

## **Annual Awards Presentation Script 2022**

WE WILL START BY RECOGNIZING INDIVIDUALS AND GROUPS IN VARIOUS CATEGORIES THAT HAVE CONTRIBUTED TO THE ASSOCIATION IN UNIQUE AND MEANINGFUL WAYS.

FIRST WE ASK OUR TRADITION AWARD RECIPIENTS TO COME FORWARD TO BE RECOGNIZED.

### **BOB EDWARDS Tradition Award - Huddle, Inc/Go Fan**

This award is presented to a member of the NCHSAA corporate partnership family for outstanding service to the Association. In 1998, the NCHSAA and Huddle, Inc. established a partnership by which Huddle provided free event tickets to all member high schools in a voluntary program. Millions of tickets were generated and distributed annually for NCHSAA schools until 2020-2021. Over time, Huddle Inc. transformed into Go Fan, a digital ticketing company, which has been offering a digital ticketing platform for numerous years which the NCHSAA utilizes for state championship finals and playoffs hosted at neutral sites.

Since 2001, Huddle Inc/Go Fan has worked with over 10,000 schools nationwide and sold over 20 million tickets. Their team has been great to work with and the NCHSAA appreciates the partnership which makes event ticketing more efficient with streamlined account reconciliation and transparent financial reporting.

NEXT WE HIGHLIGHT THE MORRIS WALKER DEVELOPMENT AWARD,

### **Morris Walker Development Award - Chapel Hilltoppers Lacrosse Foundation, Inc.**

This award is presented annually to a long-time donor to the NCHSAA Endowment Funds or someone displaying extraordinary support for the fundraising efforts of the NCHSAA.

The Chapel Hilltopper Lacrosse Foundation (CHLF) was established in 2014 to address needs in the local lacrosse community and since 2017, has graciously supported the North Carolina High School Athletic Association through contributions to the Tony Cullen Memorial Scholarship Fund.

~~The Cullen Memorial Scholarship is given in memory of former player, coach, and official, Tony Cullen who was a former Chapel Hill resident, played and coached lacrosse at Duke University in the 80's, and became an official in the early 90's. Leaders associated with the Chapel Hilltopper Lacrosse Foundation have direct ties to Tony Cullen, either as former teammates, players or fellow game officials and therefore, support of the Cullen Scholarship Fund is near and dear to their hearts.~~ UNFORTUNATELY, NO ONE FROM THE HILLTOPPERS FOUNDATION COULD ATTEND TODAY, BUT WE RECOGNIZE THEIR CONTINUED WORK FOR STUDENT-ATHLETES IN LACROSSE AT THIS TIME.

## **COMMISSIONER'S CHOICE AWARDS**

NEXT WE RECOGNIZE THE COMMISSIONER'S CHOICE AWARD RECIPIENTS AND ASK PAUL SUN AND KELLY DAGGER TO COME FORWARD. THE COMMISSIONER'S CHOICE AWARDS ARE

PRESENTED WHEN MERITED FOR EXTRAORDINARY SERVICE TO THE STATE' HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC PROGRAM AS SELECTED BY THE COMMISSIONER OF THE NCHSAA AND DEBUTED DURING THE 1990-91 ACADEMIC YEAR.

THIS YEAR THE COMMISSIONER'S CHOICE AWARDS ARE Presented to Paul Sun and Kelly Dagger, of Ellis & Winters LLP WHO SERVE AS the attorneys for the NCHSAA.

Paul Sun is one of the founders of Ellis & Winters LLP, Before ENTERING into law practice, Paul Sun graduated magna cum laude from Wittenberg University, and received his M.B.A. from Vanderbilt University, where he was the Founder's Medalist. ~~Paul's background in accounting and finance, and practical experience in business, enable him to better understand and serve business clients.~~

Paul received his JURIS DOCTORATE degree with highest honors from Duke University School of Law, where he served as Articles Editor for the Duke Law Journal. HE subsequently served as a law clerk to the Honorable J. Dickson Phillips, Jr., of the United States Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit.

Before joining Ellis & Winters, Kelly Dagger earned her undergraduate degree in religious studies, with highest distinction, from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. She received her law degree from the University of California, Berkeley, School of Law, where she was inducted into the Order of the Coif and served as an editor of *California Law Review*.

Both Paul and Kelly have served the Association since 2017. Together, their tireless efforts and commitment to the Mission of the NCHSAA, HELPED LEAD THE ASSOCIATION THROUGH the legislative challenges, and successful NEGOTIATION OF a MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING with the STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION. TODAY, We celebrate their legal expertise, counsel, advice, and guidance TO serve the member schools and the student athletes of the NCHSAA.

### **BUD PHILLIPS RETIREE AWARD**

PEOPLE WHO HAVE RETIRED FROM FULL-TIME WORK IN EDUCATION CONTINUE TO BE A VALUABLE RESOURCE AND DO GREAT WORK WITH THE NCHSAA IN MANY DIFFERENT WAYS, AND WE ARE SO GRATEFUL FOR THEIR EFFORTS. FROM TIME TO TIME WE TRY TO RECOGNIZE SOMEONE IN THIS AREA WHO HAS DONE AN OUTSTANDING JOB BY AWARDING THE BUD PHILLIPS RETIREE AWARD.

**THIS YEAR'S BUD PHILLIPS RETIREE AWARD GOES TO CHIP GILL, A FORMER ATHLETIC DIRECTOR AND COACH AT SOUTHERN DURHAM, PERSON, AND SOUTH JOHNSTON.**

He began his teaching and coaching career at Person Senior High in 1970 and later coached at Burlington Cummings, SOUTHERN DURHAM AND SOUTH JOHNSTON. His teams were in the playoffs nine times in 12 years AT SOUTHERN DURHAM and he also served as AD at Southern for several years. He has been AND REMAINS a tireless worker in the NCHSAA's championships, serving as host director for finals in football, volleyball, basketball, softball and track. ~~He was named the NCADA Region 3 Athletic Director of the Year in 1998.~~

### **BOB SAWYER UNSUNG HERO AWARD**

Next we recognize the recipient of the Unsung Hero Award and we ask Alan Sledge to please come forward to receive his award. The Unsung Hero Award is given periodically by the NCHSAA for outstanding service in a role behind the scenes. This year's state recipient is Alan Sledge. Sledge has been a mainstay at the NCHSAA Individual Wrestling State Tournament, serving as a PA Announcer for the event. His smooth delivery and thorough knowledge of NCHSAA Wrestling help bring the excitement of the 10-mat showcase to live within the Coliseum annually. Sledge's efforts help keep the tournament running on time and help keep fans up-to-date with everything happening on each mat across the arena floor.

### **NFHS/NCHSAA COACH OF THE YEAR AWARDS FOR 2020-2021**

NOW WE MOVE TO RECOGNIZE THE NFHS AND NCHSAA STATE COACHES OF THE YEAR FOR 2020-2021. THIS RECOGNITION IS PARTICULARLY SPECIAL AS WE RECOGNIZE THESE INDIVIDUALS FOR THEIR OUTSTANDING PERSEVERANCE THROUGH THE COVID YEAR AND SUCCESS IN THE COMPETITIVE ARENA AND CLASSROOM. WE ASK ALL OF OUR NFHS COACHES OF THE YEAR TO MAKE THEIR WAY FORWARD AT THIS TIME.

WE'LL START RECOGNIZING THE NFHS STATE COACH OF THE YEAR IN BASEBALL. RONALD VINCENT FROM J.H. ROSE HIGH SCHOOL IN GREENVILLE. HIS RAMPANTS WENT 16-4 WINNING THE 3A STATE CHAMPIONSHIP SERIES OVER COX MILL IN 2021.

NEXT WE RECOGNIZE THE NFHS STATE COACH OF THE YEAR IN FOOTBALL, MIKE BRODOWICZ FROM CHARLOTTE CATHOLIC. COACH BRODOWICZ COUGARS ONCE AGAIN WON THE FOOTBALL STATE CHAMPIONSHIP, CLINCHING THE 3A TITLE OVER HAVELOCK 14-7, THE COUGARS FOURTH STRAIGHT STATE TITLE.

OUR NEXT HONOREE IS THE NFHS STATE COACH OF THE YEAR IN MEN'S BASKETBALL, LARRY WILLIFORD FROM FARMVILLE CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL. WILLIFORD'S JAGS WERE 15-0 ON THE SEASON AND WON THE HIGHEST SCORING BASKETBALL STATE CHAMPIONSHIP GAME IN NCHSAA HISTORY OVER HENDERSONVILLE 115-98, SCORING MORE POINTS THAN ANY TEAM IN CHAMPIONSHIP GAME HISTORY. COACH WILLIFORD WAS ALSO SELECTED AS THE SECTION 3 COACH OF THE YEAR BY THE NFHS.

THE NEXT HONOREE IS FOR MEN'S CROSS COUNTRY AND IT IS JOAN MABE, HEAD COACH FOR CHAPEL HILL HIGH SCHOOL. MABE'S TIGERS WON BY 10 PLACEMENT POINTS OVER WEDDINGTON, CAPTURING THE 12<sup>TH</sup> STATE TITLE IN PROGRAM HISTORY. COACH MABE WAS ALSO SELECTED AS THE SECTION 3 COACH OF THE YEAR BY THE NFHS. SECTION 3 COVERS THE SOUTHEASTERN US REGION AN 8 STATE REGION, FROM NORTH CAROLINA TO FLORIDA AND OVER TO LOUISIANA.

THE HONOREE FOR 2020-2021 IN MEN'S GOLF IS SHAWN PANTHER FROM CHARLOTTE CATHOLIC. THE COUGARS BATTLED TO A THREE-SHOT VICTORY OVER MARVIN RIDGE, FIRING AN 11-OVER 299, CAPTURING THE PROGRAM'S THIRD STRAIGHT 3A MEN'S GOLF TITLE.

IN MEN'S LACROSSE THE 2020-2021 STATE COACH OF THE YEAR WAS KEVIN MACK FROM MARVIN RIDGE HIGH SCHOOL. COACH MACK AND THE MAVERICKS WON THEIR SECOND STRAIGHT TITLE DEFEATING EAST CHAPEL HILL IN THE 1A/2A/3A STATE FINALS TO CAP A 15-3 SEASON.

IN MEN'S SWIMMING AND DIVING, THE HONOREE IS MEREDITH LINDBLOM, HEAD COACH AT GREEN HOPE HIGH SCHOOL. COACH LINDBLOM'S FALCONS WON THEIR FOURTH STRAIGHT 4A STATE CHAMPIONSHIP IN THE 2021 STATE MEET.

THE HONOREE FOR 2020-2021 STATE COACH OF THE YEAR IN MEN'S TENNIS IS NEIL ALDERMAN FROM CHAPEL HILL. COACH ALDERMAN SAW THE TIGERS TO A CO-STATE CHAMPIONSHIP AT THE 3A LEVEL AND COACHED DENNIS PERUMOV TO THE STATE CHAMPIONSHIP IN THE SINGLES DRAW OF THAT EVENT.

IN MEN'S TRACK & FIELD THE 2020-2021 STATE COACH OF THE YEAR IS DUSTIN ALLEN FROM CUTHBERTSON. THE CAVALIER MEN BESTED CROSS-COUNTY RIVAL WEDDINGTON BY TEN POINTS IN THE TEAM STANDINGS TO WIN THEIR FIRST TEAM STATE CHAMPIONSHIP ON THE MEN'S SIDE. COACH ALLEN'S WOMEN'S TEAM ALSO WON THE TEAM TITLE IN 2020-2021.

IN SOFTBALL THE 2020-2021 NFHS AND NCHSAA STATE COACH OF THE YEAR IS COLLEEN ST. LEDGER FROM HOGGARD. COACH ST. LEDGER'S VIKINGS WON THE 4A STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

IN THRILLING FASHION OVER EAST FORSYTH, NIPPING THE EAGLES 6-5 IN WALK-OFF FASHION IN GAME THREE TO PUNCTUATE A 20-1 SEASON.

FOR THE ACTIVITY OF CHEERLEADING THE NFHS AND NCHSAA STATE COACH OF THE YEAR IS FROM CHARLOTTE CATHOLIC, VIVIAN ANDERSON. COACH ANDERSON PILOTTED THE COUGARS TO CAPTURE THE NCHSAA'S CAROLINA CUP FOR BEST OVERALL SQUAD IN THE 2021 CHEER INVITATIONAL. COACH ANDERSON WAS ALSO SELECTED AS THE SECTION 3 COACH OF THE YEAR BY THE NFHS.

