did Bob Casciola realize it when he hired Ron Dilatush in 2006, that Ron would one day win the award named after Coach Casciola.

That day has arrived, as the Plainsboro, New Jersey native is this year's top award winner at the Delaware Valley National Football Foundation's George Wah Scholar-Leader-Athlete Dinner.

Ron is receiving the Robert F. Casciola Distinguished American Award based on a lifetime of service to the game of football.

"Ron's senior year at West Windsor-Plainsboro was my first year as head coach of Trenton State (now The College of New Jersey)," Delaware Valley Chapter President Eric Hamilton said. "We obviously knew he was going to play Division One so we didn't have much chance of recruiting him, but you still couldn't help but hear about him and notice him and be impressed by the things he did. And you would hear through so many people about what a good kid he was.

"That hasn't changed over the years. Ron has not only been a solid citizen, but the work he has done for this organization at many different levels has helped us continue to grow and thrive. He has grown into a good man. He goes about things in a professional manner and you can tell he cares about football from the grassroots level and up. He has spent a lifetime giving back to the game."

A 1978 WW-P graduate, Ron earned numerous football awards during his time at Princeton Junction. He was first-team All-America his senior year, while also running track and playing baseball and basketball for the Pirates. Ron went on to the University of Delaware, playing football and lettering on the Blue Hens top-ranked baseball team.

Ron showed just how much he cared about youth football when he became the National Football Commissioner for Pop Warner Little Scholars, the largest such youth program in the nation.

In 2004, Bob Casciola, who was the National Football Foundation's President & CEO at the time, hired Ron as the East Region Coordinator. Two years later, he became Director of Membership, a position he still holds today. In that capacity, Ron oversees the Foundation's 120 chapters and the overall development of the chapter system; as well as the NFF's Institutional Academic Membership program and National Scholar-Athlete Alumni Association.

The father of three and grandfather of one, Ron is living in Lewisville, Texas, where he certainly gets his gridiron fix in a football-crazed state.



Past Distinguished American Award Recipients

2020 Tom McCarthy	2009 Glenn K. Rieth	1998 Thomas Bracken	1987 Lawrence Tiihoonen	1976 Royce Flippin
2019 Wayne DeAngelo	2008 Kelly Myers	1997 Win Headley	1986 Albert DiMartin	1975 Crosby Copeland
2018 Angelo J. Onofri	2007 Chris Vernon	1996 Tim Losch	1985 Robert Casciola	1974 Al Neuschafer
2017 Michael J. Renna	2006 Marc Edenzon	1995 Bob Prunetti	1984 Roy Schleicher	1973 Dr. Joseph Zawadsky
2016 Richard Freeman	2005 Cathy DiCostanzo	1994 Bill Granville	1983 Jake McCandless	1972 R. Kenneth Fairman
2015 Bernard M. Flynn	2004 Christy Stephenson	1993 Cosmo Iacavazzi	1982 Earl H. Dean	1971 Sen. Richard Coffee
2014 Jeff Perlman	2003 Sen. Peter Inverso	1992 George Chandler	1981 William Pierce	1970 Bert Gulick, Jr.
2013 Jesse Armstead	2002 Patrick L. Ryan	1991 Alfred Bridges	1980 Nicholas Gusz	1969 Robert Cox
2012 Frank J. Lucchesi	2001 Maurice Perilli	1990 Eugene A. Renna	1979 William McGuire	1968 James Kerney, Jr.
2011 Eric Hamilton	2000 Jay Destribats	1989 Len Rivers	1978 Richard Landis	Fred Schluter
2010 Richard P Lisk	1999 William Faherty	1988 Capt. Harry Masterson	1977 Francis McManimon	1967 Don Ehret

2021 SCHOLAR LEADER ATHLETE AWARDS

GEORGE O'GORMAN CONTRIBUTION TO AMATEUR FOOTBALL AWARD **STEVE TUCKERSON**

Steve Tuckerson has gone from a seat at the produce section to one of the most esteemed seats on the podium at the Delaware Valley's Scholar-Leader-Athlete Dinner.

"Tuck" is this year's recipient of the George O'Gorman Contribution to Amateur Football Award, an honor he was born to receive that has been 22 years in the making.

The 1997 Pennsville High graduate earned a journalism degree from The College of New Jersey in 2001 and by that time had already embarked on a professional writing career. After serving as sports editor for the TCNJ school paper, The Signal, for two years, Steve started an eight-year stint at the Trenton Times in 1999.

Tuck began by covering swimming and softball and, after just one year, was given the highly important football beat while still in college. During that time he hooked up with Phillies announcer and last year's Distinguished American Winner, Tom McCarthy, for McCarthy's supermarket radio show.

"One of my fondest memories that first year was being a weekly guest on the show, which he hosted at Wegmans in West Windsor," Steve recalled.

That began a lifetime of work dedicated to amateur football, as Tuck began working with such Delaware Valley Chapter activities such as the 12th Man TD Club, Sunshine Football Classic and the Scholar-Leader-Athlete dinner. He also covered wrestling, baseball, youth sports, and whatever else was necessary while at the Times.

Looking back on his time as a sports writer, Steve lauds co-workers such as Rick Freeman, Bill Kennedy, Len Bardsley, Red Birch and lifelong friends Keith Glock and Mike Olshin. He also developed strong relationships with competing reporters such as Jim Davis, Joe O'Gorman, Rich Fisher and his award's namesake, George O'Gorman.

Despite all his other sports, Steve's attachment to football led him to become more active with DelVal chapter events at the coaxing of President Eric Hamilton.

"I went from covering the TD Club for the Times to the dual role of also emceeding it," Tuck said. "I went from covering the annual SLA dinner to having a role in the planning and execution of the event."

That bond remained intact after Steve left the Times to work outside of journalism. He has taken over as the banquet's Master of Ceremonies and helps do write-ups for the program, among numerous other responsibilities.

Tuck and his wife Jennifer live in South Brunswick with their children Michael, Juliana and Emma, whom he coaches in youth sports. He works for J&J as program facilitator after 15 years of program planning and event execution with an international non-profit organization.

And although football is no longer his living, it's still his passion. "I just know," he said, "that it's been a rewarding 20-plus years to be involved with an organization that gives so much back to the community year after year." And Tuck continues to give so much to the DelVal Chapter.



Past Contribution to Amateur Football Award Recipients

2020 Rick Mantz	2006 Jim Griffin	1994 Harley Gaskill/ Fred Stives	1981 Ken Kueffel
2019 Heather Andersen	2005 John Curtis	1993 Bob Jaroni	1980 George O'Gorman
2018 Charles R Thompson	2004 Steve Gazdek	1992 Edward Naylor	1979 Ed Cook
2017 Dan Klim	2003 Vince Reed	1991 Roger Hendler	1978 Jack Stephan
2016 Ken Fisher	2002 Scott Brunner	1990 George Sperling	1977 Steve Muench
2015 Dr. William Gomez	2001 Sam Jefferis	1989 Ed Farley	1976 Dr. Paul Checbro
2014 John Law	2000 Troy Vincent	1988 Burtis "Bunker" Hill	1975 Jack Petrone
2013 Rob Radice	1999 Wes Kirkpatrick	1987 Joseph Fruscione	1974 Fred Holmes
2012 Rich Fisher	1998 David "Poppy" Sanderson	1986 John Morris	1973 Roy Van Ness
2011 Paul "Bones" Vichroski	1997 Ron Rick, Jr.	1985 Eric Hamilton	1972 John Gorman
2010 John D. McKenna	1996 The Santuzza Oilers	1984 Jack Rafferty	1971 Robert Sinkler
2009 Steven J. Timko	1995 Tony Persichilli	1983 Ron Rick	1970 Pete Morgan
2008 Tom Murray		1982 Harold "Bus" Saidt	1969 Fred Schluter
2007 Jim Fisher			1968 Ed Zanfrini

2021 SCHOLAR LEADER ATHLETE AWARDS

PAST SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

Year	Winner / High School / College / Award
2020	Austin McHugh / North Hunterdon / Florida St. University / \$5,000 Kyle Madden / Hightstown / Rowan University / \$2,500 Deklin Smith / Steinert / Yale University / \$1,500
2019	Ian Franzoni / Hun / Brown University / \$5,000 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 / \$1,500
2014	Michael Curry / Allentown / Johns Hopkins / \$5,000 Brady Hudik / Bordentown / Wagner / \$2,500 Micheal 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 / \$2,500
2005	Imaniborn Etukeren / Lawrenceville / Arizona State / \$5,000 David Blitzler / 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

Year	Winner / High School / College / Award
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 Adam Warcholak / Lawrence / Franklin & Marshall / \$2,500 James Renna / WWP / Princeton / \$2,500
1988	Scott Schienvar / Hightstown / Washington / \$5,000 Russell Player / Burlington Twp. / Holy Cross / \$2,500 Tom Falkowski / Allentown / Bucknell / \$2,500
1987	Paul Evans / Hamilton / Pennsylvania / \$5,000 Scott Snyder / Council Rock / Virginia Tech / \$2,500 Eric Smith / Lawrence / Cornell / \$2,500
1986	John Kleinman / WWP / Lehigh / \$4,000 Scott Miller / Princeton Day / Brown / \$2,000 Jesse Klingbiel / Princeton / Bucknell / \$2,000
1985	Todd Ortmann / Pennsbury / Princeton / \$2,000 CJ Cunningham / Council Rock / Pennsylvania / \$1,000 Charles McCall / WWP / Pennsylvania / \$1,000
1984	Galen Beske / WWP / Lafayette / \$1,500 Eric Hovanec / Princeton Day / Princeton / \$750 David Nitti / Ewing / Villanova / \$750
1983	Ed Hudson / Lawrenceville / Harvard / \$1300 Mike Schnoering / Nottingham / NJ Tech / \$650 Darren Doherty / Notre Dame / Swarthmore / \$650
1982	Nathan Thompson / Lawrence / William & Mary / \$800 Mike Druckman / WWP / Harvard / \$400 Richard Guinness / Steinert / Rider / \$400

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
1962	Pat Ryan / Notre Dame / Walt Porter

2021 SCHOLAR LEADER ATHLETE AWARDS

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, but 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.

2021 SCHOLAR LEADER ATHLETE AWARDS



FRANCESCO BARONE HUN SCHOOL

Never the easiest decision for Hun head coach Todd Smith when it comes to selecting a nominee for the Scholar-Leader-Athlete award. The 2022 graduating class includes three Ivy Leaguers and a Vanderbilt signee.

But this year, Smith knew exactly where to turn. Francesco Barone was the “best of the best” for Smith, an incredible leader on and off the field that led the Raiders to one of their best seasons in school history.

“If you watch his film, you see a missile on the field,” Smith said. “A 6-foot, 200-pound man that looks to seek and destroy. He works harder and plays faster than everyone else. When he gets to the ball carrier, they go down.”