IN VOLLEYBALL THE NFHS AND NCHSAA STATE COACH OF THE YEAR FOR 2020-2021 IS MEREDITH LOMBARDI FROM FRED T. FOARD HIGH SCHOOL. COACH LOMBARDI'S TIGERS WERE A POWERHOUSE AGAIN, WINNING A SECOND STRAIGHT 2A WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL TITLE AS THEY DEFEATED MCMICHAEL IN STRAIGHT SETS.

IN WOMEN'S BASKETBALL THE NFHS AND NCHSAA COACH OF THE YEAR IS RAY GUTTIEREZ FROM MURPHY. COACH GUTTIEREZ AND THE BULLDOGS WERE THE MODEL OF CONSISTENCY ON THEIR WAY TO THE 1A STATE CHAMPIONSHIP OVER PRINCETON IN 2020-2021. THE BULLDOGS WERE 16-2 IN THE ABBREVIATED SEASON. COACH GUTTIEREZ WAS ALSO SELECTED AS THE SECTION 3 COACH OF THE YEAR BY THE NFHS.

IN WOMEN'S CROSS COUNTRY THE NFHS AND NCHSAA STATE COACH OF THE YEAR FOR 2020-2021 WAS JERRY CASTRO FROM NORTH LINCOLN. COACH CASTRO'S TEAM HELD OFF A TOUGH CHALLENGE, BUT WERE SUCCESSFUL IN SWEEPING BOTH THE MEN'S AND WOMEN'S 3A CROSS COUNTRY CHAMPIONSHIPS. HIS RUNNERS HAVE WON TWO STRAIGHT STATE TITLES ON THE WOMEN'S SIDE AND FIVE STRAIGHT IN MEN'S CROSS COUNTRY.

THE NFHS AND NCHSAA COACH OF THE YEAR IN WOMEN'S GOLF IS MATTHEW LYTTON FROM WEST LINCOLN. THE REBELS HELD OFF PINE LAKE PREP BY A TEN SHOT MARGIN TO WIN THE PROGRAM'S FIRST STATE CHAMPIONSHIP. COACH LYTTON WAS ALSO SELECTED AS THE SECTION 3 COACH OF THE YEAR BY THE NFHS.

THE NFHS AND NCHSAA STATE COACH OF THE YEAR IN WOMEN'S LACROSSE IS JESSICA-CLAIRE JONES. JONES HELPED LEAD THE WILDCATS TO THEIR FIRST STATE CHAMPIONSHIP SINCE 2015 WHEN THEY BEAT WEDDINGTON 14-8 IN THE 2021 EDITION. COACH JONES WAS ALSO SELECTED AS THE SECTION 3 COACH OF THE YEAR BY THE NFHS.

IN WOMEN'S SOCCER THE HONOREE FOR NFHS AND STATE COACH OF THE YEAR IS BUCKY MCCARLY FROM MYERS PARK. MCCARLY AND THE MUSTANGS FINISHED THE YEAR 18-0-1, WINNING THEIR FIRST STATE CHAMPIONSHIP WITH A 2-0 DEFEAT OF PINECREST IN THE STATE FINALS.

THE NFHS AND STATE COACH OF THE YEAR FOR 2020-2021 IN WOMEN'S SWIMMING AND DIVING IS CARRBORO'S DALE ALTON. ALTON HELPED LEAD THE JAGS TO A THIRD STRAIGHT

TEAM CHAMPIONSHIP IN 2021, WINNING THE MEET LARGELY ON THE STRENGTH OF THEIR DEPTH AND RELAY TEAMS.

IN WOMEN'S TENNIS THE 2020-2021 NFHS AND NCHSAA STATE COACH OF THE YEAR IS PINE LAKE PREP'S RACHEL DAVIS. COACH DAVIS LED THE PRIDE TO THE 1A WOMEN'S STATE CHAMPIONSHIP, COACHING ANDERSEN SCHUBERT TO VICTORY IN THE 1A SINGLES DRAW AND PUTTING HER DOUBLES PAIR OF SOPHIA TAFFET AND SYRIA MANNIPALLI IN THE SEMIFINALS OF THE EVENT. COACH DAVIS WAS ALSO SELECTED AS THE SECTION 3 COACH OF THE YEAR BY THE NFHS.

THE NFHS AND NCHSAA STATE COACH OF THE YEAR IN WOMEN'S TRACK AND FIELD IS SWAIN COUNTY'S IAN ROPER. COACH ROPER'S MAROON DEVILS OUTSCORED PAMLICO 78-52 TO WIN THE STATE CHAMPIONSHIP AS WELL AS THREE INDIVIDUAL EVENT CHAMPIONSHIPS DURING THE STATE MEET.

AND FINALLY, IN WRESTLING, THE NFHS AND NCHSAA STATE COACH OF THE YEAR IS MR. ANDRE ADAMS FROM LANEY. COACH ADAMS LED THE BUCCANEERS TO THE INDIVIDUAL TOURNAMENT STATE TITLE BY MORE THAN 20 POINTS OVER SECOND PLACE CARDINAL GIBBONS. HIS BUCS PUT THREE ENTRANTS INTO THE FINALS AND BROUGHT HOME ONE INDIVIDUAL TOURNAMENT TITLE.

**NEXT WE TURN OUR ATTENTION TO THE OFFICIATING RANKS AND PRESENT THE GOLDEN WHISTLE AWARDS TO SOME OF THE TOP OFFICIALS SERVING NCHSAA MEMBER SCHOOLS.**

#### **GOLDEN WHISTLE AWARDS**

- Elijah "Junior" McLean – Basketball
- Elijah "Junior" McLean has demonstrated exceptional leadership across a 33 year career in high school basketball officiating. He is well respected by all he comes in contact with and has officiated two NCHSAA State Championships, 5 NCISAA State Championships and numerous NCHSAA Regional Championships during his career. He has been a clinic leader for 23 years and served as a Summer Officiating Clinic counselor at all 8 Summer Clinics that have been held by the Triad Basketball Officials Association.
- Errol Daniels – Regional Supervisor and Multi-Sport Official
- Errol Daniels' lifetime commitment to service began with his US Military Career where he served with honor and distinction. For the past 15 years he has excelled as a sports official in soccer, baseball, basketball, football, lacrosse, and softball, earning nine state championship game assignments and five all-star game recognitions. During that same span he has worked as an NCAA Soccer official and umpired more than a dozen Dixie Youth Baseball World Series, serving as Umpire in Chief on several occasions for that event. He is currently a regional supervisor of officials for the Southeastern Football, Basketball, and Softball Officials' Associations, among numerous other services to the NCHSAA and member schools.
- Mark Guenther – Soccer and Basketball

- Mark Guenther, a Western Guilford High alum and standout athlete, moved on to return to athletics as a soccer official in 1995. He joined the Piedmont Soccer Officials Association in 1998 and has officiated four state Championships and nearly 100 playoff matches. He received the Piedmont Association’s Dick Knox Distinguished Service Award in 2012. He has officiated at the collegiate level since 2002, earning post season assignments at all levels of the NCAA ranks. During his career he has served as a clinician for the Association, helping to train the next generation of officials to take the lead in the future.
  - Wayne Shulby – Swimming
- Wayne Shulby began his career as a Swimming & Diving Official as a stroke and turn judge in 2000 with New Wave Swim Team in Raleigh to help his daughter’s team. When her career ended in 2004, Shulby continued to stay active as a swim official and has now officiated over 370 meets and 1500 sessions. He has officiated at nearly every level of the sport including the 2012 & 2016 US Olympic Trials, the 2018 FINA World Championships, and the 2018 Pan Pacific Championships. He provided leadership, mentorship, and structure to the NCHSAA swimming officiating program and the State Championship Swim meet for more than a decade.
  - Anthony Maynor – multi-sport official
- For 20 years Anthony Maynor has been a multi-sport official and served his community as an employee at the Robeson County Department of Social Services. He has served in an important role to help recruit and train more officials from the Native American and African American Communities in the Sandhills and has worked to establish respect for officials in the local community. He has officiated in three State Football Championships, Three Basketball State Championships and two State Championship Series in Baseball. He has also served as an official at the collegiate ranks, serving as a head linesman in football for the South Atlantic Conference and the Colonial, Ivy, and Patriot Conferences.

**2022 Homer Thompson “Eight Who Make a Difference” Awards**

Region 1      Chris Young                      Wrestling                                      North Pitt High School

**Chris Young, North Pitt High School- Wrestling Coach**

Coach Young has served as the head wrestling coach at North Pitt High School for almost 14 years. In this capacity, Coach has been an inspiration to his student-athletes and pushed them to exceed their expectations. He has indeed made a difference in the lives of the student athletes on his teams at North Pitt.

Region 2      Eric Kliewer                              AD/Basketball                                      Southwest Onslow High School

**Eric Kliewer, Southwest Onslow High School- Athletic Director and Basketball Coach**

Kliewer, a Richlands graduate, has been a teacher for thirty-plus years, and currently serves as athletic director and basketball coach at Southwest Onslow High School. He approaches his dual roles with enthusiasm and a desire to make a positive impact on the school, his teams and each individual athlete. He accepts challenges head on and has a competitive spirit which makes him an excellent basketball coach and role model to the student-athletes at SW Onslow.

Region 3      Josh Plisko                      AD                      Johnston County Schools  
**Josh Plisko, Johnston County Schools- System Athletic Director**

Josh has served Johnston County Schools as the system AD since July 2021. Previously, he was the athletic director at West Johnston High School for four years and also served as a health and physical education teacher for over 7 and a half years. He is an excellent administrator and seeks to serve all Johnston County students in a positive and encouraging manner.

Region 4      George Stackhouse      Basketball                      Westover High School  
**George Stackhouse, Westover High School – Men’s Basketball Coach**

George is characterized as an “Amazing Coach and well respected by all stakeholders. He is viewed as a huge school community leader who mentors and assists in many projects with his time and financial resources.”

Region 5      Lyn Massey                      AD/Soccer                      Bartlett-Yancey High School  
**Lynn Massey, Bartlett-Yancey High School- Athletic Director and Soccer Coach**

Lynn, a graduate of Bartlett-Yancey High School has been leading and making a difference in the lives of students for years! In 2016, he served as the West Coach in East-West Soccer All-Star game for the boys’ team. Lynn has coached both the boys’ and girls’ soccer teams at Bartlett-Yancey. He has also been active in NCHSAA Student Services programming and seeks ways for BYHS students to receive recognition for their hard work and efforts both on and off the field.

Region 6      LaSonja Collins                      CC/Track                      Harding University High  
**LaSonja Collins, Harding University-Track Coach**

Coach Collins has coached at Harding University for the past 8 years. Since assuming the helm as head cross-country and track & field coach at Harding University, Coach Collins has built a solid team and instilled determination, pride and a sound work ethic in her young athletes, helping them to achieve much success. She leads by example and has built more than a team at Harding- she’s built a family and led through example.

Region 7      Jason Stephens                      Volleyball                      Hickory High School  
**Jason Stephens, Hickory High School- Volleyball Coach**

Stephens is highly regarded amongst his peers and his team members. He instills in his teams a desire to compete, to work hard, and to give one’s best at all times. He is a fiercely committed coach.

Region 8      Kevin Fitzgerald                      CC/Track/Swimming                      Tuscola High School  
**Kevin Fitzgerald, Tuscola High School- Cross-Country, Track and Swimming Coach**

Coach Fitzgerald, retired from over 34 years with the National Park Service and began coaching young athletes at Tuscola High School – he has a full plate with coaching responsibilities in multiple sports. On a daily basis, he brings a positive attitude and a fresh outlook to the student-athletes. He encourages athletes to always strive to reach a new personal best in their respective events. Coach Fitzgerald has true passion for coaching and has made such a positive influence in the lives of Tuscola High School athletes.



## TOBY WEBB OUTSTANDING COACH AWARDS

NEXT WE RECOGNIZE THE RECIPIENTS OF THE 2022 TOBY WEBB OUTSTANDING COACH AWARDS. WE ASK THOSE RECIPIENTS TO COME FORWARD AT THIS TIME TO RECEIVE THEIR AWARDS.

THE TOBY WEBB AWARD IS MADE POSSIBLE THROUGH THE GENEROSITY OF GIFTS FROM INDIVIDUALS AND COMPANIES THROUGH THE NCHSAA ENDOWMENT AND ANNUALLY RECOGNIZES AND OUTSTANDING MALE AND FEMALE COACH. THE AWARD IS IN HONOR OF TOBY WEBB, A MEMBER OF THE NCHSAA HALL OF FAME WHO WAS AN OUTSTANDING COACH AS WELL AS PRINCIPAL AND SUPERINTENDENT. HE HELPED TURN ALBEMARLE INTO A FOOTBALL POWER AND POSTED A BRILLIANT 103-18-6 MARK AS A HEAD COACH THERE.

TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR THE AWARD, A COACH MUST BE NOMINATED BY SCHOOL PERSONNEL AT THE NCHSAA MEMBER SCHOOL WHERE HE OR SHE COACHES, HAVE COACHED A MINIMUM OF 10 YEARS, AND HAVE MADE MAJOR CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE SUCCESS OF HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETICS AT THE SCHOOL, IN THE COMMUNITY AND BEYOND. WINNERS RECEIVE THE AWARD AND A \$2,500 CASH STIPEND. NOW LET'S MEET THE 17<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL WINNERS OF THE TOBY WEBB COACH OF THE YEAR AWARDS ...

**Kim Furlough's** basketball coaching career spans 16 years, one year at Southeast Guilford High School and 15 years at Northern Guilford High School, where her record is 328-92. Throughout her career, Coach Furlough received many awards recognizing her accomplishments. Most notably she took her team to the 3A State Championship game three times, winning the championship twice. Coach Furlough has 13 straight years with 20-plus wins per season. Six times she coached her team to the Mid-State Conference Champion and six times to the Mid-State Conference Tournament Champion. She was named NFHS Sectional Coach of the Year and the NFHS North Carolina Coach of the Year. She was named Mid-State 3A Coach of the Year four times and the Metro 4A Coach of the Year for 2022. Additionally, Coach Furlough has participated in many community service projects. She has been a Special Olympics volunteer, an ACC Hoops for the Kids instructor, and a participant in the American Cancer Society 35-Mile Breast Cancer Challenge.

**Mark Harris'** wrestling coaching career spans 23 years, three years at Fuquay-Varina High School and 20 years at Enka High School, his alma mater, where his dual meet record is 482-108. Coach Harris' teams have won the NCHSAA State Individual Championship four times and the Dual Team Championship twice. He was named MAT News Wrestling Coach of the Year four times and the National Federation Coaches Association Wrestling Coach of the Year. Coach Harris has been very involved in the North Carolina chapter of the National Wrestling Hall of Fame serving on the Board of Directors since 2015. He also served on the organizing committee for the Smoky Mountain Grapple Wrestling Tournament. In just four years it became a huge success, attracting teams from multiple states, showcasing top teams from across the southwest. This tournament has also highlighted the growth of women in the sport of wrestling. Coach Harris' success in developing a staff of coaches was culminated in 2020 as they

were named National Wrestling Coaches Association Assistant Coaching Staff of the Year for North Carolina and Section Three. He has served as the Section Three representative to the National Wrestling Coaches Association representing coaches from eight states. Coach Harris' strong commitment to his community is evidenced by serving as regional chairman for Headlock on Hunger. This program is designed to work with high school wrestling programs to generate donations of food at high school wrestling events and tournaments.

### **Commissioner's Cup Awards**

THE COMMISSIONER'S CUP AWARDS ARE DESIGNED TO RECOGNIZE MEMBER SCHOOLS ATHLETIC PROGRAMS THAT DO OUTSTANDING WORK IN COMMUNITY SERVICE. SCHOOLS HAD THEIR "TEAM OR TEAMS" IDENTIFY A NEED WITHIN THE COMMUNITY AND CREATE A PLAN TO CONDUCT THE SERVICE PROJECT. EACH TEAM GOT A SPONSOR, WHO WAS A COACH, FACULTY MEMBER, STAFF MEMBER OR PARENT. THEY THEN SUBMITTED A 1-MINUTE VIDEO OF THE PROJECT TO EXPLAIN HOW THE TEAM SERVED, THE IMPACT THE PROJECT HAD ON THE COMMUNITY, THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE SERVED, THEME OF THE PROJECT, WITH PHOTOS AND VIDEO FROM THE EVENT. YOU CAN SEE ALL OF THIS YEAR'S RECIPIENT VIDEOS ON THE NCHSAA YOUTUBE CHANNEL. WINNING SCHOOLS EACH WILL RECEIVE A \$1,000 STIPEND FOR THEIR RESPECTIVE TEAM OR SCHOOL ATHLETIC PROGRAM.

The **Green Level High School Student Athlete Leadership Team (SALT)** participated in eight community service projects. The highlight of their year was the Student-Staff Basketball Game. The group wanted to serve people directly in the Green Level community, so they decided to sponsor a student in need, within their own school. They raised enough money through ticket sales, to purchase Christmas gifts for her, helping "her have a great holiday season". Coincidentally, a few days before the actual event it was learned a family of one of their fellow student-athletes was experiencing financial insecurity. Some of the SALT members got together to brainstorm how they could help that family. Ultimately, they decided to collect donations at the door to the basketball game and received enough money to help the family pay some bills and purchase other items during December and January. SALT is delighted they were able to help members in their own local community.

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### **3A Winner - Western Alamance High School**

The **Western Alamance High School Football Team** sponsored the *Honoring Those Who Served – Past and Present* with two activities. The Veterans Night Of Honor project delivered more than 1,000 meals, 585 gift bags, and 585 yard signs to veterans in the Alamance County area. Local veterans and their families received a long overdue "thank you" because of the efforts of the team. The roads surrounding the school are covered with "Thank You Veterans" signs to remember and recognize our veterans. As one veteran said, "It is a great feeling to know that somebody, somewhere, cares". When the crisis broke out in Ukraine, the team partnered with a local organization to collect donations for 100 care packages. Through generous donations, the Care Package Shipment project sent more than triple their initial goal (335) packages to deployed troops with handwritten words of encouragement.

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### 1A Winner - Gates County High School

The **Gates County High School Soccer Team** chose to work with local youth in their community. They planned soccer skills clinics that were free-of-charge to local youth. The team collaborated with the director of a local Community Center and worked together to organize supplies, locate a field, and develop an advertising plan. The clinics were well received, and the team had a “great time helping youth improve their soccer skills and learn to be active in fun ways”. This experience has helped the team bond with each other and improve their leadership skills. As a result of their initial success, they are planning to hold additional clinics. So far, 40 youth have been impacted by 10 soccer team members.

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### 4A Winner - Northwest Guilford High School

The **Northwest Guilford High School Vikings Cheer Program** has participated in monthly community service events. The one especially meaningful to them is Reading with the Vikings. As a result of their *Little Vikings Camps*, they developed a project to impact literacy for elementary school children. During the camps the Little Vikings (campers) consistently asked a member of the cheer squad to read to them. So, they developed Reading with the Vikings. They collected children's books to donate to the Oak Ridge Park Library and to local elementary schools. Each of the 29 junior varsity and varsity cheerleaders read one of the books they collected on video to be uploaded to the YouTube channel created by the team. Over 1,500 children have viewed the videos with endless possibilities that the reading program can be exchanged and expanded.

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### 1A Winner - Pender High School

The **Pender High School Athletic Department** participated in four community service projects. The highlight of their year was Read Across America Day when athletes from Pender High School traveled to feeder elementary schools and middle school. On that day 14 varsity athletes representing 10 athletic programs in the school went to 14 elementary and middle school classes, not only to read to them, but to speak about the importance of education-based athletics and how that has helped them be successful in the classroom. They shared personal stories about their time on the field, on the court, or on the track with about 180 students. Their goal is to provide positive role models the kids can relate to and emulate.

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### 3A Winner - Nash Central High School

The **Nash Central High School Junior Varsity and Varsity Volleyball Teams** have participated in an ongoing service project with a local organization, Sleep in Heavenly Peace of Rocky Mount. The goal of Sleep in Heavenly Peace is “*No kid sleeps on the floor in our town!*” The project was completed in four stages. First the team participated in “build day” where they helped build beds, using a drill and sander for the first time. These beds were delivered to children in the community. The next stage was to organize and hold a “bedding drive” at their school. They collected new twin-size bedding and pillows -- 47 bed-

in-a-bags, 5 sets of sheets, and 43 pillows. They also received monetary donations. The next stage was assisting the EC class make 7 handmade pillows. The fourth stage was actually experiencing the purpose of all their hard work by participating in “delivery day”. They loaded trucks with beds and bedding and set off to make their deliveries. The volleyball girls were able to build beds at six homes in the community where they witnessed first-hand the poverty that many families experience. The outcome of the deliveries was “joy for not only the children but the volleyball players as well”. By participating in this service project over 120 children in the community are now sleeping in beds rather than on the floor!

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#### **4A Winner - Marvin Ridge High School**

The **Marvin Ridge High School Varsity Softball Team** has supported residents at the National Church Residence - Cotton Street Commons, which is a low-income senior residential community in Monroe, North Carolina. The players were involved in collecting needed items including grocery store gift cards, gas station gift cards, masks, hand sanitizer, toothpaste, word search books, bottled water, and lip balm. They packaged those items in bags labeled “*Acts of Kindness*” and hand delivered them to 20 residents at the National Church Residence - Cotton Street Commons. The student-athletes brightened the residents’ day and even received some handwritten thank you notes.

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#### **3A Winner - Franklin High School**

The **Franklin High School Athletic Program**, in collaboration with the Special Education Department, participated in multiple projects throughout the year to increase school spirit and unify the school. They could be seen treating the custodians to a candlelight lunch, leaving teachers and fellow students encouraging notes, recognizing unspoken leaders on campus, and participating in the Unify March Madness game. Unify March Madness is a basketball showcase for persons with disabilities who have been helped to learn the game by student-athletes. The approximate 35 student-athletes realized success in sponsoring the unifying event, bringing together the special needs community and the student body.

#### **Student Athlete Advisory Council Awards**

WE NOW TURN OUR ATTENTION TO SEVERAL STUDENT ATHLETE AWARDS. IF OUR SAAC MEMBER AWARD RECIPIENTS COULD MAKE THEIR WAY UP TO THE STAGE AT THIS TIME.

THE NORTH CAROLINA HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION STUDENT ATHLETE ADVISORY COUNCIL WAS CREATED TO SERVE AS A VOICE FOR STUDENT-ATHLETES WHO PARTICIPATE IN NCHSAA PROGRAMS. SPONSORED BY THE STUDENT SERVICES DIVISION, STUDENT-ATHLETES ARE SELECTED TO REPRESENT EACH NCHSAA REGION BASED ON LEADERSHIP CHARACTERISTICS, ATHLETIC PARTICIPATION, ACADEMIC SUCCESS AND COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT.

THE COUNCIL IS IN ITS ELEVENTH YEAR. MEMBERS PRESENT AT REGIONAL MEETINGS, VOLUNTEER AT NCHSAA CHAMPIONSHIPS EVENTS, FULFILL A COMMUNITY SERVICE REQUIREMENT AMONG OTHER DUTIES. THIS UNIQUE GROUP OF STUDENT-ATHLETES HAS PROVIDED GREAT SERVICE TO THE NCHSAA.

PLEASE WELCOME SAAC MEMBERS WHO ARE ROLLING OFF OF THE COUNCIL THIS YEAR AS THEY GRADUATE THEIR RESPECTIVE HIGH SCHOOLS.

RACHEL BOWERS A SENIOR FROM RESEARCH TRIANGLE HIGH SCHOOL IN DURHAM.

QUA-IVEON MULDROW FROM BARTLETT YANCEY HIGH SCHOOL IN CASWELL COUNTY.

LANDRY KAZEE FROM MCDOWELL HIGH SCHOOL IN MARION.

THERE IS ONE OTHER MEMBER ROLLING OFF THE SAAC WHO IS NOT ABLE TO BE HERE TODAY, SOFIA SZOSTCZUK FROM ENKA HIGH.

PLEASE GIVE ANOTHER ROUND OF APPLAUSE FOR THIS OUTSTANDING GROUP OF STUDENT LEADERS.