So that led to more than a dozen offers – from all levels of FBS and FCS football – from academic powerhouses and military academies and everywhere in between. Ultimately an offer to the University of Pennsylvania and the prestigious Wharton School proved to be a total package that Barone couldn’t pass up.

Francesco has given his time as a volunteer for the Challenger program, where he works with athletes who have special needs. He’s in the Athletic Debate club, works as a volunteer with the Manalapan Youth Football Association, interned with the Labyrinthe Holdings Corporation, and participates in the Ski club, Sports Commentator club, College Recruiting club, Chocolate Milk club, and Juggling club – which must be where Barone learned to juggle so many pursuits at such a high level for so much of the time. “Francesco was our leader,” Smith said. “When he spoke, our players listened. Our players looked to him for a spark and he never disappointed. He will go down as one of the great ones at Hun.”



JAKE DIBLASIO ALLENTOWN

Allentown head coach Andrew Lachenmayer describes Jake DiBlasio as the ultimate leader.

“Jake’s attention to detail in the way he prepares himself for assessments and activities are second to none,” Lachenmayer said. “Jake frequently took extensive notes on our weekly gameplan and always came to me with questions, wanting more detail so he knew exactly what was required of him. He has been a positive role model for younger student-athletes and possesses many leadership qualities that will help him in the future.”

Throughout Jake’s time at Allentown, he has demonstrated the ability to achieve top level grades and be a positive contributor to the school and all his classes. A member of the National Honor Society, as well as the French and Math honor societies, DiBlasio was elected to cut the ribbon at the inaugural game of Allentown High’s new football field.

Jake is an avid powerlifter and will be competing in his first competition this spring. He volunteers with Law Enforcement Against Drugs and is a volunteer coach / play caller for various Pop Warner teams.

Recognized as his team’s Player of the Year, Jake is a two-year starter in lacrosse as well.

“Jake has shown from the start of his high school career that he is among the hardest working athletes I’ve ever coached,” Lachenmayer said. “He stayed late, arrived early, and had a constant desire to outwork his fellow teammates and competitors to become a better player. Jake always looks to improve and puts what is best for the team or the group before himself.”



2021 SCHOLAR LEADER ATHLETE AWARDS

SAM GADIE TRENTON

Chris Franco knew he didn't have much time to prepare for the 2021 season. Hired late in the year, the first-year Trenton coach knew he had to move quickly to get things going.

Fortunately for Franco, he had an incredible leader in Sam Gadie.

"He made an impression right from the start with his eagerness to work and positive attitude," Franco said. "Sam has a work ethic that every coach wishes their players would have. There was never a time that he didn't finish a workout, give 100 percent in practice, and he truly led his team by always doing the right thing on and off the field."

An honor roll student who is bilingual in English and French, Sam is a three-sport athlete, also excelling in basketball and track. He has been highly recruited and coaches consistently rave about Sam's maturity and how he represents himself. He is an outgoing student with a strong work ethic, always prepared and ready to contribute ideas in class and keep other students in order and on task.

"There was never a doubt that Sam deserved to represent Trenton," Franco said. "I am convinced he will remain the humble, highly motivated, respectful person he is and continue to do great things in the future."

"Sam will continue to lead by example and set high standards and goals for himself," Franco continued. "I am very proud of what Sam has accomplished. I cannot say enough positive things about his character and his integrity."



MAX GIBBARD PENNINGTON

Swiss army knife on the field, renaissance man off it. Max Gibbard does a little bit of everything and does it well a lot of the time.

Where has Max played for head coach Jerry Eure the last four years? Better to ask where he hasn't. The Yardley, Pa., resident has played quarterback, wide receiver, defensive back, tight end, safety, and kicker for the Red Raiders. Turned in 241 yards receiving and three TDs in a win over Peddie this year and kicked the extra point after each. Put Gibbard into the kicker slot on your fantasy football team for sure!

But that's such a minor snapshot of Max. His outstanding character and mature attitude are what sets him apart – positive leadership and a willing mentor to the next generation of Red Raiders. A member of student government, the Math club, the French club, the Science Olympiad team, the Computer Science club, a volunteer at Morrisville Food Bank and Malawi Refugee camp. Like we said, a little bit of everything and a lot of it well.

Max has grown up playing guitar and piano his whole life and is a founder and owner of his own landscaping company, which he began before his freshman year at Pennington. Max is also passionate about fitness and staying in shape his whole life – with a stated goal of being able to water ski and age 85 like his grandfather could.

"Max has earned the respect and admiration of the coaching staff, the players, his teachers, and his fellow classmates," Eure said. "He has distinguished himself in many ways during his years at the Pennington School."



2021 SCHOLAR LEADER ATHLETE AWARDS



WILLIAM GONZALES NOTRE DAME

William Gonzales has made the most of Notre Dame's academic, athletic, and service programs through his years at the school.

"William is what we all hope our student-athletes will become – scholars, athletes, leaders, and a role model for students in our programs," ND head coach Sean Clancy said. "William is a leader in the classroom and on the field, and Notre Dame is proud to call him a member of the Irish family."

Among the top 10 percent of students in his graduating class, William has a schedule full of ND's most challenging courses in English, Calculus, Economics, and Service Learning among others. As a leader in the school's Selective Service class, William is responsible for administering the 30,000-plus hours of service that ND students complete each year.

In addition to THAT massive undertaking, William handles numerous challenges, has incredible athletic drive, and has displayed excellent athleticism in both football and lacrosse. He's never missed a workout, practice, or game and is a three-way starter as he returns kicks on special teams.

"William leads because the role comes naturally to him, but not all natural leaders can put the needs of others first," Clancy said. William has demonstrated that he is always willing to put his teammate first."

A four-year member of the ND Peer Leadership program, William has served as a volunteer for the Mercer County Miracle League. He is a member of the National Honor Society, the school's Catholic Athletes for Christ organization, as well as the Patriots Club. He is a regular on the ND Honors with Distinction list for his academic performance.



SHANE JOHNSON WEST WINDSOR-PLAINSBORO

Top student, top athlete, top leader. That's the short version of Shane Johnson and his impact on the West Windsor-Plainsboro program.

Shane had the highest GPA on the team despite a schedule loaded with Honors and AP courses. He led the team in rushing, passing, and scoring on offense – and in tackles on defense.

"As a leader, he's the best I've coached," WW-P head coach Bill Furlong said. "Shane was a leader by example, as well as a vocal leader. He held himself and his teammates accountable, not only in games, but every day at practice. He always looked like he was enjoying what he was doing, whether it was passing, tackling, or running sprints. His positive attitude was contagious. He always seemed to know when to get on a teammate to push him and when to pick them up with some encouragement."

A first-team, all-division QB, Shane set a team single-season record with 26 TD passes as a sophomore. He's a talented lacrosse player as well, ranking among the best in New Jersey.

Shane has earned Best in Class awards in AP Economics, AP Psychology, and Chinese and is a member of the Chinese Honor Society. He's a Pop Warner coach, been selected as a tour guide for incoming students, and served as a volunteer for Christian Athletes for Christ.

"These past two years have been tough on high school athletes, but Shane never complained or sat back and waited to see what would happen," Furlong said. "He took the initiative and went out and found a way to compete. In a word, he is a competitor."



2021 SCHOLAR LEADER ATHLETE AWARDS

TROTMAN KERTES BORDENTOWN

Two years removed from an 0-10 campaign, head coach Skip Edwards' squad flipped the script in 2021 and set a school record with 10 wins.

Team captain Trotman Kertes was a major reason why. The first-team, all-conference defensive end earned accolades on and off the field.

"Trotman gives his best in everything he attempts to do," Edwards said. "Players like Trotman come along once in a while, and I have had the privilege of observing him in our program for the last three years, which I feel honored to know such an outstanding young man who I feel will be a positive contributor to society."

A member of the school's National Honor Society chapter, Trotman is part of the Senior Class spirit club, is a tour guide for freshmen at Bordentown, and is actively involved as a volunteer at Saint Mary's Parish. He volunteers with Bordentown's rec football and basketball leagues, is part of the high school's orchestra, and a captain for Bordentown's winter and spring track teams.

Trotman is also a consistent A-level / honor roll student with a strong A average in his classes.

"Trotman is very serious about his studies and works hard to achieve the grades he earns," Edwards said. "As you can imagine, he is very busy, but still finds time to be in the school orchestra and play the violin. There are student-athletes who leave a lasting impression on those they come across for the good of society and our future. Trotman Kertes is one of those people."



JAKE LENGLE HOPEWELL VALLEY

Team first. School first. Community first.

Jake Lengle wears those labels with pride. That's what makes him such a trusted leader.

"Jake was a team captain, all-conference defensive back, led the team in receiving yards, never missed a practice, and never came off the field," said Dave Caldwell, still the team's only head coach since football was revived at Hopewell Valley nearly 20 years ago. "He was the person who players and coaches could always count on especially in a time of need. This selfless, team-first attitude is what defines Jake. He is a player who is always willing to do what's best for the team."

Jake was born with a significant loss of hearing in his left ear. But rather than hinder his ability to succeed, Jake learned to be unrelenting in his pursuit of success. His weighted GPA is 4.1 and his schedule is full of high academic classes. On the field – Hopewell needed a kicker during the COVID season of 2020. Jake had no experience with either – but the coaches trusted him to learn and he grew into a very consistent kicker on a playoff team in 2021.

A two-time National German Exam Gold medalist, Jake is also a two-year starting outfielder for the school's baseball team, which won the CVC championship in 2021. He batted over .300 and used his speed to track down plenty of balls in the field.

The 2021 Bulldog Award recipient as team MVP, Jake Lengle did more than help the Bulldogs to a winning season. He helped maintain the school's tradition of turning out tough, smart, gritty leaders.



2021 SCHOLAR LEADER ATHLETE AWARDS



GARY LEWIS LAWRENCEVILLE

If new head coach Napoleon Sykes' primary goal, as stated, was to change the culture of the Big Red program, then having a postgraduate leader like Gary Lewis was a blessing. Not only did Lewis make countless big plays on the field to help lay the framework for future success, but he made just as big an impact off the field.

"Gary immediately stepped into that leadership role," Sykes said. "He is a natural. He approaches everything with a hard hat mentality. Gary's ability to take over a game showed up immediately – but more importantly, so did his ability to show his teammates how to practice, how to compete, and how to be a great teammate. Gary has an uncanny ability to reach people at their level. Whether he is sticking around after practice to work on things with younger players, talking with teammates about how to prepare mentally, having a positive outlook at every turn, or helping struggling teammates ask for aid in class, Gary is always standing in a place of service."

It's not possible to ask for more from a leader. A football, basketball, and track star, Gary has also served in the Italian Club, the Diversity Amongst Peers club, and as a Bible school counselor.

"Gary carries himself with a maturity and grace you don't typically see from someone in high school," Sykes said. "Gary scored a ton of touchdowns, made countless big plays on both sides of the ball, and through his leadership, garnered an abundance of respect from his coaches and teammates. He is truly a 'man built for others.'"