### **HEART OF A CHAMPION AWARDS**

A total of 19 student-athletes from North Carolina High School Athletic Association member schools have been selected as winners of the “Heart of a Champion” Award for their outstanding sportsmanship, overcoming adversity, and consistently going above and beyond expectations. WE ASK THESE STUDENTS MAKE THEIR WAY FORWARD AT THIS TIME.

The recognition is part of the program offered by the NCHSAA Student Services Division. NC Farm Bureau Mutual Insurance Company sponsors these awards.

**Jaylen Alexander-Raynor**, a senior at East Forsyth High School, competed in two varsity sports, gave back to his community through several projects, and was inducted into the National Honor Society. He enhanced his collaboration and cooperation skills through team play, working with teammates toward a common goal. He was vocal in supporting and leading his teammates in practice and on the field.

**Jacob Beamon**, a senior at Greene Central High School, played three varsity sports, was a State Qualifier, and was inducted into the National Honor Society. He was identified by his coach as “a lead-by-example type of player/person”. Jacob focused on leading and guiding underclassmen toward the positive outcomes of playing sports and away from the negative effects of ATOD abuse.

**Jmya Frazier**, a senior at Eastern Guildford High School, was a Scholar Athlete in cheerleading all four years of her high school career and was a member of the NCHSAA State Champion Cheer Squad for four years. Her coach noted “Jmya has a calming yet determined approach when we are getting ready to compete. She is the teammate that others look to for reassurance and guidance”.

**McKinsey Harper**, a senior at Greene Central High School, played three varsity sports, volunteered with Special Olympics on many occasions, and was inducted into the National Honor Society and the National Technical Honor Society. She served as a role model to her teammates and high school peers.

**Bailey Huff**, a student-athlete at Reagan High School, participated in two varsity sports, was active in the Girl Scouts (working on her gold award project), and was a member of the Crosby Scholar Program. Bailey’s participation in sports enhanced her social skills and promoted good leadership skills.

**Latecyia Keyanna Johnson**, a junior at East Carteret High School, played three varsity sports, was the 1A State Long Jump Champion, and was a Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society member. The leadership skills she developed came in handy in her extensive work with the Boys and Girls Club of the Coastal Plain. Athletics taught Latecyia to push herself and become better at setting goals, promoting teamwork, and managing her time.

**Shaelyn Johnson**, a freshman student-athlete at Weldon High School, participated in three varsity sports, the Girl Scouts, and was named to the Honor Roll, Principal’s List. Her coach says she is “the ideal scholar athlete”, demonstrating outstanding leadership while maintaining a clear sense of purpose. Shaelyn admires her mother for inspiring her to follow her dreams and never give up.

**Anneke Lam**, a senior at Tuscola High School, participated in three varsity sports, was a member of several clubs, and was inducted into the National Honor Society. She capitalized on her positive energy by being a constant source of leadership, support, and enthusiasm during each sport season. Anneke learned a sense of community from folks in her town, most importantly – aiding people around her. She creates that kind of supportive and enthusiastic community in all she does.

**Thomas McComb**, a senior at Elkin High School, was a five-sport varsity student-athlete, participated in five school clubs, and was inducted into the National Honor Society. In his quest to help underclassmen find ways to have fun, spend time safely ATOD-free, Thomas founded and became president of the Mountain Biking Club. According to Thomas, sports participation was instrumental in developing skills that would be crucial to succeeding in life – proper work ethic, adaptability, dependability, confidence, and respect – just to name a few.

**James Miller**, a senior at Greene Central High School, participated in varsity tennis all four years of his high school career, was a member of the STEM program and BETA club, and

was inducted into the National Honor Society. Additionally, after COVID, James recorded an undefeated 22-0 season for the number one ranked tennis team in the State. His sport experience helped him gain confidence and the strength to tackle any obstacle put in his way.

**McGuire Owen**, a student-athlete at West Rowan High School, played varsity golf, leading his team to a regional qualification after suffering an injury which led to a two-week hospital stay. McGuire learned perseverance from playing an individual sport and from his second-generation farmer grandfather who works long hours during harvest season. He applied the valuable lesson of perseverance to his golf game – “one bad round or shot doesn’t change the outcome . . . never give up, persevere”.

**Jimmie “Jim Bo” Parrish**, a student-athlete at John A. Holmes High School, played in three junior varsity and three varsity sports and was a member of the NC Breakers AAU Basketball Team. He admires and is appreciative of his football coaches for instilling the motto – “Do it right, or don’t do it at all”.

**Elizabeth “Lizzie” Proctor**, a senior at Bartlett Yancey High School, participated in two varsity sports, varied activities outside of school, and was in the Fast Track Program (with a dual enrollment at Piedmont Community College), graduating with an Associate Degree in Science, along with her high school diploma. Lizzie demonstrated leadership, was a role model and motivator to all, including her coach.

**Bailey Rinehart**, a junior at John A. Holmes High School, participated in three varsity sports, student government, and numerous clubs and activities. She credits experiences in individual and team sports with guiding her to become the person she is today. Bailey learned “mind over matter” during challenging times and vital communication skills.

**Bethany Rymer**, a senior at South Rowan High School, participated in four varsity sports, completed Army Basic Training (will complete Army Medic Training this summer), and was inducted into the National Honor Society. Her coach described Bethany as a leader on every team, supporting, encouraging, and pushing them to better themselves in sports and in life. According to Bethany, she developed mental and physical toughness, playing through anxiety, and tackling life challenges.

**Karsen Simpson**, a student-athlete at West Rowan High School, was a two-sport varsity student-athlete, served in the Student Council and FCA, and was inducted into the National Honor Society. Enduring physical challenges from birth and fighting through pain while training, Karsen learned the concept of perseverance. According to her athletic director, she “doesn’t know the meaning of ‘quit!’”

**Ty Turbyfill**, a student-athlete at Mitchell High School, participated in three varsity sports, volunteered with the Mitchell County Special Olympics, and was named the Most Outstanding Offensive Player in the State Championship Game. He attributes his success

in the classroom to the hard work ethic he developed playing sports. Ty led by example on and off the field.

**Dylan Wall**, a senior at Bartlett Yancey High School, participated on two varsity teams, was a recipient of a Scholar Athlete award, and was inducted into the National Honor Society. Being dually enrolled, Dylan received his Associate Degree along with his high school diploma. He is the first college graduate in his family. To give back to his community, Dylan helped with the revitalization of the local library. His coaches were impressed with his poise and great pride when suffering defeat.

**Carson Weber**, a senior at Myers Park High School, participated in two varsity sports, partnered with local fire and police departments to identify, and serve families in need, and was inducted into the National Honor Society and the National Science Honor Society. She was recognized as an All-Conference, All-Region, and All-State tennis player. Carson led by example and had the respect of her entire team, so when she spoke, her teammates listened.

### **TONY SIMEON COURAGE AWARD**

NEXT WE RECOGNIZE THE WINNER OF THIS YEAR'S TONY SIMEON COURAGE AWARD, SYDNEY WILLIAMS FROM FRANKLIN HIGH SCHOOL. WE ASK HER TO COME FORWARD AT THIS TIME.

SYDNEY IS AN OUTSTANDING SENIOR BASKETBALL PLAYER FROM FRANKLIN HIGH SCHOOL THAT EARNED ALL CONFERENCE HONORS IN THE MOUNTAIN 7 CONFERENCE DESPITE A SHORT TIMETABLE RETURN FROM A SERIOUS KNEE INJURY THAT PUT HER SENIOR SEASON IN JEOPARDY.

IN 2021, WILLIAMS TORE HER ACL, MCL, AND MENISCUS IN AN OFF-SEASON SCRIMMAGE IN JUNE. SHE WAS INITIALLY GIVEN A 9-MONTH ESTIMATE ON GETTING BACK TO ACTION. DESPITE THE GRIM FORECAST, SHE THREW HERSELF INTO REHAB AND ALTHOUGH SHE DID TEAR HER MENISCUS AGAIN IN OCTOBER, SHE MANAGED TO MAKE IT BACK FOR THE END OF BASKETBALL SEASON ON JANUARY 7<sup>TH</sup> AGAINST CONFERENCE RIVALS SMOKY MOUNTAIN, A GAME IN WHICH SHE GRABBED THE GAME-SEALING REBOUND.

SHE RETURNED FROM INJURY TO AVERAGE 10.8 POINTS PER GAME AND 8 REBOUNDS PER CONTEST WHILE SERVING AS ONE OF THE MOST FEARSOME RIM-PROTECTORS IN THE CONFERENCE WITH BETTER THAN A BLOCK PER GAME.

FOR BEATING THE ODDS, HARD WORK AND COURAGEOUS DEDICATION TO GET BACK ON THE COURT, WE ARE PLEASED TO RECOGNIZE SYDNEY WILLIAMS FROM FRANKLIN HIGH SCHOOL WITH THIS YEAR'S TONY SIMEON COURAGE AWARD.



NOW WE TURN OUR ATTENTION TO OUTSTANDING SCHOLAR-ATHLETES AND WE RECOGNIZE SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS FOR 2022. IF ALL OF OUR SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS FOR TODAY WOULD MAKE THEIR WAY UP TO THE STAGE TO BE RECOGNIZED.

### **CHARLIE ADAMS SCHOLARSHIP AWARD**

THE CHARLIE ADAMS ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS ARE GIVEN IN HONOR OF THE LONG-TIME NCHSAA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR CHARLIE ADAMS, WHO RETIRED AFTER 42 YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE ASSOCIATION IN JANUARY OF 2010. CHARLIE WAS WELL-REGARDED IN NATIONAL STATE ASSOCIATION CIRCLES AND HELPED START THE NCHSAA ENDOWMENT FUND WHICH HELPS TO PROVIDE THE HIGH LEVEL OF CHAMPIONSHIP AND STUDENT PROGRAMS THAT THE ASSOCIATION IS ABLE TO PROVIDE MEMBERSHIP AND THEIR STUDENTS. HE PASSED AWAY LAST YEAR AT THE AGE OF 81.

AWARDS GO TO A MALE WRESTLER IN MEMORY OF CHARLIE'S SON SCOTT, AND TO A FEMALE CROSS COUNTRY RUNNER IN HONOR OF CHARLIE'S DAUGHTER MICHELLE ADAMS SZWAJKUN. CRITERIA INCLUDE PARTICIPATION IN THE SPECIFIC SPORT, SCHOLARSHIP, SPORTSMANSHIP AND LEADERSHIP. THE GRANTS ARE EACH FOR \$2,500. NOW LET'S MEET THIS YEAR'S AWARDEES ...

**Connor Goodman**, a senior at Jay M. Robinson High School, is a four-year member of the varsity wrestling team, and played one year on the JV football team. As Connor began his wrestling career, he was named Jay M. Robinson Rookie of the Year and Jay M. Robinson Most Outstanding Wrestler (an honor he received three of his four high school years). He wrapped up his high school year as Team Captain and earned his 150<sup>th</sup> High School Career Win. While concentrating on his wrestling, Connor found time to be a part of the Creative Ministries group at his church, taking a mission trip to Alaska in the summer of 2021. Connor plans to continue his wrestling career at Queens University where he will study graphic design.

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**Luke Heglar**, a senior at East Rowan High School, is a four-year member of the varsity wrestling team, and participated in track and field for one year. During his sophomore year, Luke was named East Rowan Most Improved Wrestler and by his senior year, was voted Most Outstanding Wrestler in the Rowan County Championship Tournament. He earned his 100<sup>th</sup> High School Career Win during his final year of high school. Maintaining a 3.97 unweighted GPA, Luke was active in his church as leader of the youth group and volunteering on several community projects, working in the Meals on Wheels warehouse one summer. Luke hopes to major in Actuarial Science at either North Carolina State University or High Point University.

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**Briley Bickerstaff**, a senior at Riverside High School in Martin County, is a four-year member of the varsity cross country and track and field teams, where she served as captain of the cross country team and was the MVP all four years. All her hard work paid off as Briley was the 1-A Cross Country State Runner-up in her junior and senior years and the 1-A State Champion in the 1600-meter and 3200-meter runs. In addition to her focus on running, she maintained a 3.85 unweighted GPA and was named to the Academic All-Conference team each of her four high

school years. To give back to her community, she volunteered with Toys for Tots, Operation Christmas Child, Blessings in a Backpack, and Special Olympics. Briley's desire to become a Registered Dietitian will be realized at North Carolina State University.