BRANDON MALINOWSKI FLORENCE

Brandon Malinowski checks all the boxes when it comes to excelling as a Scholar-Leader-Athlete for Florence as far as legendary coach Joe Frappolli is concerned.

"By his actions, Brandon demonstrated a hard work ethic – leading drills, always at practice, willing to do anything for the team," said Frappolli who completed his 48th year at the helm of a program that has long served as one of the small-school community models in New Jersey. "One just has to love his attitude. It's what we as coaches strive and work for to see in our players. It's what Florence Flashes football has been about during my years as head coach."

Brandon is no doubt a scholar, with a weighted GPA that ranks him 9th in a class of 111. Science has always been his favorite subject. Brandon is a member of the Science League, has participated in the Lockheed Martin Engineering trip, and attended the Artificial Intelligence camp run at Stanford University. He is highly regarded within the school – not just for his academic prowess, but for his work at the tutoring center guiding and assisting his fellow students. He goes out of his way to help others on a regular basis because that is important to Brandon.

His selfless attitude carries over to his church where he is an altar server at mass and involved in several food drives for the needy. He carries many other community service projects as a member of the National Honor Society. Brandon also volunteers as a youth counselor at the annual Joe Frappolli Youth Football camp, worked his way into one of the area's best through his relentless approach to the weight room, and happens to be upbeat, positive, and selfless in all he does. "Brandon," Frappolli said, "is one special man who epitomizes everything the Scholar-Leader-Athlete represents."



2021 SCHOLAR LEADER ATHLETE AWARDS

TOM MARKOVICH NORTH HUNTERDON

It's going to be tough for North Hunterdon head coach Kevin Kley to replace Tom Markovich. He's been able to count on Tom as a standout lineman and leader since he took over the program before the 2019 season.

"When players get a new head coach, many are skeptical," Kley said. "They have to adjust to new philosophies, concepts, and more. Tom and many of the other players were quick to not only adjust, but also accept and promote what we wanted to do. Tom was a true leader for us on and off the field."

In the classroom and around the school, Tom is a vital member of the North Hunterdon community. He maintains a strong GPA, is respected by peers and faculty, and participates in many extracurricular activities.

Tom is Vice President of the Patriotic Youth Club, a Teen Pep Peer educator, a Blood Drive volunteer, and a participant in Spike for a Cure and Relay for Life. He is a member of the National Honor Society and Social Studies Honor Society, and a two-time winner of the Spanish Academic Achievement Award.

A star lineman on both sides of the ball, Tom has also excelled on the school's Track and Field team, competing in the shotput and discus events.

"Tom was chosen by his coaches and teammates to be a captain, which is an enormous honor at North Hunterdon," Kley said. "We held leadership council meetings (multiple times) each week, and he often led discussions among the other captains. He acted as an excellent liaison between athletes and coaches, and his leadership will be deeply missed."



PATRICK MCAULIFFE HAMILTON

Genuine and caring off the field, ferocious on it. That's how Hamilton head coach Mike Papero describes lineman Patrick McAuliffe.

"What I find most inspiring about Patrick," said Papero, "is the caring spirit which he exhibits within our school community. I saw firsthand his ability to be an effective, open-minded, natural leader. Pat was undoubtedly the leader of our team, and in many ways, the epitome of what we hope our student athletes become."

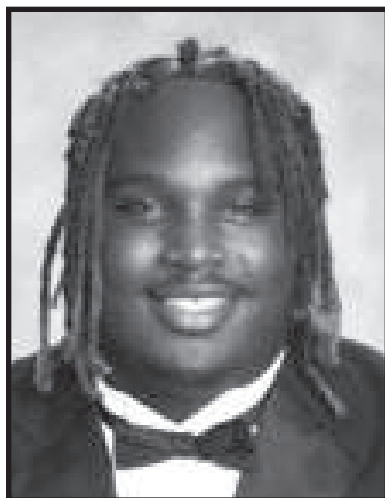
In the top 10 percent of his graduating class at Hamilton West, Patrick is a multi-year member of the school's National Honor Society chapter. An honor roll student whose schedule includes numerous Advanced Placement courses, McAuliffe has volunteered with the Special Olympics throughout his high school years and the Miracle League of Mercer County. He's involved in West's Peer Leadership program, serves as the school's Yearbook editor, and mentors other students in many other school positions.

The kind of player that others looked to for guidance, McAuliffe always maintained the best interests of the program in mind. He was voted game week captain numerous times and never hesitated to help his teammates on or off the field.

"Pat's elite work ethic in all aspects of life is evident to those lucky enough to come in contact with him," Papero said. "His desire for perfection has made him into the outstanding and caring person that he is today. Over the past four years, I have watched a fine young man emerge as a mature student-athlete who is committed to hard work and excellence."



2021 SCHOLAR LEADER ATHLETE AWARDS



JAREL MCEWEN EWING

A dominating, punishing offensive lineman that led a powerhouse offense, Jarel McEwen posted a season to remember in 2021.

Jarel became the first Ewing player to receive the Charles “Fuzzy” Falzone Award, which goes to Mercer County’s top lineman, voted on by the 12th man TD Club. The award, named for the all-time Trenton High great, was first presented in 1998. Jarel was that good.

But he was more than just “The Punisher” for the Blue Devils. He was also “The Leader.”

“Jarel is truly a great kid, and one of the hardest working student-athletes I’ve ever had the pleasure of coaching,” said former EHS head coach Matt Dalessio, now the athletic director at Robbinsville High. “Jarel is not only hard working but he is also a natural born leader, being voted by his peers and filling the role of captain for the football team after just one season in the program.”



Jarel’s talent and hard work in the classroom have this talented senior poised to make an impact at the next level; as of this writing, he is deciding between multiple offers to play at the next level.

“Jarel has always strived his hardest to deliver the best effort he could provide,” Dalessio said. “It has truly been an honor to have him as a member of the Blue Devil family.” Next up – carrying the lessons he has learned as a high school football player to the next level.

“It has been a pleasure to see Jarel grow over the years, and I can’t wait to see how successful he can be in college,” EHS principal Ed Chmiel said. “Jarel brings out the best in everyone he surrounds. He is humble in victory and takes every opportunity to grow no matter how difficult the challenge.”



CHRIS NODELAND STEINERT

Veteran Steinert head coach Dan Caruso describes Chris Nodeland as another “coach on the field,” and the senior wide receiver is every bit as valuable to the Spartans as the coach suggested.

“In addition to being a fierce competitor, Chris is always willing and eager to help younger players to better understand the game,” said Caruso, who certainly understands the importance of continuity to the program. “Beyond this, he is the type of young man that the other players look up to – not only on the football field, but in his personal life as well.”

Chris’s dedication to the team and to Steinert is unquestionable, according to Caruso. A Week 1 injury in his junior season required surgery and would have knocked most competitors out for the entire campaign, but Nodeland told his coach that he’d return to play in the annual Thanksgiving Day game against Hamilton, and then backed up his words. This year he turned in one of the best receiving seasons in school history, finishing with the second most receptions for the Spartans in a single year.

“Chris never comes off the field for us,” Caruso said. “He is a starter on both sides of the ball and plays on every special teams unit. In my 20 years of high school coaching experience, I have found Chris to be one of the most hard working and respected players I’ve had the pleasure of coaching.

One of the top students at Steinert, Chris has a schedule loaded with Advanced Placement courses and a 4.5 weighted GPA. A Miracle League volunteer, Chris is also an outstanding baseball player at Steinert. He’s participated in the Childhood Cancer run with CHOP on multiple occasions, and given his time to local food pantries.



JOHN PETRONE

PRINCETON

Hard to imagine anyone doing a better job carrying on the Petrone lineage at Princeton High than John “Jaxon” Petrone.

Not just through his play – all-conference in football and a star in basketball and baseball – but also his competitive fire.

“I have found Jaxon to be the ultimate competitor,” head coach Charles Gallagher said. “Not a rah-rah guy, but always excited to suit up and play, Jaxon never missed a practice and always volunteered for a varsity spot and had no problem filling in on scout team during practice if it was needed. Always positive, he strives for a Princeton victory every step of the way.”

Jaxon is very active in the community. He’s involved in the PHS Choir, is a Junior PGA member, and is part of the Community Park Bluefish swimming club. He’s active with the Princeton Junior Football League as a volunteer, plays American Legion baseball for Post 218, and gets up every day at 5 AM in the summer to work on the grounds crew at Bedens Brook Country Club.

A three-sport captain, Jaxon is a certified lifeguard and a four-year winner of the Presidential Academic Fitness Award. He has been a Bluefish club swimmer of the year and a Junior PGA state competition representative.

“Jaxon is highly respected among his peers,” Gallagher said. “He travels in many groups and doesn’t ever look to grab attention with loud or boisterous talk. Instead, he grabs your attention with his standup attitude and positive demeanor. Jaxon exemplifies what a true Princeton Tiger should stand for.”



KYLE SHEEHY

LAWRENCE

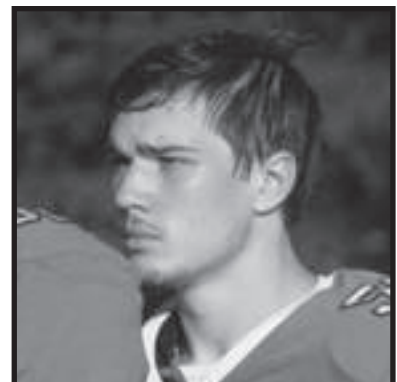
Kyle Sheehy wasn’t about to come off the field for Lawrence’s football team last Fall. Not that he’d want to anyway, but head coach Rob Radice wasn’t going to allow that to happen. Not for a two-way starter (guard and linebacker) and special teams stalwart.

“Kyle always puts the team first and leads by example,” said Radice, whose coaching career has lasted for more than three decades, including two stints as the head man at Lawrence. “He always gives 100 percent in practice, games, and in school. He is the type of person you want your son to be like. He’s one of the most well-rounded student-athletes I have had the pleasure of teaching and coaching in my career. Character, outstanding work ethic, strong values, great leader, compassionate, committed, respectful of others. These are words that come to mind when I think of Kyle Sheehy.”

Then there’s excellent football player. Kyle led the team in tackles as well as tackles for a loss. He won the Iron Cardinal Award, the top team award given by the coaching staff for his outstanding play, commitment, and dedication to the team.

He’s also an outstanding student, taking a schedule that includes honors and Advanced Placement Courses and coming through with fantastic grades. He volunteers at St. Ann’s Church and helps with the food drives as well. Kyle participates in the DECA Club and wants to pursue powerlifting in the future.

“Kyle,” Radice said, “is the type of person you love to coach and be associated with.”



2021 SCHOLAR LEADER ATHLETE AWARDS



KYLE SIRIMIS NOTTINGHAM

Fair to say it would be hard to find another member of the Nottingham football team more involved in the full school experience than Kyle Sirimis.

A two-year member of the National Honor Society as well as the Spanish NHS, Kyle has won an Academic Excellence Award every year of High School. He's been recognized at the St. John Chrysostom Oratorical Festival, is active in the school's Peer Leadership program and in the Greek Orthodox Youth of America.

He's danced in a church group for 12 years and performed competitively for five. Kyle has a lead role in the school's production of Grease and has been dance captain in a number of performances at Nottingham.

Kyle is also a three-sport athlete – participating in winter and spring track, and he's competed in events at the Junior Olympics.



"Kyle is a very hard worker, and he has overcome all the odds to become a leader on our team both on and off the field," head coach Milo McGuire said. "This is very apparent from the wide range of clubs and activities he has been involved in. From winter and spring track to peer leadership and even the school play, Kyle has proven to be a great human being.

Kyle carries a weighted GPA over 4.56 and plans to focus on Architectural Engineering. He went from not making a single extra point as a sophomore to being one of the more dependable kickers around the last two years as the Northstars went 9-1 in 2021.

"Kyle displayed a determined work ethic that was unmatched by anyone on our team," McGuire said.



NICK SURDO NEW EGYPT

A quiet but powerful leader on a program that has established itself as one of the better small-school programs in the area, Nick Surdo has made his impact felt on the New Egypt campus in a giant way.

Nick is one of the top students in the Class of 2022 and the entire school. He is a leader on multiple sports teams and school organizations, active in the local community, and someone who is used to leading by example in many aspects of his life. Being a top offensive lineman and middle linebacker, being an all-area selection, those are just a small portion of what makes Surdo special.

"Nicholas is a shining example of someone who consistently does his best and pushes those around him to contribute their best as well," said New Egypt head coach Steven Fence. "Nicholas personifies what a teammate and leader should be. He is a pleasure to spend time with on and off the football field."

Fence noted that Surdo's success goes far beyond the gridiron.

"Nicholas is able to set his goals high and do his utmost to achieve them," Fence said. "He certainly is not afraid of any challenge that presents itself and can often think outside the box to find a solution to attain his goal. I feel very confident that Nicholas's success at New Egypt will translate to continued success after high school.

"Nick is a high character individual who is stellar socially and behaviorally as well as academically," school principal Richard DeMarco said. "He is a person who can be relied upon to represent himself, our school, and his family with class."



2021 SCHOLAR LEADER ATHLETE AWARDS

MATTHEW VINGARA ROBBINSVILLE

Robbinsville head coach Andrew Patterson believes that everything happens for a reason. Even things such as senior Matthew Vingara wearing No. 1 since the start of his freshman year.

Now Patterson knows the reason.

"After having been closely acquainted with Matthew for his entire high school career," Patterson said, "I now know the reason why he started his career wearing jersey No. 1. He is second to none because that is who he decided he would eventually become."

Patterson went on to explain further. "As a graduating 8th grade student," Patterson said, "Matthew willingly joined our winless football team with the intent to make a difference. He did. Matt is the trademark, signature captain who leads by example for more than just his words ... In the face of adversity, he never succumbs to pressure. He is the senior captain that any coach – at any level of sports – would dream of having on the team."

Robbinsville's all-time single-season and career leader in receiving yards, Vingara is far more than just a football player at RHS. He's involved in the Agricultural Club, the Chinese Club, and a volunteer for the Robbinsville Junior Ravens. He's an honor roll student and one of the best of the best.

"Matthew is a class act like few I have ever encountered," Patterson said. "Having been his teacher, I am impressed. Having been his coach, I am grateful. Had I been his parent, I would be unbelievably proud."



JADEN WEDDERBURN PEDDIE

It didn't take long for Jaden Wedderburn to make an impact when he arrived on campus just before the start of the crazy 2020 season. The physically imposing young man, the player who quickly became the stalwart lineman for Peddie on both sides of the ball, made his presence felt even before his first snap.

"When it came time for captain nominations," head coach Patrick Loughlin recalled, "Jaden stood up and nominated himself, despite being fresh to campus. I was so impressed with his courage and confidence in this moment. The fact he was willing to stand in front of his teammates after only several days of knowing them demonstrates the level of leadership that Jaden has."

Wedderburn proved to be a great teammate. He didn't allow a sack protecting the QB's blind side in 2021 and was borderline unblockable as a nose guard. But there's so much more to Jaden as evidenced by the fact he'll continue his academic and athletic career at Princeton University in the Fall.

Peddie teachers regularly describe Jaden as curious, invested, insightful and overall wonderful to have in class. He has the lead role in the Peddie musical play. He has explored interest throughout the Peddie community. He has a goal this spring to break the school discus record. Not a person on campus thinks Jaden won't do it.

Jaden has been named Street Leader of the Year for his role in the Urban Promise program and served as head of the Black Culture Club while at Glassboro High. He earned the Clark Memorial Award earlier this school year as the Peddie player who best exemplifies the qualities of good citizenship, loyalty, commitment, responsibility, and consistency. Hard to imagine a better choice.



2021 SCHOLAR LEADER ATHLETE AWARDS



DANIEL WERSCHING HIGHTSTOWN

Daniel Wersching proved to be the ultimate leader for head coach Ryan Fullen.

The quarterback led the team through workouts over COVID when coaches couldn't be around the squad, he performed on the field and in the classroom, and overcame physical adversity to lead the Rams to the playoffs for the first time in 15 years.

Throw in a stellar performance in the classroom, a loaded schedule, and community service, and you have a player whose coaches wonder how he fits it all into a day's work.

"Danny prides himself on being dedicated, driven, tough, and charitable in his everyday life," Fullen said. "Given these characteristics that he embodies, Danny is the ideal candidate to represent our program as a Scholar-Leader-Athlete."

Physical toughness? Wersching dislocated his left shoulder against Cherry Hill East. He missed one half of football and returned to lead the Rams on their postseason journey.

Wersching is a two-sport captain (football and basketball), a youth basketball coach, and a volunteer for organizations such as RISE, the Hightstown Elks Lodge, the Rotary Club, Hightstown Youth Sports Clinic, the Positive Coaching Alliance, and more.

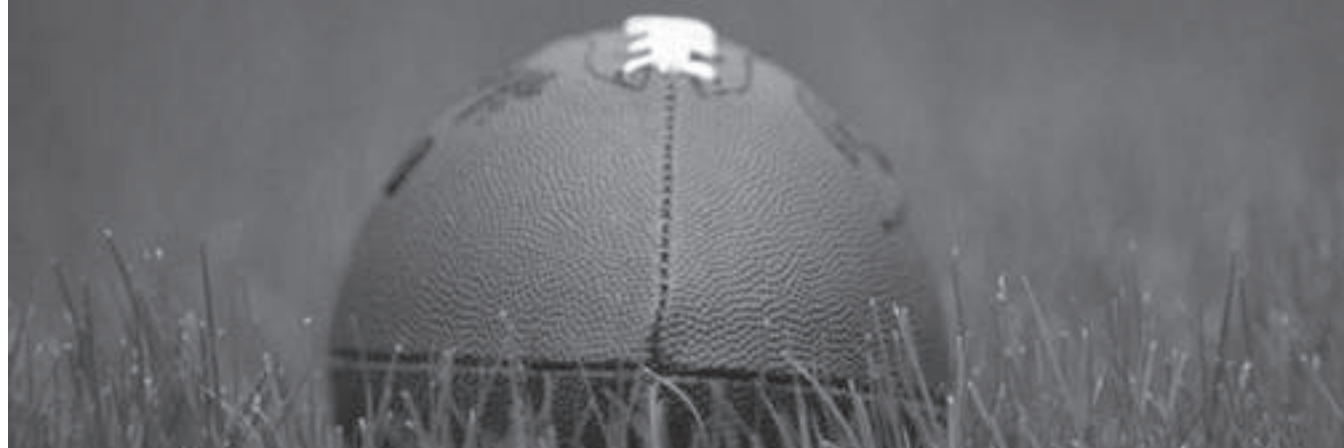
A member of the National Honor Society, Daniel is part of the Hightstown Athletic Leadership Club and the school's DECA club.

"Danny is the epitome of what we want from a student-athlete in our football program," Fullen said. "He demonstrates the ultimate characteristics of leadership. He is tough, he is compassionate, he is intelligent, and he is a first-class person."



Delaware Valley Chapter Officers and Committees:

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2021 SCHOLAR LEADER ATHLETE AWARDS

DELAWARE VALLEY CHAPTER LITTLE SCHOLAR **DOMINIC CUNIGLIO III**

There are probably some things that Dominic Cuniglio III cannot do in this world.

What they may be, however, remains a mystery for now.

Displaying a resume that blares out a passion for athletics, academics and community service, the Hamilton resident is this year's Little Scholar-Athlete Award winner.

"Dominic is a conscientious student and his hard work and perseverance have earned him academic honors as well as a spot in our Honor Society," said Mureen Tuohy, principal of Our Lady of Sorrows School in Mercerville. "Dominic can be counted on to assist the teachers or me whenever he is asked to, and his responsibility, honesty, and dependability are evident in all he does."

And the 8th-grader does a lot.

Dominic is a member of the OLS safety patrol and choir, has been inducted into the National Honor Society the past three years, and was the school spelling bee finalist in sixth and seventh grade. He also competes in CYO basketball and track & field for OLS, boxes for Flip Body Flip in Hamilton and is a two-way lineman in the Hamilton PAL Football League.

"As Dominic's coach and father, I have witnessed his growth as a student athlete," Dom Cuniglio Jr. said. "Being the son of the head coach is extremely difficult but Dominic took it in stride and never complained when he was asked to do more than others. He is equally dedicated to all his commitments, which at times must be intense. It was not uncommon for him to go directly from school to strength and conditioning practice, to football practice, before finishing his night with his schoolwork."

If that isn't enough, Dominic volunteers to shovel elderly neighbors sidewalks; works at the OLS flower fundraiser; and helps out in the Hamilton PAL concession stand. He also collected 30 Thanksgiving meals from over 60 people for the non-profit Meet the Need, and collects and provides coats and jackets to the Trenton community each winter.

Apparently, the only thing he cannot do is sit still.



Past Delaware Valley/Pop Warner Little Scholars

2020 Harrison Kertes Bordentown Bulldogs	2014 Joseph Brown Warrior PAL	2007 David Dudeck III, Burlington County Pop Warner	Hillsborough Dukes
2019 Kole Brieher Hopewell Valley Pop Warner	2013 Nick Kloutis Hamilton PAL	2006 Connor McElwee, West Windsor Wildcats	2000 Bassil Salmon East Windsor PAL
2018 Jack Rice West Windsor Wildcats	2012 Will James Hamilton PAL	2005 Michael Garofola Hamilton Pop Warner	1999 Robert Damiano Hamilton Pop Warner
2017 Jayson Jenkins West Jersey Youth Football League	2011 Kyle Liedtka Hamilton Pop Warner	2004 Ryan McDermott Hamilton Pop Warner	1998 Ryan Biolsi Flemington Pop Warner
2016 Alfred Woods Florence Flashes	2010 Carson Vey Hopewell Valley Pop Warner	2003 James Bea Hillsborough Dukes	1997 Jason Auletta Hamilton Pop Warner
2015 Kyle Dowgin Bordentown Bulldogs	2009 Harvey E. Butler III, WW-P Pop Warner	2002 Marc Zamarin Hillsborough Dukes	1996 Michael Taylor Hamilton Pop Warner
	2008 Brian Schoenauer, WW-P Pop Warner	2001 Daniel Clark	

2021 SCHOLAR LEADER ATHLETE AWARDS



JUDGE ARTHUR LANE SCHOLAR-LEADER-ATHLETE **DAVID HOFFMAN**

Offensive linemen may be unsung heroes, but that shouldn't stop folks from singing the praises of David Hoffman.