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**Rachel Bowers**, a senior at Research Triangle High School, is a four-year member of the cross country team, a three-year member of the track and field team, and participated on the golf team as a junior and on the swimming and diving team as a senior. She has 2 State Championship gold medals, one as a member of the 1-A Cross Country Championship team, in her sophomore year: and the other one for the 4x800 relay as a junior. In addition to her involvement in outside activities and community projects, Rachel was selected to be a member of the NCHSAA Student-Athlete Advisory Council where she organized a community service project to collect children's books for the Wake County Guardian ad Litem, providing books to foster children. Rachel plans to pursue civil and environmental engineering at Mississippi State University, University of Tennessee, or University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill.

## PAT GAINEY STUDENT AWARD

THE GAINEY STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP RECOGNIZES ATHLETIC ACHIEVEMENT AND STRENGTH OF CHARACTER. THE CRITERIA FOR THIS YEAR'S AWARD INCLUDED THAT THE STUDENT BE A SENIOR FEMALE ATHLETE OR MALE BASEBALL PLAYER WITH AT LEAST A CUMULATIVE GPA OF 3.2, POSSESS A STRONG WORK ETHIC, DEMONSTRATE ATHLETIC SUCCESS DURING THE HIGH SCHOOL CAREER AND DEMONSTRATE RESPECT OR COACHES AND TEAMMATES. GRANTS ARE CUSTOMARILY FOR \$5,000 EACH.

THE AWARDS ARE MADE POSSIBLE BY A GIFT FROM THE LATE PAT GAINEY'S DAUGHTER, MRS. BERRY JO GAINEY SHOEN, WHO CURRENTLY LIVES IN CALIFORNIA. THE STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP AWARD IS AVAILABLE TO NCHSAA MEMBER SCHOOLS IN COUNTIES HAVING A POVERTY RATE OF 20 PERCENT OR MORE FOR CHILDREN 17 AND UNDER. THEY HONOR PAT GAINEY, A DUNN NATIVE, WHO RECORDED AN OUTSTANDING RECORD IN WOMEN'S BASKETBALL AND WAS A REAL STRONG SUPPORTER OF WOMEN'S ATHLETICS. HIS TEAMS WON FIVE WNCHSAA TITLES AND RECORDED 54 CONSECUTIVE WINS WITH 140 STRAIGHT CONFERENCE VICTORIES.

### Carson Taylor | Swain County High School

**Carson Taylor** is a senior at Swain County High School where he played football for four years, as well as baseball, basketball, and wrestling. He has been recognized by several organizations both preseason and postseason for his athletic ability. As a junior, he was a winner of the Heisman High School Scholarship. His service projects include Smoky Service Days, Desire to Lead Initiative, Cherokee Children's Home Golf Tournament, and the Cherokee Children's Home Christmas Gift Drive. He plans to pursue a career in sports management at East Tennessee State University, Western Carolina University, or University of North Carolina-Greensboro.

### Madison Austin | South Caldwell High School

**Madison Austin** is a senior at South Caldwell High School where she played soccer for four years, ran cross country for two years, and participated one year in the golf program. She was named to the A or A/B Honor Roll in three of her four high school years. Madison has been recognized for academic excellence in her freshman, sophomore, and junior year; and at graduation will be an Honors Graduate and receive the North Carolina Scholar Award. She has been a member of the Beta Club for four years and participated in several community projects throughout her high school career. Madison will attend one of the five colleges to which she has been accepted to pursue a career in physical therapy.

## **WILLIE BRADSHAW MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS**

THE WILLIE BRADSHAW MEMORIAL ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP IS GIVEN IN HONOR OF DURHAM-NATIVE, WILLIE BRADSHAW, AN NCHSAA HALL OF FAME INDUCTEE IN 1995 AND NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL OR NFHS HALL OF FAME INDUCTEE IN 2010. BRADSHAW WAS AN OUTSTANDING ATHLETE AT HILLSIDE HIGH SCHOOL, HE BECAME THE FIRST AFRICAN-AMERICAN CITY OR COUNTY ATHLETIC DIRECTOR WHEN HE TOOK OVER FOR THE DURHAM CITY SCHOOL SYSTEM UNTIL HIS RETIREMENT IN 1992.

THESE AWARDS ARE NEW TO THE NCHSAA AND ARE PRESENTED TO STUDENT-ATHLETES WHO MEET THE ACADEMIC CRITERIA AS WELL AS ATHLETIC INVOLVEMENT AND SOUND CHARACTER.

REGIONAL RECIPIENTS RECEIVE A ONE-TIME \$750 SCHOLARSHIP AND Out of the regional recipients, one male and one female student-athlete have also been selected as a state scholarship recipient and each receives an additional \$1,000 scholarship as state award winners. This year's state recipients are Latecyia "Cece" Johnson from Marine Science and Technology Early College High School and Farhan Siddiqui from Walter M. Williams High School.

### **ADRIAN ARCHER – PINECREST H.S.**

Adrian Archer is a senior at Pinecrest High School where he participated in indoor and outdoor track and field as a freshman, indoor track and field as a sophomore, cross country and outdoor track and field as a junior, and cross country and indoor track and field during his senior year. He currently holds a weighted GPA of 4.63. Adrian volunteered at the US Golf Tournament supporting the local golf community and helped teach math and English to 3rd graders during the summer in a program designed to combat academic inactivity. Adrian will pursue a career in computer and information science at Johns Hopkins University.

### **MADISON AUSTIN – SOUTH CALDWELL H.S.**

Madison Austin is a senior at South Caldwell High School where she played varsity soccer for four years and was a member of the varsity cross country team for two years. Madison will be an Honors Graduate and will receive the North Carolina Scholar Award at graduation. She has been a member of the Beta Club throughout her high school years and helped deliver meals at Christmas time through the Poovey's Chapel Youth Group. Madison will pursue her goal of becoming a physical therapist at North Carolina State University or Appalachian State University.

### **LAYA FAULK – UNION PINES H.S.**

Laya Faulk is a senior at Union Pines High School where she played basketball for four years and ran track and field for two years. She was recognized as a scholar athlete during her junior year as well as being named to the All-Conference, All-District, and All-State teams. Laya participated in multiple events for the elderly in her community and events to support children in need. She also served as a student peer mentor during freshman orientation. Laya will study international

relations at one of several colleges to which she has applied – a few here close to home or perhaps at one a little farther away in Hawaii, with plans of joining the CIA.

#### MICHAJ JAMES – MOUNT TABOR H.S.

Michai James is a senior at Mount Tabor High School where he played varsity football for four years. His junior year culminated with being part of the 4-A State Championship team. He has given back to his community by serving the YMCA Annual Thanksgiving Meal and sorting toys for Christmas gifts with the Love Out Loud program. He will pursue his career in information technology at North Carolina A&T State University.

#### LATECYIA JOHNSON – MARINE SCIENCE & TECH EARLY COLLEGE H.S.

Latecyia Johnson is a senior at Marine Science and Technology Early College High School where she played varsity basketball, track and field, and soccer. During her career Latecyia often placed in conference and regional championships with two highlights of her career placing first in the 1-A State Track and Field Championship in the 4x100 Relay as a freshman and placing first as the 1-A State Long Jump Champion in her senior year. Latecyia volunteers with her church working with 1st to 5th grade children, and with the youth soccer camp for the Boys and Girls Club of Carteret County. She plans to pursue a career as a criminal profiler and will attend either Fayetteville State University, East Carolina University, or Wingate University.

#### AVA LOWRY – CEDAR RIDGE H.S.

Ava Lowry is a senior at Cedar Ridge High School where she played softball and volleyball each of her four years. Being team captain during her junior year afforded Ava many leadership opportunities. During Ava's high school career, she was a member of Habitat for Humanity, the Red Cross, and the Unified Red Wolves Club, volunteering at the local Ronald McDonald House. Ava will attend North Carolina Wesleyan College where she plans to study physical therapy to help realize her goal of becoming a physical therapist for children with autism.

#### NICOLE NEAL – WEST JOHNSTON H.S.

Nicole Neal is a senior at West Johnston High School where she played varsity tennis all four years of her high school career. She was named to the All-Conference team in her junior and senior years. Nicole has participated in the Angel Tree Toy Drive in her community as well as helping with roadside cleanup efforts and shopping for the food bank. Nicole plans to further her education at North Carolina A&T State University with a degree in mass communications looking toward a career in the film or journalism industry.

#### ALANA SANDAIRE – CORINTH HOLDERS H.S.

Alana Sandaire is a senior at Corinth Holders High School where she is a four-year participant in varsity cheerleading and a two-year participant in varsity track and field. She received the Scholar-Athlete Award each of her four years and was named to the Academic All-Conference team each year in both sports. Alana volunteers with organizations that work with children, reading for them in a comfortable environment and helping them explore STEM concepts. She will continue her education at one of the four University of North Carolina system universities to which she has been accepted to pursue a career in nursing or physical therapy.

**FARHAN SIDDIQUI – WALTER M. WILLIAMS H.S.**

Farhan Siddiqui is a senior at Walter M. Williams High School where he played JV and varsity lacrosse and JV and varsity football. Farhan was inducted into the National Honor Society in his freshman year and was also a member of the Math Honor Society and the English Honor Society throughout his high school career. His community service includes yearly school and church garden cleanup. Farhan will attend the University of North Carolina, North Carolina State University, or the University of North Carolina-Wilmington to study physical therapy.

**JAMERA SHAW – WALTER M. WILLIAMS H.S.**

Jamera Shaw is a senior at Walter M. Williams High School where she played varsity volleyball and varsity basketball all four years. She was named to the Academic All-Conference team in both sports her entire high school career. Her community service work includes volunteering with the Salvation Army Boys and Girls Club and with an organization serving children with autism. Jamera's aspiration to become an athletic trainer will be pursued at either University of North Carolina-Greensboro or North Carolina A & T State University.

**C'NYA STEVENS – NEW BERN H.S.**

C'nya Stevens is a senior at New Bern High School where she played varsity soccer for four years and participated with the cheerleading squad for three. C'nya is a member of the National Honor Society. She gave back to her community by distributing canned goods to those in need and helping distribute food and supplies to those who were affected by Hurricane Florence. To realize her goal of travelling with sports teams, C'yna will continue her education studying kinesiology and exercise science at the University of North Carolina-Charlotte, Elon University, or Chowan University.

**CHASON WATKINS – A.L. BROWN H.S.**

Chason Watkins is a senior at A. L. Brown High School having played junior varsity basketball in his freshman and sophomore years, and varsity basketball in his junior and senior years. Chason volunteered at the local Ronald McDonald House, the YMCA Empty Stocking Fund, and the local Christmas Angel Tree endeavor. He plans to study kinesiology at one of the eight universities to which he's been accepted, with a goal of opening his own physical therapy practice.

## WILBURN C. CLARY MEDAL

OUR NEXT AWARD IS THE CLARY MEDAL, MADE POSSIBLE THROUGH THE GENEROSITY OF THE EDDIE AND JO ALLISON SMITH FAMILY FOUNDATION. THE CLARY MEDAL IS PRESENTED IN HONOR OF WILBURN CLARY'S ATHLETIC CAREER WHICH INCLUDED COACHING, OFFICIATING AND ATHLETIC ADMINISTRATION. HE COACHED SEVERAL SPORTS FOR ALMOST 30 YEARS, WAS AN OUTSTANDING OFFICIAL ON THE HIGH SCHOOL AND COLLEGIATE LEVELS AND SERVED AS THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY OF THE WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA HIGH SCHOOL ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATION FROM 1949 THROUGH 1977 UNTIL IT MERGED WITH THE NCHSAA. HE WAS THE FIRST COLLEGIATE FOOTBALL OFFICIAL TO BE INDUCTED INTO THE NATIONAL FOOTBALL FOUNDATION AND COLLEGE HALL OF FAME.

THE CLARY MEDAL ANNUALLY RECOGNIZES AN OUTSTANDING HIGH SCHOOL MALE AND FEMALE ATHLETE, BASED ON THE INDIVIDUAL'S EXCELLENCE IN ATHLETIC PARTICIPATION, EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES AND COMMUNITY SERVICE. EACH RECIPIENT RECEIVES A \$3,000 SCHOLARSHIP TO FURTHER HIS OR HER EDUCATIONAL ENDEAVORS. NOW WE'LL INTRODUCE THIS YEAR'S WINNERS ...