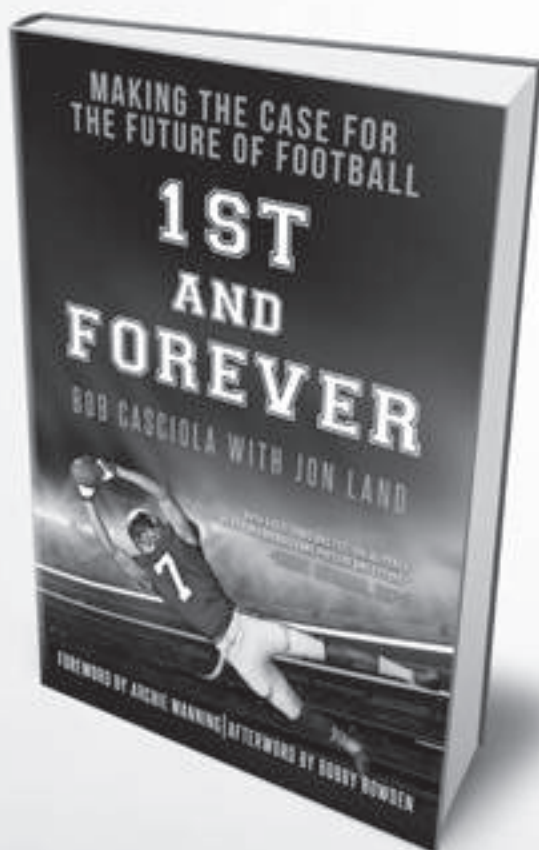
The Immaculate High School graduate was a driving force behind Princeton's high-powered offense this year. David's skills in the trenches allowed the Tigers to lead the Ivy League in scoring at 33.4 points per game. Princeton was also second in passing yards (265 per game) and passing efficiency (147.0), and third in total offensive yards (392.4).

For his efforts, the Basking Ridge resident was named second-team All-Ivy by both the league and Phil Steele after starting all 10 games.

In 2019, David made nine starts for an 8-2 squad, and appeared in six games in 2018 when Princeton enjoyed its first undefeated season since 1964. During the three years in which he saw action, the Tigers went 27-3 with two Ivy League titles. The 2018 team produced the best offensive numbers in league history.

Football runs in the Hoffman family, as brother John played for Lafayette. While attending Immaculate, David was a member of the Super 100 for New Jersey while playing for a three-time sectional semifinalist. He was a first-team All-Area performer and three-letterman, playing basketball and competing in track & field.

David also had the academic acumen cherished by Princeton, as he was class valedictorian, a member of the National Honor Society and Spanish Honor Society, and winner of the FLENJ Spanish Award.



1ST AND FOREVER

**MAKING THE CASE FOR THE FUTURE OF FOOTBALL
BY BOB CASCIOLA WITH JON LAND**

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.

**Awarded the "Best Book of 2018 in Sports Category"
- American Book Fest**

**A remarkable book about how football has positively affected
the lives of 23 highly successful Americans.**

2021 SCHOLAR LEADER ATHLETE AWARDS

JUDGE ARTHUR LANE SCHOLAR-LEADER-ATHLETE **REILY RADOSEVICH**

As witnessed by the fact it played the first game in college history, Princeton University football has been around for quite a while – 153 years to be exact.

So it's a pretty impressive accomplishment to become just the second player in program history to be named All-Ivy League four times. And yet, that is exactly what Reily Radosevich accomplished after being named to the team again this past fall.

The 6-foot-3, 270-pounder started every game on the offensive line for the 2021 Ivy League champion. Reily anchored a unit that allowed the Tigers to finish first in the Ivy in scoring (33.4 points per game), second in passing offense (265.5) and passing efficiency (147.0), and third in total offense (392.4)

If the worth of a player is based on wins, Reily was worth quite a bit as Princeton went 32-8 with three Ivy championships in the four seasons he suited up. In 2018 the Manalapan High grad was starting tackle on the highest scoring offense in league history and helped the Tigers to their first unbeaten season since 1964.

During his sophomore campaign, Reily's blocking helped the Tigers finish second nationally in passing offense in the Football Championship Subdivision. As a freshman, he was the only Princeton player to be named All-Ivy in their championship season. He received the Donald B. Lourie Award, given to the team's top offensive rookie.

Reily helped Manalapan High School to one state championship and two state finals. He was a member of the National Honor Society, an Academic-All Shore Conference honoree and one of six winners of the Citizenship Award in a class of 700. When he's not playing football, Reily enjoys coaching it at the youth level.



Past Princeton University Scholar-Athletes

Year	Nominee/Coach	Year	Nominee/Coach	Year	Nominee/Coach
2019	Andrew Griffin/Bob Surace	2000	Mike Higgins/Roger Hughes	1982	Brent Woods/Frank Navarro
2018	Tom Johnson/Bob Surace	1999	David Ferrara/Steve Tosches	1981	Scott Oostdyk/Frank Navarro
2017	Richard Bush/Bob Surace	1998	Alex Sierk/Steve Tosches	1980	Mark Bailey/Frank Navarro
2016	Scott Carpenter/Bob Surace	1997	Tim Greene/Steve Tosches	1979	Ted Soti/Frank Navarro
2015	Matt Arends/Bob Surace	1996	Mark Washington/Steve Tosches	1978	Andy Stephens/Frank Navarro
2014	Mike Zeuli/Bob Surace	1995	Carter Westfall/Steve Tosches	1977	Dave Powers/Bob Casciola
2013	Phil Bhaya/Bob Surace	1994	Mark Berkowitz/Steve Tosches	1976	Kevin Fox/Bob Casciola
2012	Andrew Starks/Bob Surace	1993	Keith Elias/Steve Tosches	1975	Robert Beible/Bob Casciola
2011	Ivan Charbonneau/Bob Surace	1992	Steve Tufillaro/Steve Tosches	1974	Dale Spiegel/Bob Casciola
2010	Matt Zimmerman/Bob Surace	1991	Jonas Sheehan/Steve Tosches	1973	William Cronin/Bob Casciola
2009	Daniel Kopolovich/Roger Hughes	1990	Marin Graja/Steve Tosches	1972	John Bartges/Jake McCandless
2008	Ryan Coyle/Roger Hughes	1989	Steve Hillgeist/Steve Tosches	1971	Paul Ondraski/Jake McCandless
2007	Rob Toresco/Roger Hughes	1988	Greg DiFelice/Steve Tosches	1970	Kirk Liddell/Jake McCandless
2006	Colin McDonough/Roger Hughes	1987	David Wilson/Steve Tosches	1969	Keith Mauney/Jake McCandless
2005	Andrew Wilson/Roger Hughes	1986	Rob DiGiacomo/Ron Rogerson	1968	Richard Sandler/Dick Coleman
2004	Jon Veach/Roger Hughes	1985	James Petrucci/Ron Rogerson	1967	Robert Weber/Dick Coleman
2003	Time Kirby/Roger Hughes	1984	Mark Berggren/Frank Navarro	1966	John Bowers/Dick Coleman
2002	Cameron Atkinson/Roger Hughes	1983	Kevin Guthrie/Frank Navarro	1965	Richard Rogers/Dick Coleman
2001	Robert Ferrell/Roger Hughes				

2021 SCHOLAR LEADER ATHLETE AWARDS

HANK JOHNS COACH OF THE YEAR **SKIP EDWARDS• BORDENTOWN**



When Skip Edwards took over the Bordentown High football program in 2019, the Scotties were coming off a 1-9 season and promptly went 0-10 in Skip's first year.

Obviously, there was some work to be done. And boy, did he do it.

After Bordentown improved to 5-3 in 2020, the Scotties went 10-1 to tie the 1981 school record for victories.

Thanks to a short but masterful rebuild, Skip is this year's Hank Johns Coach of the Year.

After losing its second game of the season to once-beaten Gloucester City, the Scotties ended the year on a nine-game winning streak, including a victory over playoff qualifier New Egypt on Thanksgiving Day.

Despite the disappointment of missing the playoffs by four spots in the United Power Rankings, Skip did not let the Scotties drop their heads and pout. His leadership inspired Bordentown to finish strong as it won three NJSIAA cross-over games by a combined 102-14.



A graduate of Long Branch High School with a Bachelor's degree from Glassboro and Masters from Georgian Court, Skip's career as a health and physical education teacher included stints at Paul VI, Keansburg, Dunellen and Holmdel. He was an assistant coach at Maple Shade, St. John Vianney, Keansburg and Holmdel, and had head coaching stops at Holmdel, Hightstown, Lakewood and West Windsor-Plainsboro before arriving at Bordentown and earning his 100th career win last fall.

Skip has been recording secretary for the New Jersey Football Coaches Association since its inception 37 years ago and is a member of the Executive Committee. He has served on numerous football committees and is on the Sunshine Classic's Governing Board.

Through his love of the game, Skip has sent numerous players on to college football and one on to the NFL.

"It gives me great pleasure to work with our young players, teaching them life's lessons on a daily basis," Skip said.

One lesson the Scotties learned this year is that fortunes can certainly turn around in a hurry.

Past Hank Johns Memorial Coach of the Year Recipients

2020 Andrew Patterson, Robbinsville	2010 Luke Sinkhorn, New Egypt	1998 Jim Meert, Hunt, Central	1987 Tom Stuart, WWP
2019 Sean Clancy Notre Dame High School	2009 Chappy Moore, Notre Dame	1997 Len Weister, Lawrence	1986 Kurt Vollherbst, Princeton
2018 Joe Frappolli, Florence High School	2008 Dave Caldwell, Hopewell Valley	1996 Keith Hartbauer, Hamilton	1985 Bill Long, Pennington
2017 Jared Mazzetta North Hunterdon	2007 Matthew Perotti, Hunterdon Central	1995 Charlie Pirrello, North Burlington	1984 Mike Ortman, Morrisville
2016 Drew Besler, Ewing	2006 Tom Hoglen, Hamilton West	1994 Jerry Eure, Pennington	1983 Chappy Moore, Notre Dame
2015 Todd Smith, Hun	2005 Todd Smith, WWP South	1993 Ken Keuffel, Lawrenceville	1982 Pete Quinn, Trenton
2014 Jay Graber, Allentown	2004 Ken Mills, Lawrenceville	1992 Keith Wadsworth, Princeton	1981 Bruce Martz, Ewing
2013 Dave Caldwell, Hopewell Valley	2003 Joe Frappolli, Florence	1991 Joe Frappolli, Florence	1980 Jim Walker, Princeton Day
2012 Jon Adams, Nottingham Joe Frappolli, Florence	2002 Kevin Kelly, Conwell Egan	1990 Harold Beatty, Trenton	1979 Bruce Martz, Ewing
2011 Dan Caruso, Steinert	2001 Frank deLaurentis, Peddie	1989 Tim Hadden, Burlington Twp.	1978 Bill Long, Princeton
	2000 Frank Gatto, Steinert	1988 John Mackay, Peddie	1977 Bob Hart, Bensalem
	1999 Jon Adams, Nottingham		1976 Chappy Moore, Notre Dame
			1975 Sam Jefferis, South Hunterdon

2021 SCHOLAR LEADER ATHLETE AWARDS

JACK MILLARD OFFICIALS AWARD **TERRANCE STOKES**

Just call it the circle of life. Or, in this case, the circle of football.

As a high school senior, Terrance Stokes became the first Trenton Central student-athlete selected as a Delaware Valley Chapter scholarship recipient. A scant 31 years later, he is being honored by the chapter once more; as the Jack Millard Officials Award winner.

And with good reason.

“Terrance has become one of the most dependable officials in the Central Jersey chapter,” long-time official Ron Hoehn said. “He has great rapport with coaches, players and fellow officials. The respect he has earned has gotten him elected as vice-chairman of the Mercer district of the Central Jersey chapter of the New Jersey Football Officials Association. Next season he will replace one of his mentor’s, Merkle Cherry, as the white hat on their crew.”

The 1991 TCHS graduate was named Trenton Times Male Athlete of the Year for his football and basketball exploits. He was a member of back-to-back undefeated University of Pennsylvania football teams. In leading the Quakers to two Ivy League titles, Terrance set several school records that still stand en route to be named an All-American. He was also a two-time, unanimous first-team All-Ivy running back.

After graduating with a degree in African American Studies, Terrance worked on Wall Street until returning to Trenton in 2002. He was a charter school history teacher and football/basketball coach, and an academic advisor and football coach at Trenton Central. Terrance is Founder and President of Trenton Youth Development; and serves on the Board of Directors of Anchor House and Love Thy Neighbor CDC.

Currently the Manager of School Support in Trenton, Terrance was elected to the Board of County Commissioners in 2021 and is a commissioner on the Ewing Township Redevelopment Agency.

Football still runs through his blood, which is why Terrance became an official. He feels it provides the opportunity to forge relationships with a new generation of players and coaches.

It’s not done for recognition, but that won’t stop Terrance Stokes from being recognized as this year’s Jack Millard winner.



Past Jack Millard Officials Award Recipients

2020 Justin Johnson	2012 Greg Bellotti	1999 Jim Cleary	1986 Jim Wilno, Jr.
2019 Eugene P. Ferguson, Jr.	2011 George Wah	1998 Tom McCreesh	1985 Jack Watro
2018 Abraham Johnson	2010 James S. Moscarell	1997 Merckle Cherry	1984 Paul Chopko
2017 Sabrina Isom	2009 Joe Shaw	1996 Larry Gunnell	1983 John Zorzi
2016 Hank Johns, Jr.	2008 Raymond F. Stupienski III	1995 Barry Cicale	1982 Al Fullman
2014 Scott Heiser	2007 Jim Wilno, Jr.	1994 Tom Considine	1981 Vince Boccanfuso
2013 Tom Carr	2006 Ed Harris	1993 Jim Wilno, Sr.	1980 Jack Millard
	2005 Karl “Tinker” Johnston	1992 Angelo Giambelluca	1979 George Wah
	2004 John Welling III	1991 John Terry	1978 Norm Van Arsdalen
	2003 Troy Stephenson	1990 John Sheets	1977 Chuck Schroeder
	2002 Al Verdel	1989 Byron Crammer	1976 Jake Bartolino
	2001 Vince Boccanfuso	1988 Ernie Coluccio	1975 Sam Cortina
	2000 Tim Teel	1987 Ron Hoehn	1974 Tony Mascherin

2021 SCHOLAR LEADER ATHLETE AWARDS

EUNICE KENNEDY SHRIVER CHAMPION AWARD

MICHELE ASHER-CODDINGTON



Is there anything Michele Asher-Coddington can't do?

More specifically, is there anything the Sicklerville, New Jersey resident doesn't do?

A Special Olympics participant since 2015, Michele is this year's Eunice Kennedy Shriver Champion Award winner. Playing side-by-side with husband Steve, Michele has competed in no less than seven SONJ events – softball, volleyball, soccer, track & field, basketball, bocce and flag football.

If that was all she did, it would be impressive. But there is so much more.

When Michele is not scoring a goal or swishing a foul shot, she works at a small business doing furniture restoration.

And when she is not making a sofa or loveseat look better, Michele is making life easier for so many others as she spends large quantities of time giving back to her community.

It starts at her daughter's school, where Michele makes Christmas baskets to help feed families in need. There is also her work at the Disabled Adults Social Activities Foundation (DASAF), which offers trips for adults with physical disabilities while also providing financial assistance.

But Michele's aid extends beyond human beings. Her strong passion for animals has led this kind soul to volunteering for her local SPCA walking, feeding and cleaning cages.

When asked why she enjoys helping others so much, Michele answers the question with a question.

"Who," she wondered, "is going to step up and help them when they are in need?"

All those wonderful organizations will have to do without Michele for a few days in June, however. She will join a delegation of 180 athletes on Team New Jersey for the 2022 USA Games in Orlando, Florida. And it should not come as much of a surprise that with her athletic ability, she is the lone female flag football player on the team.

Upon learning of her accolade, Michele said she was honored and overjoyed to receive the Eunice Kennedy Shriver Champion Award.



Past Eunice Kennedy Shriver Award Recipients

2020 David Wardell

2018 Brian Pitts

2016 Kevin McCormac

2019 Casey Mann

2017 Chris McCormac

2015 Steve Rodenbeck

2021 SCHOLAR LEADER ATHLETE AWARDS

NICK GUSZ GOOD GUY AWARD **MARY ELLEN CASSIDY**

It is said that behind every great man's success lies a woman. Joe Frappolli might suggest that applies to athletic directors as well.

Which is why the title of this year's Nick Gusz honor should be the "Good Woman" Award as Mary Ellen Cassidy is the very deserving winner.

The award is given to an administrator or behind-the-scenes person that has been helpful or supportive to the Delaware Valley Chapter and high school football. Mary Ellen was both, as an assistant to Frappolli and the ADs who came after "Frap."

A former Florence High student, Mary Ellen became the school's first athletic secretary in March, 2001. She arrived just as Frappolli had taken over for Ron Luyber as athletic director, and the two friends grew into their jobs together.

"I had known Joe most of my life being a student of his at Florence and the family babysitter," said Mary Ellen, whose son's CJ and Chad played football for Frappolli. "I walked into an opportunity of a lifetime."

Mary Ellen remained until June, 2021, and is now the Main Office Secretary at Florence Riverfront Middle School.

During her 20 years, Mary Ellen organized a department that was constantly bustling with athletic success. While she was balancing schedules, turning stadium lights off and on and fixing scoreboards, the Flashes won eight state titles and six more sectional crowns.

In 2015, Mary Ellen received the 2015 DAANJ/NJSIAA Central Jersey Administrative Assistant Award of Excellence for her outstanding work. As a long-time volunteer for New Jersey Special Olympics, Mary Ellen helped bring NJSO Unified Sports to the Florence district in 2019. She cherishes the nickname "Mama Kess" given to her by "'my' kids."

It has been a labor of love for Mary Allen, who feels that "The experiences of being in high school athletics have taught me so much – the thrills of victories, the agonies of defeats, meeting deadlines, scheduling, busing and the art of trying to be organized on every given day. It's given me the blessings of a lifetime for friendships made with coaches, parents, students, officials, ADs."

The blessing she has been to those same people is why Mary Ellen Cassidy is this year's Nick Gusz "Good Guy" Award winner.



Past Nick Gusz Good Guy Award Recipients

2019 Brian DeAngelo

2017 Constance Denicola Embley

2016 Jim Kovalsky

2018 Sharron Grady

2015 David S. McWilliam

2021 SCHOLAR LEADER ATHLETE AWARDS

TONY PERSICILLI MERITORIOUS SERVICE AWARD

MERKLE CHERRY



It was over 30 years ago when Merkle Cherry was minding his own business and someone tricked him into refereeing a scrimmage at Notre Dame High School.

Still adjusting to the metal object in his mouth, Merkle blew an inadvertent whistle and Irish coach Chappy Moore tore into him.

While that would be the end for most guys who harbored officiating dreams, Merkle was just beginning as he went on to be one of the area's top officials for over three decades. He began as the smallest umpire in the state and has worked every position on the field; becoming a referee during his third season. His hard work earned him The Delaware Valley Chapter's 1997 Jack Millard Official Award.

Merkle has also served as a regional rules interpreter for several years.

The running joke is that to this day, Merkle is the only official to throw a flag on a nun, and is still repenting.

But veteran official Ron Hoehn still gives Merkle his blessing. Hoehn said "Merkle has been a steady force in Central Jersey football officiating circles. He has been excellent on the field himself and has been a mentor to crew mates and younger officials. His outstanding mastery of High School rules has made him an asset to our organization as a rules interpreter".

When he's not wearing the stripes, Merkle is Chief Operating Officer for the Henry J. Austin Health Center in Ewing. His professional career began at HJAH as Director of Operations. He then worked for the city of Trenton as Director of Public Works and Director of Department of Recreation Natural Resources and Culture before going back to HJAH as COO.

Merkle has been honored as Administrator of the Year, Who's Who amongst American Junior Colleges, Summa Cum Laude and Outstanding Manager. He is on several community boards and commissions, driven by his love and dedication to the residents of Trenton and surrounding areas.

And fear not, he never threw a flag on any of them.