### **Savannah Godfrey | Harnett Central High School**

**Savannah Godfrey**, a senior at Harnett Central High School, has been a member of the cross country team for four years and the soccer team for three years. Additionally, she ran spring track during her freshman year. She earned the Freshman Phenom Award at the start of her career and earned a spot in the State Championships at the close of her high school career. Savannah was selected for several recognition awards during her senior year. Savannah's community service includes much work with local food banks and was chosen to be on the Toys for Tots Leadership Team. She will be choosing from 3 universities here in North Carolina to continue her education in criminal justice.

### **Samuel Whitt | East Surry High School**

**Samuel Whitt**, a senior at East Surry High School, has been a member of the football and track and field teams throughout his entire high school career. In his junior year he was selected as the Conference Offensive Player of the Year and was ranked 4th Best Offensive Lineman in North Carolina. During his senior year as team captain, Samuel was recognized by several organizations for outstanding athletic ability. Samuel was inducted into the National Honor Society in his junior year. His volunteer work includes a recycling bin campaign and organizing food and blood drives. He led incoming freshmen through team building exercises and escorted them on tours of the school during Freshman Orientation Day. Having been accepted to six colleges and universities he will pursue a political science career at one of those.

## **MARK DREIBELBIS SCHOLARSHIP**

The Mark Dreibelbis Scholarship is in its first year and honors the contribution to high school athletics and legacy of student services programming left by former NCHSAA Associate Commissioner, Mark Dreibelbis. HE retired in April 2022 after 17 years at the Association. The Dreibelbis Scholarship recognizes athletes from across the state who have demonstrated excellence in leadership throughout their high school careers. The scholarship has been made possible by the generous donation towards the effort by the Triangle Basketball Officials Association to honor Mark Dreibelbis and support the NCHSAA mission of education-based athletics. Each recipient receives a one-time \$2,500 scholarship.



#### Mary Shoop | A.C. Reynolds High School

Mary Shoop is a senior at A. C. Reynolds High School where she ran cross country and participated on the track and field team all four years. She culminated her career as a 4-A State Qualifier in cross country and three track and field events. Mary has received several athletic and educational awards throughout her career. She has been named to the All-County, All-Conference, All-Region, and All-State Teams multiple times. Although she has worked with several organizations in her community, she's very proud of the work she has done with the Presbyterian Youth Council of Western North Carolina working with middle schoolers in a retreat setting, as well as weekly discussion groups. Mary plans to continue her education at Davidson College where she will study political science and data science.

#### Sydney Spear | John A. Holmes High School

Sydney Spear is a senior at John A. Holmes High School where she played basketball, tennis, and softball. She is known throughout the school for her athletic achievements and academic excellence and was named NCHSAA Scholar-Athlete in all three sports. Sydney's hard work led her to the State Tennis Championships twice and to a Conference Championship in basketball. Sydney was a Red Cross Blood Drive Volunteer each of her four years, organized a Food Pantry Tennis Tournament, and remains a member of the Rocky Hock Baptist Church Youth Group. As Sydney continues her education at one of several schools to which she has been accepted, she will pursue a career in sports medicine.

#### Michael Cook | High Point Central High School

Michael Cook is a senior at High Point Central High School where he played basketball and baseball, culminating his career as captain of both the varsity basketball and baseball teams. Michael was inducted into the National Honor Society in his junior year and will be valedictorian at graduation. Michael has given back to his community by helping those affected by hurricanes, helping to renovate 2 churches and a house and spending time with those left homeless. He will study statistics at one of the four schools to which he has been accepted.

#### Kylie Aldridge | Gray's Creek High School

Kylie Aldridge is a senior at Grays Creek High School where she played softball and volleyball. In her senior year she broke two county records for kills in a season and kills in a career. She was named to the First Team All-Region and All-State Teams. Kylie is also an NCHSAA Scholar-Athlete in both sports. During her high school career, she has been involved with the Student Government Association as freshman class secretary, sophomore and junior class president, and student body president as a senior. Kylie has volunteered at her local food bank and with Special Olympics volleyball. She has committed to play softball at Virginia Tech where she will study biology.

#### Madissen Cannady | Midway High School

Madissen Cannady is a senior at Midway High School where she played soccer and ran cross country and track and field. She was chosen as captain in her senior year of both the cross country and track teams. Madissen is the recipient of several recognitions, All-County in cross country, track and field, and soccer; Conference Female Champion for the

women's cross country team; Conference Runner Of The Year; and All-Conference in cross country. She is president of the Student Government Association and was inducted into the Spanish Honor Society. Madissen has volunteered with the Salemburg Food Bank, Operation Christmas Child, and several activities with the elderly. Madissen will attend Methodist University and run cross country while studying business administration.

### **FLO SPORTS SCHOLARSHIP**

Through partnership with the NCHSAA, FloSports has designated funds to be used towards scholarship support of one male and one female track and field student-athlete at NCHSAA member schools. Each recipient will receive a \$1,000 scholarship.

**Raven Griffin** is a senior at Shelby High School where she participated in basketball, indoor and outdoor track and field, and cross country. She was recognized as a Scholar-Athlete in all three sports, and Raven was named to the All-Conference Team in both track and cross country. She was inducted into the National Honor Society as a junior and into the Spanish Honor Society in her senior year. In addition to completing four years of high school and participating in three sports, Raven has concurrently received her Associates of Arts Degree, Summa Cum Laude, from Cleveland Community College.

**Andrew Zmijewski** is a senior at South Iredell High School where he ran indoor and outdoor track and cross country. His successful running career was recognized by several awards including All-Conference Team in cross country, distance MVP in outdoor track, and team captain in his senior year of cross country and indoor and outdoor track. Andrew pursued learning outside of the traditional high school experience through the Duke TIP Summer Studies Program and the North Carolina Governor's School.

### **~~TONY CULLEN MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP~~**

~~To provide scholarship support for two senior male and two senior female high school student athletes participating on the varsity level lacrosse team at a North Carolina High School Athletic Association member high school, planning to attend a college or university in pursuit of higher education. Each recipient receives a one time award of \$1,000.~~

### **SCHOLAR-ATHLETE TEAM AWARDS**

NOW WE TURN OUR ATTENTION TO TEAMS THAT HAVE EXCELLED IN THE CLASSROOM. THE NCHSAA SCHOLAR ATHLETE PROGRAM IS THE LARGEST VOLUNTARY PARTICIPATION PROGRAM IN THE ASSOCIATION ANNUALLY AND RECOGNIZES INDIVIDUAL ATHLETES WITH A GPA OF 3.5 OR HIGHER IN THEIR SEMESTER OF COMPETITION AS WELL AS TEAMS THAT TOTAL AN UNWEIGHTED TEAM GPA OF 3.1 OR HIGHER FOR THEIR SEMESTER OF COMPETITION. THE NCHSAA, THANKS TO A PARTNERSHIP WITH THE GOVERNOR'S HIGHWAY SAFETY PROGRAM PROVIDES CASH PRIZES TO THE TEAMS IN EACH SPORT THAT HAVE THE HIGHEST UNWEIGHTED GPA'S IN THE STATE AND PARTICIPATE IN THE PROGRAM. IF OUR TEAM GPA WINNERS WOULD MAKE THEIR WAY TO THE FRONT FOR THEIR RECOGNITION.

WE WILL START WITH BASEBALL, AND THE TOP TEAM GPA IN THIS YEAR'S SUBMISSIONS IS FROM CARRBORO HIGH SCHOOL. THE JAGS POSTED A 3.696 GPA FOR THEIR 20 VARSITY PLAYERS DURING THE SPRING OF 2021. CONGRATULATIONS TO THE CARRBORO JAGUARS BASEBALL TEAM.

NEXT WE MOVE TO SOFTBALL AND THE AWARD GOES TO MILLENIUM CHARTER. THE SOFTBALL TEAM FROM MILLENIUM POSTED A PERFECT 4.0 GPA FOR THEIR 11 PLAYERS DURING THE SPRING OF 2021. CONGRATULATIONS TO MILLENIUM CHARTER SOFTBALL.

THE AWARD FOR MEN'S GOLF IN THE SPRING OF 2021 GOES TO PIEDMONT COMMUNITY CHARTER. THE PIEDMONT CHARTER MEN'S GOLF TEAM'S 6 MEMBERS POSTED A 3.892 UNWEIGHTED GPA DURING THEIR SEASON. CONGRATULATIONS TO PIEDMONT COMMUNITY MEN'S GOLF.

THE AWARD IN WOMEN'S SOCCER GOES TO TRIANGLE MATH & SCIENCE. THE WOMEN'S SOCCER TEAM AT TRIANGLE MATH & SCIENCE POSTED AN UNWEIGHTED 3.96 WITH 14 TEAM MEMBERS IN THE SPRING OF 2021. CONGRATULATIONS TO TRIANGLE MATH & SCIENCE ACADEMY'S WOMEN'S SOCCER TEAM.

THE AWARD IN MEN'S TENNIS FOR 2021 GOES TO CREST HIGH. THE 10 MEMBER TEAM POSTED A 3.95 UNWEIGHTED TO TAKE THE TOP SPOT FOR THE SPRING OF 2021. CONGRATULATIONS TO THE CREST CHARGERS MEN'S TENNIS TEAM.

NOW FOR THE AWARD IN WOMEN'S TRACK AND FIELD. THE AWARD GOES TO MILLENIUM CHARTER WHO SAW THEIR 8 TEAM MEMBERS POST A PERFECT 4.0 UNWEIGHTED GPA DURING THEIR SEASON. CONGRATULATIONS TO THE MILLENIUM CHARTER LADIES.

THE FINAL TEAM FOR THE SPRING OF 2021 IS IN MEN'S TRACK AND FIELD, AND IT IS ALSO AN AWARD FOR MILLENIUM CHARTER WHO'S NINE MEMBER TEAM COMBINED FOR A 3.7 UNWEIGHTED GPA TO TAKE THE AWARD. HOW ABOUT ANOTHER ROUND OF APPLAUSE FOR ALL OF OUR SPRING 2021 SCHOLAR ATHLETE TEAM AWARD WINNERS.

SWITCHING GEARS TO THIS ACADEMIC YEAR AND THE FALL SLASH WINTER SEASONS, WE'LL START WITH THE AWARD FOR MEN'S BASKETBALL. IT GOES TO ALLEGHANY HIGH AS THEIR MEN'S BASKETBALL TEAM COMBINED FOR A 3.845 UNWEIGHTED GPA. CONGRATULATIONS TO THE ALLEGHANY TROJANS MEN'S BASKETBALL SQUAD.

NEXT THE AWARD IN WOMEN'S BASKETBALL WHICH GOES TO TUSCOLA HIGH SCHOOL. THE WOMEN'S TEAM AT TUSCOLA POSTED A SUBURPB 3.8799 GPA DURING THEIR FALL/WINTER SEMESTER. CONGRATULATIONS TO TUSCOLA WOMEN'S BASKETBALL ON THE TOP SPOT.

NEXT THE AWARD IN CHEERLEADING GOES TO CREST HIGH SCHOOL. THE CHARGERS FOOTBALL CHEER SQUAD POSTED A 3.860 AND THEIR BASKETBALL CHEER SQUAD POSTED A 3.800 ON THEIR WAY TO TAKING BOTH AWARDS. CONGRATULATIONS TO THE CHARGER CHEER TEAMS.

IN MEN'S CROSS COUNTRY, CREST WAS THE WINNER AGAIN, THE CHARGERS COMBINED TO POST A 3.975 UNWEIGHTED GPA ON THEIR WAY TO WINNING THE AWARD THIS YEAR. CONGRATULATIONS TO THE CHARGERS.

THE AWARD IN WOMEN'S CROSS COUNTRY GOES TO TRIANGLE MATH & SCIENCE ACADEMY. THEIR WOMEN'S CROSS COUNTRY TEAM PUT UP AN IMPRESSIVE 3.930 DURING THEIR SEMESTER OF COMPETITION. CONGRATULATIONS TO THE WOMEN'S CROSS COUNTRY TEAM AT TRIANGLE MATH & SCIENCE.