Past Tony Persichilli Meritorious Service Award Recipients

2019 Michael Holcombe

2017 Bob Nuse

2016 Bill Rednor

2018 Santuzza Oilers

2015 George O'Gorman

~ IN HONOR OF ~

TSC COACH

ROBERT E. SALOIS

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THE STRENGTH OF THE LION IS IN THE PRIDE"

PAST TRENTON STATE/THE COLLEGE OF NEW JERSEY SCHOLAR/ATHLETES

Year	Nominee/Coach	Year	Nominee/Coach	Year	Nominee/Coach
2020	Andrew Donoghue/Casey Goff	2004	Jim Dabrowski/Eric Hamilton	1988	Mike Wargo/Eric Hamilton
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/ Wayne Dickens	1998	Michael Feeney/Eric Hamilton	1982	Sam Miserendino/Eric Hamilton
2013	Chris McLaughlin/Wayne Dickens	1997	Joe Sciarrone/Eric Hamilton	1981	James Carvalho/Eric Hamilton
2012	Greg Burns/Eric Hamilton	1996	Joe Scaravaglione/Eric Hamilton	1980	Ron Anello/Eric Hamilton
2011	Jay Donoghue/Eric Hamilton	1995	Steve Guidette/Eric Hamilton	1979	Steve Butfilowski/Eric Hamilton
2010	Andrew Mason/Eric Hamilton	1994	Scott Dickson & John Reising/ Eric Hamilton	1978	Tom Hendricks/Eric Hamilton
2009	Colin Weber/Eric Hamilton	1993	Tom Maxwell/Eric Hamilton	1977	Tom Thompson/Eric Hamilton
2008	Marc Fabiano/Eric Hamilton	1992	Corey Landing/Eric Hamilton	1976	Keith Waters/Carmen Piccone
2007	Dan Dornacker & Andy Larkin/ Eric Hamilton	1991	Chris Shaw/Eric Hamilton	1975	Doug Prefach/Carmen Piccone
2006	Ryan Ross/Eric Hamilton	1990	Mike Tierney/Eric Hamilton	1974	Eric Hamilton/Dick Curl
2005	Leeaire Brown/Eric Hamilton	1989	Bob McGinty/Eric Hamilton	1973	William Paskewich/Pete Carmichael
				1967	Robert Taylor/Bob Salois
				1965	George Strattman/Bob Salois



KYLE SIRIMIS

**WE ARE ALL SO PROUD OF YOUR ACADEMIC
AND ATHLETIC ACCOMPLISHMENTS
AT NOTTINGHAM HIGH SCHOOL.**

CONGRATULATIONS KYLE!

LOVE, DAD, MOM, ARIANNA, DANIEL, MERAYA AND ALEXIA

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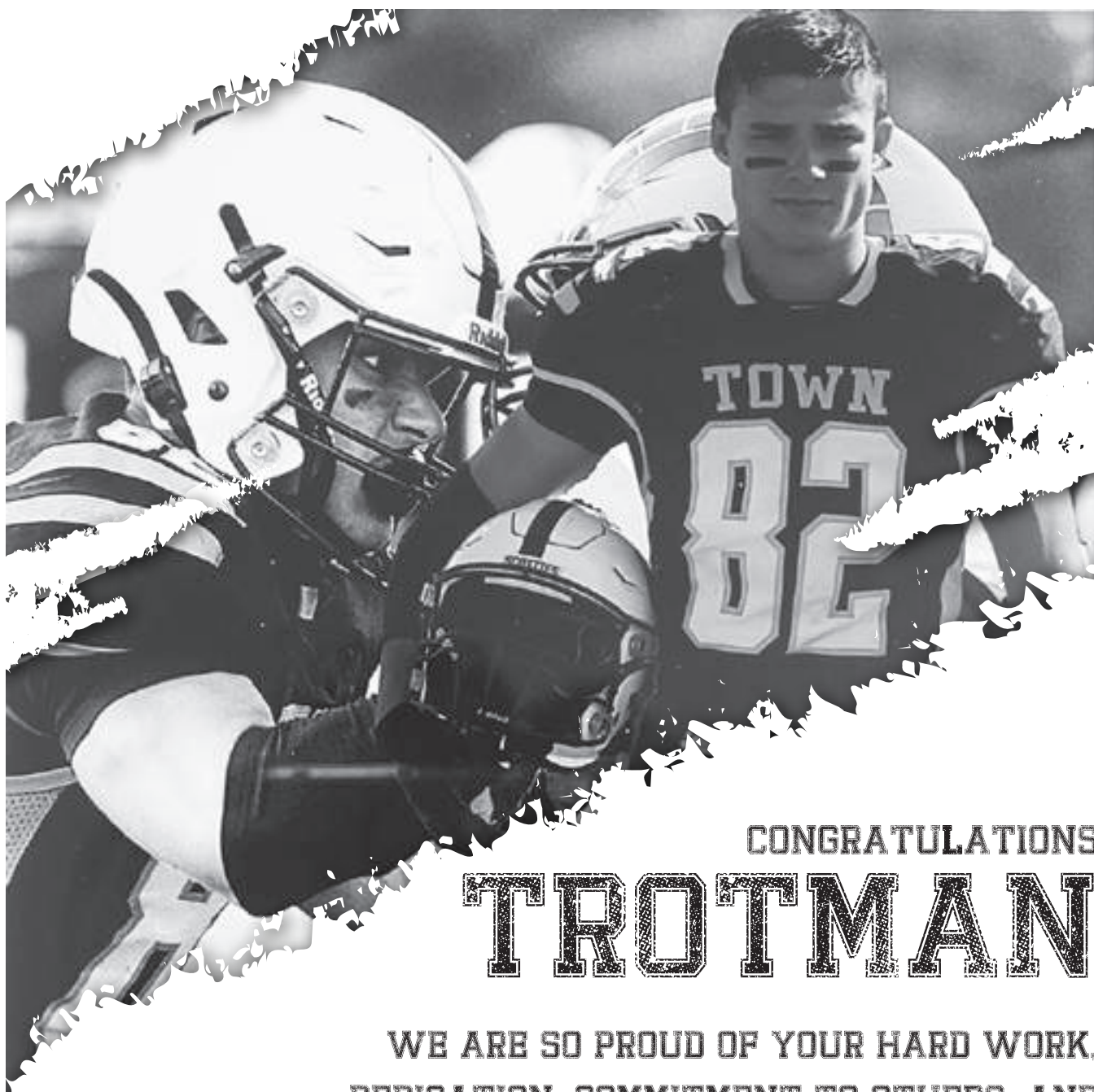
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WE ARE SO PROUD OF YOUR HARD WORK,
DEDICATION, COMMITMENT TO OTHERS, AND
ACHIEVEMENTS BOTH ON THE FIELD AND IN THE CLASSROOM.

BEST WISHES FOR CONTINUED SUCCESS
AS YOU PURSUE YOUR PASSIONS.

LOVE, DAD, MOM, AND HARRISON



Coach John D. McKenna (1954-2021)

“Strong Body + Strong Mind + Strong Faith = Strong Life”
“Iron Sharpens Iron So One Man Sharpens Another”

The Delaware Valley Chapter of the National Football Foundation and College Hall of Fame remembers one of its most ardent supporters. Coach McKenna was most notably the Strength and Conditioning Coach at Notre Dame High School for over two decades, where he also served as defensive coordinator and impacted the lives of so many student-athletes.

His lasting impact, however, went beyond the walls of NDHS.

Coach McKenna founded the Catholic Athletes for Christ Group at NDHS and eventually became the moderator for the entire Dioceses of Trenton's CAC Organization.

He started the CVC Strongman Event for area linemen to compete against each other.

He also was a trainer for the Trenton Fire Department.

He was an authority figure in his field, serving as a member of the Board of Directors for the National High School Strength Coaches Association (NHSSCA).

In 2002, he was named as one of the AFLAC National Assistant Coaches of the year and was inducted into many halls of fame including the NHSSCA, the NJ Scholastic Coaches Association Hall of Fame (2004), the Sports Faith International Hall of Fame (2015), and Notre Dame High School Hall of Fame (2017).

In 2010, the Delaware Valley Chapter was proud to present Coach McKenna with its Contribution to Amateur Football Award.

**Congratulations to
the Delaware Valley
Chapter
Scholar-Leader-Athletes
From the Pride
of Hightstown!**

**The
Gunnell
Family**

Florine Gunnell Askew

David Gunnell Sr.

William Gunnell

Robert Gunnell Jr.

Gerald Gunnell

Richard Gunnell

Yvonne Gunnell Hand

Carole Gunnell Day

Larry Gunnell

Victoria Gunnell



Jake "DiBlas" DiBlasio #64



On behalf of Jake DiBlasio, we would like to express great appreciation to:

- > Coach Mitch Raff for instilling the love of sports & competition
- > Coach Joe Meidling for sharing his knowledge & emphasizing the importance of proper preparation
- > Coach Drew Lachenmeyer for his leadership & for the faith & trust he put in Jake.
- > AHS & The Redbird Nation & countless others for all that they do

Jake:

As proud as we are of your accomplishments, we are even prouder of your perseverance & tenacity

- > Win or Lose you never give up
- > Continue to take challenges head on
- > Continue to overcome obstacles
- > And never, ever give up

We couldn't be more proud of you or more excited to see where your journey takes you

Congratulations Buddy!
From Your Loving Family



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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.

A black and white photograph of a football lying on grass. The football is positioned in the upper half of the frame, showing its laces and textured surface. The grass is dark and dense, filling the background.

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William Gonzales **Notre Dame High School**



**Congratulations to Will
and all the Scholar-
Leader-Athletes!!**

**Will,
We are so proud of you
being named
Notre Dame High School
Scholar-Leader-Athlete!
Go Irish!!**

**Love,
Mom, Dad, & Daniel
The Gonzales Family**



**Special thanks to Coach Clancy,
all the Notre Dame Coaches and
teammates for a great season!**



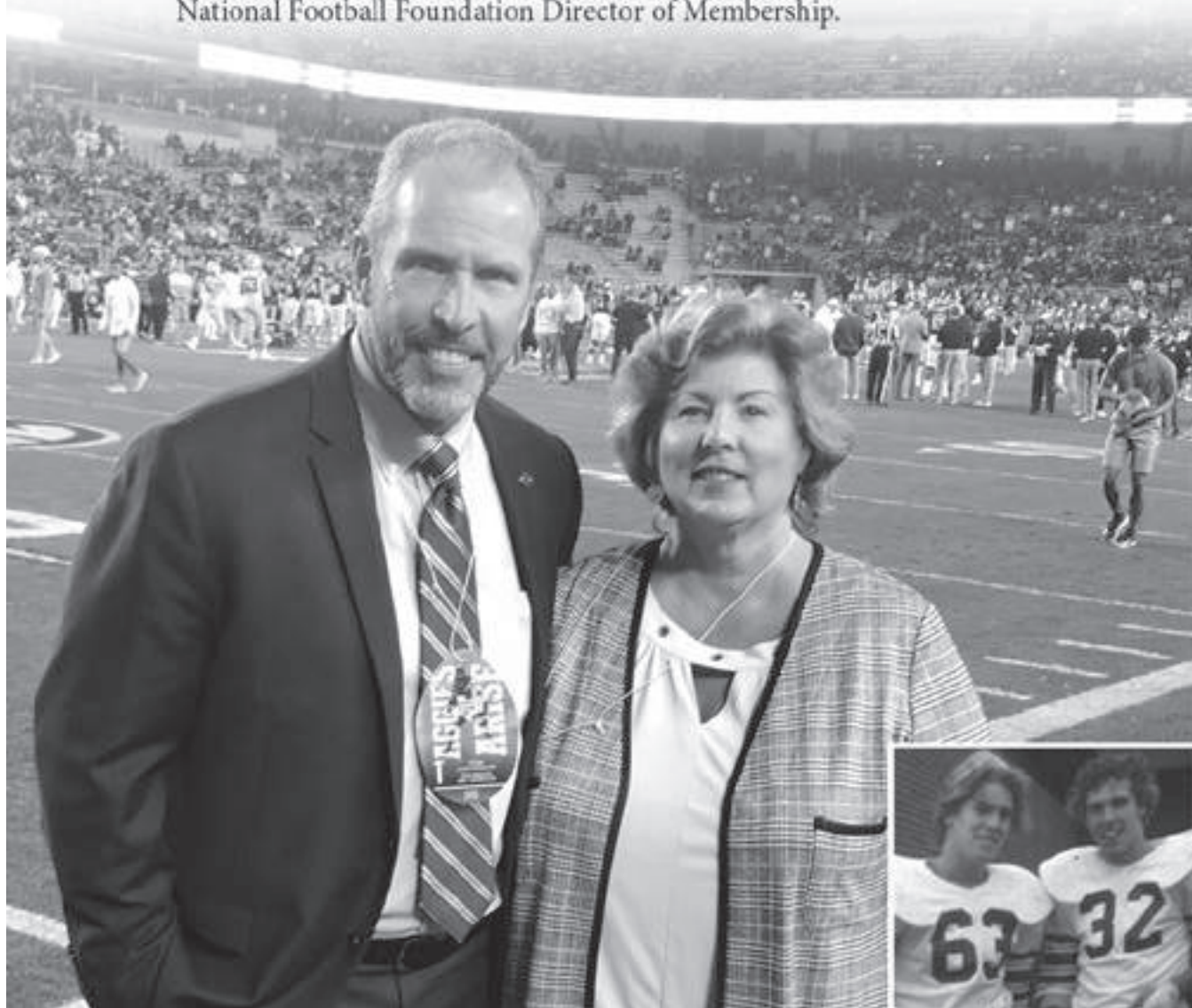


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RON DILATUSH

2022 Robert F. Casciola Distinguished American Award Recipient

High School Football All-American at West Windsor-Plainsboro High School,
University of Delaware Baseball Letterman, Pop Warner Commissioner and
National Football Foundation Director of Membership.

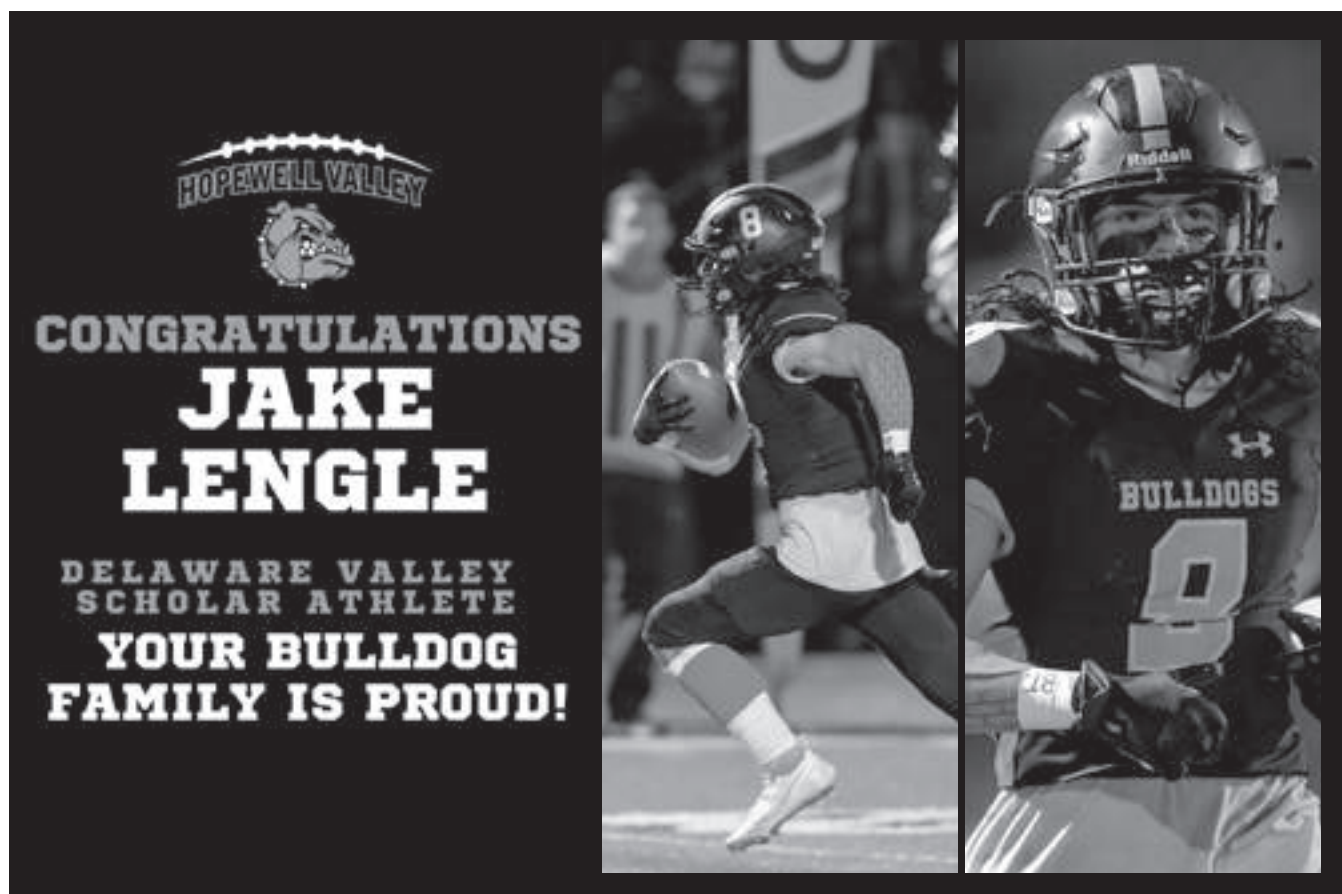


Congratulations, William Gonzales '21!



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Congratulations!
BRHS Huddle Club &
Coaches

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Congratulations Thomas Markovich

2021 Delaware Valley Chapter
National Football Foundation
Scholar Leader Athlete



We Are So Proud Of You!
Love,
Mom, Dad, Christopher, and Jack



PATRICK MCAULIFFE
HAMILTON HIGH WEST

CONGRATULATIONS PATRICK
AND
TO ALL THE SCHOLAR LEADER
ATHLETES

WE ARE SO VERY PROUD OF YOU!

LOVE,
MOM, GRANDMA AND KAITLYN

Congratulations to this year's
Student Leader Athlete Award Winners



From
Greg and Lisa Bellotti

St. Peter's Prep '88

Florence Township Memorial '88

The College of New Jersey '92



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CONGRATULATIONS

MERKLE CHERRY

**ON RECEIVING
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**YOU HAVE SERVED THE COMMUNITY
WELL AS A GREAT OFFICIAL AND REFEREE.**

LOVE – NITA, COLIN, ZACH & ANABELLA



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CONGRATS

**Chris N
 Will G
 Patrick M**

and all of this year's
 Delaware Valley
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 Football
 Foundation
 Scholar Leaders!

Chris and Will - From
 Lads days to this
 moment, you make us
 so proud. Continue to
 aim high and work
 hard.

Special thanks to
 the Steinert Coaching
 Staff for four great
 years.

-The Nodeland Family



MAX GIBBARD
 PENNINGTON SCHOOL

MAX,
 WE ARE PROUD OF WHO
 YOU ARE ON AND OFF THE FIELD.
 KEEP WORKING HARD!
 WE LOVE YOU,
 MOM & DAD, SYDNEY & MOLLY

**WE ARE SO PROUD OF YOU,
DOMINIC CUNIGLIO!
YOU BRING US SO MUCH JOY!
WE LOVE YOUR KINDNESS,
WITTINESS, AND INTELLIGENCE.
YOU WILL SOAR AS YOU BEGIN
HIGH SCHOOL AT NOTRE DAME!
ALWAYS REACH FOR THE STARS
AND KEEP LOOKING UP!**

**LOVE, GRANDMA, GRANDPA
AUNT CHRISTA, UNCLE FELIPE,
JOEY, EMMA, LUKE & CHASE**



DOMINIC CUNIGLIO

**Congratulations on being selected as the
2022 Delaware Valley Chapter Football
Little Scholar Athlete!**

**You impress us every day with your academic
focus, discipline, and dedication to learning
both in school and on the sports field.**

Best of luck as you enter Notre Dame High School Fall '22!

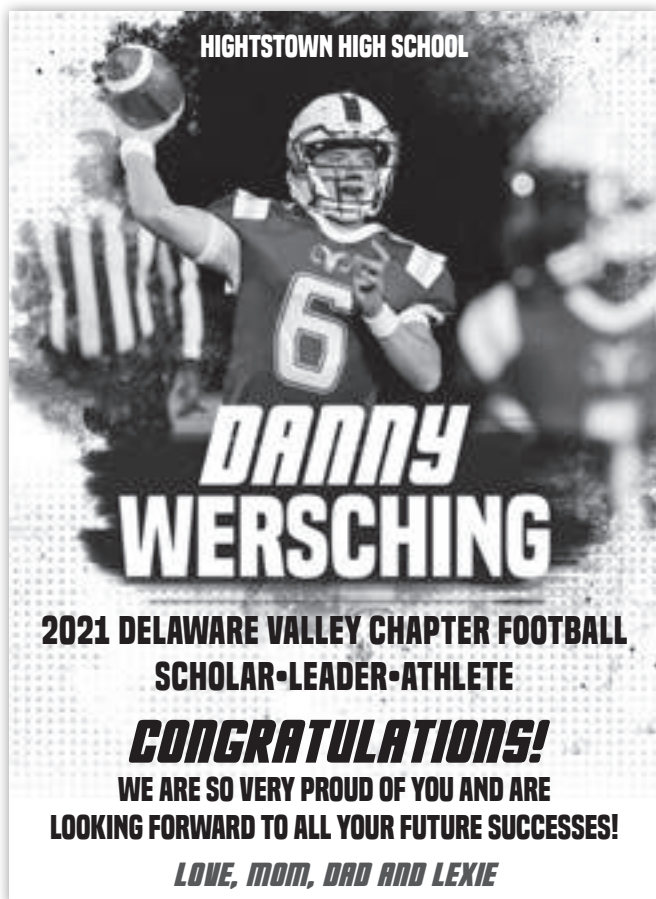
Always remember to #WinTheDay

**On behalf of the Hamilton Police Athletic League (PAL)
and your family, we congratulate you!**

Love, Mom, Dad, and Annarose

"There is only one way to succeed in anything... and that is to give it everything."
~Vince Lombardi





Jarel McEwen

**Congratulations on
your tremendous
achievements both
on the football field
and in the classroom**



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**Chris, as always
you make us so proud!**

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George O'Gorman

Contribution to Amateur Football Award Winner

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Best Wishes to all

**Scholar
Leader
Athletes**



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