WEDDINGTON FOOTBALL WAS THE TEAM WINNER IN THAT SPORT. THE WARRIOR FOOTBALL TEAM PUT UP A 3.493 IN THE CLASSROOM ON THEIR WAY TO THE AWARD. CONGRATULATIONS TO THE WEDDINGTON FOOTBALL TEAM.

IN WOMEN'S GOLF, THE AWARD GOES TO EAST CARTERET AS THE MARINERS EARNED A 3.929 DURING THE FALL SEMESTER. CONGRATULATIONS TO THE EAST CARTERET MARINERS FOR THEIR ACADEMIC PROWESS.

NEXT THE AWARD IN MEN'S INDOOR TRACK. IT GOES TO UNION ACADEMY. THE CARDINALS POSTED A 3.722 UNWEIGHTED GPA TO CLAIM THE TOP SPOT. CONGRATULATIONS TO THE CARDINAL MEN ON THEIR HARD WORK.

IN WOMEN'S INDOOR TRACK, THE TOP TEAM SUBMITTED WAS FROM SEAFORTH HIGH SCHOOL. SEAFORTH RUNNERS POSTED A 3.888 IN THEIR SEMESTER OF COMPETITION, EARNING THE TOP SPOT IN THE STATE FOR THIS YEAR.

THE MEN'S SOCCER AWARD GOES TO SOUTH POINT HIGH SCHOOL. THE RED RAIDERS PUT UP A 3.868 TEAM GPA ON THEIR WAY TO THE TOP SPOT THIS YEAR. CONGRATULATIONS TO THE RED RAIDERS MEN'S SOCCER TEAM.

IN MEN'S SWIMMING AND DIVING THE AWARD GOES TO THE NORTH LINCOLN KNIGHTS. NORTH LINCOLN SWIMMERS POSTED A 3.928 UNWEIGHTED GPA TO EARN FIRST PLACE FOR THE SEMESTER. CONGRATULATIONS TO THE KNIGHTS.

THERE WAS A TWO-WAY TIE IN WOMEN'S SWIMMING BETWEEN CENTRAL DAVIDSON AND ORANGE HIGH SCHOOL. BOTH TEAMS SUBMITTED IDENTICAL 3.938 GPA'S FOR THE SEMESTER AND WILL SHARE THE TOP SPOT THIS YEAR.

IN WOMEN'S TENNIS, THE BEST GPA WAS WESTERN ALAMANCE. THE WARRIORS SUBMITTED A 3.969 GPA FOR THE SEMESTER AND TOOK THE TOP PRIZE THIS YEAR.

THE TOP SPOT IN VOLLEYBALL BELONGS TO SOUTHWEST ONSLOW. THE STALLIONS VOLLEYBALL TEAM POSTED A COMBINED UNWEIGHTED GPA OF 3.975 TO EARN THE TOP SPOT. CONGRATULATIONS TO THE STALLIONS.

FINALLY, WE RECOGNIZE THE TOP TEAM IN WRESTLING. THE NC SCHOOL OF SCIENCE AND MATHEMATICS IN DURHAM REPORTED A 3.700 COMBINED UNWEIGHTED GPA DURING THE FALL SEMESTER ON THEIR WAY TO THE TOP SPOT.

HOW ABOUT ANOTHER ROUND OF APPLAUSE FOR ALL OF OUR OUTSTANDING STUDENT ATHLETES.

### **OLYMPIAN AWARD**

NEXT WE RECOGNIZE A SPECIAL INDIVIDUAL WITH A NEWLY CREATED AWARD, THE NCHSAA OLYMPIAN AWARD. THIS AWARD IS DESIGNED TO HONOR AN INDIVIDUAL THAT PARTICIPATES IN THE OLYMPIC GAMES WHILE ENROLLED IN AN NCHSAA MEMBER SCHOOL.

THIS INAUGURAL AWARD GOES TO CLAIRE CURZAN, A SENIOR SWIMMER FROM CARDINAL GIBBONS HIGH SCHOOL. AT JUST 16 YEARS OF AGE CURZAN COMPETED IN THE 2021 OLYMPIC TRIALS IN OMAHA, SWIMMING IN THE 100 FLY FINALS AND FENDED OFF KATE DOUGLASS AND KELSI DAHLIA FOR THE SECOND AND FINAL AUTOMATIC QUALIFYING SPOT TO THE USA SWIMMING TEAM FOR THE 2021 TOKYO OLYMPICS.

SHE FINISHED 10<sup>TH</sup> IN THE 100 FLY INDIVIDUAL EVENT BUT DID PARTICIPATE IN THE PRELIMINARY 400 MEDLEY RELAY EVENT, SWIMMING A 57.65 ON THE FLY LEG TO HELP THE US ADVANCE TO THE FINALS. SHE COLLECTED A SILVER MEDAL IN THE EVENT WHEN THE TEAM FINISHED SECOND IN THE FINALS.

WE ARE PROUD TO RECOGNIZE CLAIRE CURZAN WITH THE NCHSAA'S FIRST OLYMPIAN AWARD.

### **4-TIME INDIVIDUAL CHAMPION AWARDS**

NEXT WE MOVE TO A RELATIVELY NEW AWARD, THE 4-TIME INDIVIDUAL EVENT CHAMPION AWARD. THIS AWARD RECOGNIZES AN INDIVIDUAL THAT WON THE SAME INDIVIDUAL EVENT IN ALL FOUR YEARS OF THEIR HIGH SCHOOL CAREERS.

WE ASK ALL OF THESE INDIVIDUALS TO COME FORWARD AND BE RECOGNIZED AT THIS TIME.

WE BEGIN WITH JOSLYN OAKLEY FROM LANGTREE CHARTER ACADEMY. JOSLYN HAS BEEN ON TOP OF THE PODIUM FOR EACH OF THE LAST FOUR YEARS IN THE WOMEN'S 1 METER DIVING EVENT OF THE NCHSAA SWIMMING AND DIVING

CHAMPIONSHIPS. SHE IS THE CURRENT 1A/2A STATE MEET RECORD HOLDER WITH A SCORE OF 492.50 DURING THE 2021 STATE MEET.

NEXT WE HONOR J.H. ROSE HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT SWIMMER, MADELINE SMITH. SMITH WON THE 100 YARD FREESTYLE EVENT IN EACH OF THE LAST FOUR YEARS AT THE STATE SWIMMING CHAMPIONSHIPS. MADELINE SWAM A 50.18 SECONDS IN THIS YEAR'S 100 FREE, EARNING AUTOMATIC ALL-AMERICAN HONORS AND HER FOURTH STATE TITLE IN THE EVENT.

NEXT WE RECOGNIZE BAYLOR NELSON FROM COMMUNITY SCHOOL OF DAVIDSON. NELSON WON FOUR STRAIGHT STATE TITLES IN THE MEN'S 200 YARD INDIVIDUAL MEDLEY AT THE STATE CHAMPIONSHIP MEET. NELSON SET A NEW ALL-CLASSIFICATION STATE RECORD IN THE 200 IM AT THIS YEAR'S STATE MEET, TOUCHING IN 1:43.56, WINNING THE 1A/2A EVENT FINAL BY NEARLY 14 SECONDS.

OUR NEXT HONOREE IS BEING RECOGNIZED FOR WINNING A PAIR OF EVENTS IN ALL FOUR YEARS OF HER HIGH SCHOOL CAREER. CLAIRE CURZAN FROM CARDINAL GIBBONS SWEEPED ALL FOUR OF HER YEARS IN THE 100 YARD BUTTERFLY AND THE 100 BACKSTROKE EVENTS. CURZAN DAZZLED THE STATE 4A MEET THIS YEAR, SETTING A NEW NFHS NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL MEET RECORD IN THE 100 YARD FLY AT 49.24, WHICH WAS AN ALL-AGE GROUP USA SWIMMING RECORD AT THE TIME OF HER PERFORMANCE. SHE SET A NEW ALL-CLASSIFICATION STATE MEET RECORD IN THE 100 BACKSTROKE WITH A TIME OF 49.61 SECONDS IN THE SAME MEET.

OUR NEXT HONOREE IS FROM THE SPORT OF WRESTLING AND FROM AVERY COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL. LEVI ANDREWS COLLECTED FOUR STATE INDIVIDUAL WRESTLING CHAMPIONSHIPS DURING HIS TENURE AT AVERY. ANDREWS WRAPPED HIS SENIOR SEASON WITH A DAZZLING 51-1 RECORD AND VICTORY IN THE HEAVYWEIGHT DIVISION OF THE NCHSAA 1A INDIVIDUAL STATE TOURNAMENT AND BEING NAMED THE 1A MOST OUTSTANDING WRESTLER.

OUR FINAL FOUR-TIME WINNER TO BE HONORED TODAY IS ALSO A WRESTLER. FROM CENTRAL ACADEMY, PLEASE WELCOME KYLE MONTAPERTO. MONTAPERTO HAD NO ISSUE WITH THE MOVE UP TO 3A THIS YEAR, WINNING THE 126 POUND DIVISION AND COMPLETING A PERFECT SENIOR SEASON AT 40-0. MONTAPERTO WAS NAMED THE 3A MOST OUTSTANDING WRESTLER AT THE INDIVIDUAL TOURNAMENT THIS YEAR.

HOW ABOUT A ROUND OF APPLAUSE FOR ALL OF OUR FOUR-TIME EVENT CHAMPIONS FROM THE 2021-2022 SCHOOL YEAR.

## **NCHSAA State Awards by Category**

NOW WE MOVE TO OUR FINAL GROUP OF AWARDS, THE STATE AWARDS, FOLLOWED BY THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF OUR MALE AND FEMALE ATHLETES OF THE YEAR.

THE ASSOCIATION ANNUALLY PRESENTS THE STATE AWARDS IN EIGHT CATEGORIES. THESE STATEWIDE AWARDS ARE ALL BASED ON THOSE “WHO HAVE DONE THE MOST FOR HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETICS” IN THEIR CHOSEN FIELD RATHER THAN A SINGLE ACCOMPLISHMENT OR HAVING AN OUTSTANDING WON-LOSS RECORD.

THE AWARDS ARE NAMED IN MEMORY OR HONOR OF OUTSTANDING INDIVIDUALS IN EACH CATEGORY, SEVEN OF WHOM ARE CURRENT MEMBERS OF THE NCHSAA HALL OF FAME.

### **DORIS HOWARD FEMALE COACH OF THE YEAR – Joan Mabe, Chapel Hill High School**

After an All-American career in cross country, indoor and outdoor track at UNC, Joan Nesbitt Mabe became a distance coach for men and women at UNC-Chapel Hill coaching numerous ACC Champions and NCAA All-Americans. She returned to coaching after a short break while raising a family, she returned to coaching at the high school ranks at Chapel Hill High School, coaching both cross country and track for men and women’s teams at the school. She is credited with helping hundreds of students to catch the “running bug.”

An Olympian herself, in 1996, she realized that she could make a huge impact in the lives of students in the high school level, believing she could make a bigger difference in students’ lives while they were in high school. In almost 10 years leading the programs at Chapel Hill High, Coach Mabe has trained teams to seven team State Championships, three each in men’s and women’s cross country, and another in women’s indoor track. She has also helped many individuals to the top spot in distance disciplines.

### **HARVEY REID MALE COACH OF THE YEAR – Ronald Vincent, J.H. Rose High School**

Ronald Vincent has been a Pitt County resident his entire life, attending Pitt County Schools and graduating from Rose High School in 1965 where he played football and baseball. Coach Vincent has coached football over 30 years at Rose High School and Farmville Central High School and has also coached basketball and wrestling. He taught at Farmville Central High School from 1969-1973 and Rose High School from 1973-2009. He holds the most wins for a high school baseball coach in North Carolina history with 985 wins which includes 7 state championships in baseball (1975, 1997, 1999, 2003, 2004, 2008 and 2021). Vincent was also an assistant football coach on 5 state championship teams (1975, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006).

### **DAVE HARRIS ATHLETIC DIRECTOR OF THE YEAR – Colin Fegeley, Green Level High School**

Colin Fegeley, CMAA, M.Ed received his Bachelor’s Degree in History from North Carolina State University and his Master’s Degree in Education from the University of Pennsylvania.

Prior to being named the 1st Athletic Director at Green Level High School, Fegeley served as Athletic Director at Green Hope High School from 2014-2019. During his tenure at Green Hope, he helped guide the athletic program 9 consecutive NCHSAA 4A Wells Fargo Cups and was part of 17 state championships.

Fegeley is a member of the National Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association and serves as vice president on North Carolina Athletic Directors Association (NCADA) Board of Directors. He earned his Certified Master Athletic Administrator (CMAA) designation in January 2020. He was named the 2022 NCADA Athletic Director of the Year.

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**BOB DEATON PRINCIPAL OF THE YEAR – Jason Suggs, St. Pauls High School**

Jason Suggs is the principal of St. Pauls High School and has served as principal since 2015. He is an alumnus of the school and has been pleased to preside over seven years of academic and athletic growth at the school. Even with the cloud of COVID altering high school athletics, St. Pauls High has been deep in the playoffs in many sports. The Bulldogs made Regional appearances in boys and girls basketball and the school's first appearance in the state title game in football.

Suggs praised the string of athletic successes and said it displays the hard work and dedication of the faculty, staff, and students. Prior to being named principal of St. Pauls High, he served as the Public Schools of Robeson County District Athletic Director, principal of Fairmont High and assistant principal and teacher at Lumberton High.

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**BOB MCRAE SUPERINTENDENT OF THE YEAR – Cathy Moore, Wake County Public School System**

Cathy Moore became the Wake County Public School System's tenth superintendent when she took the position in May 2018. She leads the nation's 15<sup>th</sup> largest school system overseeing programs for 160,000 students and 19,000 school employees. Moore was recently named the National Superintendent of the Year by Magnet Schools of America.

Moore was appointed to the Wake County Schools' position as a Deputy Superintendent for Academic Advancement. She has served in numerous capacities within public schools, including time as an area superintendent, high school principal, and assistant principal. She began her career as a high school French teacher in the Nash-Rocky Mount Public School System. Moore currently serves on the Board of Directors for the NCHSAA.

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**TIM STEVENS MEDIA REPRESENTATIVE OF THE YEAR – J. Mike Blake, HighSchoolOT.com**

J. Mike Blake is a graduate of Western Harnett High School and NC State University who has a long history of covering high school sports in the Triangle and much of the eastern half of the state. Blake currently contributes to HighSchoolOT.com after a ten year career with McClatchy Newspapers that saw him rise to become the high school sports editor at *The News & Observer* and *The Herald Sun*.

Blake has won 14 NC Press Association Awards and is the only two-time winner of the NC Soccer Coaches Association's Media Person of the Year Award. He currently teaches at



Cardinal Gibbons High School, now in his fourth year teaching American literature and public speaking. He has also helped many students get hands-on experience covering sports for many of the school's social media platforms. Blake has always been concerned about preserving history of schools' athletic accomplishments, and telling the stories of the special communities from all across the state. He is the brains behind @RecordsWatchNC on Twitter and has been to 219 schools across the state to cover an event or during his playing career while at Western Harnett.

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**ELTON HAWLEY ATHLETIC TRAINER OF THE YEAR – Emily Gaddy, Orange High School**

Emily Gaddy has served as an athletic trainer in NCHSAA member schools since 2011. In 2012, she joined Orange High School as an athletic trainer and teacher and has served the students at Orange ever since. Gaddy is a product of Campbell University and UNC Greensboro and has served on the NCHSAA's Sports Medicine Advisory Committee since 2020.

For the last six years, Gaddy has been a member of the NCHSAA and NCATA's joint EAP Review Committee. She has been active in the research community as well, working with studies to better understand the role of Rehabilitation in Concussion Management, Risk minimization teaching techniques and numerous other courses of study. Gaddy has been awarded the NCHSAA's LifeSaver Citation in 2018 and the Orange County Schools Employee Excellence Award in 2016.

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**DR. TIM TAFT MEDICAL PROFESSIONAL OF THE YEAR – Dr. Rick McBurney, Hudson Primary Care**

Dr. Rick McBurney is the owner and CEO of Hudson Primary Care, serving approximately 3000 residents and seeing 25-35 patients per day, from infants to the elderly, in rural North Carolina. He has been a staple in the Western North Carolina medical community for many years.

McBurney has served as a physician since 1988, but has truly invested himself in the coverage of athletic events for many years. He has served as a member of the on-site Physicians at the NCHSAA State Wrestling Tournament since 2000, helping assess, stabilize, and treat injuries for participants for 22 years. He has also provided medical coverage for Wendy's Meets, the NCHSAA State Cross Country Championship Meet, and has served at the Southeastern Division of the Footlocker 5K Cross Country Track Meet in Charlotte since 1995.

## **EXEMPLARY SCHOOL AWARD**

THE EXEMPLARY SCHOOL AWARD IS GIVEN AS A COOPERATIVE VENTURE AMONG THE NCHSAA, THE NORTH CAROLINA COACHES ASSOCIATION AND THE NORTH CAROLINA ATHLETIC DIRECTORS ASSOCIATION. IN ADDITION TO A BANNER FOR DISPLAY, THE SCHOOL RECEIVES A \$1,000 CASH AWARD. THE AWARD RECOGNIZES THE TOP OVERALL SCHOOL IN THE STATE IN TERMS OF THE "TOTAL PROGRAM" INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO ATHLETIC SUCCESS, SCOPE OF ATHLETIC OPPORTUNITIES OFFERED, FACILITIES, COMMUNITY INTEREST AND INVOLVEMENT, ACADEMICS AND THE LIKE. FOR 2022 THE EXEMPLARY SCHOOL AWARD GOES TO PENDER HIGH SCHOOL.

THE AWARD WAS REVAMPED IN 2018 TO INCLUDE MEASUREMENTS OF COMMITMENT TO PARTICIPATION IN NCHSAA PROGRAMS AND OPPORTUNITIES, THE SCHOOL'S SPORTSMANSHIP PROFILE, AS WELL AS PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OF COACHES AND ADMINISTRATORS. WE WILL BE SCHEDULING A TIME THIS FALL TO ATTEND PENDER AND PRESENT THEM WITH THEIR AWARDS IN THEIR COMMUNITY.

## **MALE ATHLETE OF THE YEAR**

NOW IT IS TIME TO RECOGNIZE THE WINNER OF THE 2021-2022 PAT BEST MEMORIAL TROPHY AND THE NCHSAA'S MALE ATHLETE OF THE YEAR. THE ATHLETE OF THE YEAR IS CHOSEN FROM NOMINATIONS BY MEMBER SCHOOLS, SCREENED BY A COMMITTEE OF MEDIA MEMBERS FROM ACROSS THE STATE AND SELECTED BY A VOTE OF A PANEL FROM ACROSS THE STATE EACH YEAR.

THIS YEAR'S MALE ATHLETE OF THE YEAR WAS CHOSEN FROM OVER 20 SUBMISSIONS BY MEMBER SCHOOLS, AND A POOL OF FOUR FINALISTS AS SELECTED BY THE SCREENING COMMITTEE.

THE 2021-2022 NCHSAA MALE ATHLETE OF THE YEAR IS FROM FAYETTEVILLE'S TERRY SANFORD HIGH SCHOOL ... DAVIS MOLNAR.

MOLNAR STARRED ON THE BULLDOGS BASKETBALL AND SOCCER TEAMS, EARNING ALL-CONFERENCE HONORS IN EACH SPORT.

ON THE SOCCER FIELD, HE HAD A CAREER RECORD OF 65-19, AND WAS A MEMBER OF THE 2021 ALL-STATE TEAM AND THE ALL-AMERICAN ATHLETIC CONFERENCE PLAYER OF THE YEAR. HE LED CUMBERLAND COUNTY IN GOALS SCORED WITH 36 ON THE YEAR.

HE WAS EVEN MORE IMPRESSIVE ON THE HARDWOOD, RACKING UP CONFERENCE PLAYER OF THE YEAR HONORS, ALL-STATE TEAM HONORS. HE LED THE TEAM IN POINTS PER GAME WITH 18.6 PER CONTEST WHILE GRABBING 11.8 REBOUNDS A GAME AND DISHING OUT 4.6 ASSISTS PER CONTEST. OVER HIS FOUR YEAR CAREER, HE SCORED 1281 POINTS AND AVERAGED 14.1 POINTS PER GAME, GRABBING 815 CAREER REBOUNDS, TOTALING 9 PER GAME IN FOUR YEARS ON THE VARSITY TEAM.

HE DID ALL OF THAT WHILE MAINTAINING A 4.33 GPA. HE IS COMMITTED TO FURMAN UNIVERSITY AND WILL CONTINUE HIS ACADEMIC AND ATHLETIC CAREER WITH THE PALADINS THIS FALL.

THE 2022 NCHSAA MALE ATHLETE OF THE YEAR IS DAVIS MOLNAR FROM TERRY SANFORD HIGH SCHOOL.

## **FEMALE ATHLETE OF THE YEAR**

THIS YEAR'S FEMALE ATHLETE OF THE YEAR WAS CHOSEN FROM OVER 30 SUBMISSIONS BY MEMBER SCHOOLS, AND A POOL OF FINALISTS FINALISTS AS SELECTED BY THE SCREENING COMMITTEE.

THE FEMALE ATHLETE OF THE YEAR FOR 2021-2022 IS CLAIRE CURZAN FROM CARDINAL GIBBONS HIGH SCHOOL.

YOU'VE SEEN HER UP HERE A FEW TIMES ALREADY TODAY, WINNING THE OLYMPIAN AWARD AND PICKING UP A PAIR OF FOUR-TIME INDIVIDUAL EVENT CHAMPION AWARDS. CURZAN HAS BEEN A DOMINANT FORCE IN THE 4A STATE SWIMMING MEET EACH OF HER FOUR YEARS.

CURZAN HAS BEEN THE MOST OUTSTANDING SWIMMER FOR THREE OF THE FOUR YEARS SHE COMPETED IN THE MEET, COMING UP SHORT IN THE POINT CALCULATIONS FOR THAT HONOR DURING HER JUNIOR YEAR AFTER SHE DID NOT BREAK HER OWN STATE MEET RECORDS FROM THE PREVIOUS YEAR. IN HER SENIOR YEAR, SHE LEFT NO DOUBT, SMASHING THE ALL-CLASSIFICATION MEET RECORD IN THE 100 FLY AND 100 BACKSTROKE, BECOMING THE FIRST FEMALE TO GO UNDER 50 SECONDS EACH EVENT IN THE HISTORY OF THE NCHSAA STATE MEET.

SHE SET MULTIPLE NEW NFHS RECORDS IN THE 100 FLY AND 100 BACKSTROKE, PERHAPS MOST IMPRESSIVELY, CONTINUING TO PARTICIPATE AT THE HIGH SCHOOL LEVEL WHILE TRAINING FOR THE OLYMPICS AND REACHING THE 2021 OLYMPICS AS A MEMBER OF THE US SWIMMING TEAM IN THE 100 BUTTERFLY, QUALIFYING FOR THE TEAM AT AGE 16.

CURZAN WAS A VITAL PART OF THE CARDINAL GIBBONS PROGRAM THROUGHOUT HER FOUR YEAR CAREER, AND PERHAPS MOST POINGNANTLY, BRINGING THE CRUSADER RELAY TEAM HOME A GOLD MEDAL IN THE 400 FREE RELAY, SWIMMING THE ANCHOR LEG AND CHEWING UP A NEARLY FIVE SECOND DEFICIT IN THE FINAL 100 YARDS OF THE RACE TO EARN THE TOP OF THE PODIUM.

AN ELECTRIFYING SWIMMER IN THE POOL, AN OLYMPIAN, A STATE CHAMPION MANY TIMES OVER, AND AN OUTSTANDING SWIMMER WHO WILL ATTEND STANFORD UNIVERSITY IN THE FALL TO CONTINUE HER ACADEMIC CAREER AND PURSUIT OF OLYMPIC GOLD,

THE WINNER OF THE 2021-2022 PAT BEST MEMORIAL TROPHY FOR THE NCHSAA'S FEMALE ATHLETE OF THE YEAR IS CLAIRE CURZAN FROM CARDINAL GIBBONS.

CLOSING REMARKS – COMMISSIONER TUCKER

I'LL NOW TURN IT OVER TO COMMISSIONER QUE TUCKER FOR SOME CLOSING REMARKS.