



Shawsheen Valley Technical High School Student Receives MIAA Student-Athlete of the Month Award

Billerica – Craig Rich Jr., a senior at Shawsheen Valley Technical High School, has been selected as the recipient of the “MIAA Student-Athlete of the Month Award” for March 2017.

A member of the football, basketball and baseball teams at Shawsheen Valley Technical High School, Craig was voted captain of the football and basketball teams. As a member of the football team, he rushed for over 1,100 yards and scored 14 touchdowns, earning the Shawsheen MVP and a berth on the Commonwealth Athletic Conference (CAC) All-Star team. “Craig is clearly one of the most outstanding all around individuals that I have ever coached in my career. He truly epitomizes the meaning of leadership,” said Shawsheen Athletic Director and Football Coach, Al Costabile. As a member of the basketball team Craig and his teammates were awarded the 2017 Nathan W. Aldrich Memorial School Appreciation Award. This award is presented to the basketball team in the area which best exemplifies the highest degree of sportsmanship, character and ethics among its players, coaches and spectators. Craig is also a three-year varsity starter on the baseball team and was named to the CAC League All-Star team as a junior.

Academically, Craig is ranked 8th in the senior class, earning a 3.96 Grade Point Average, with a focus in the drafting program. He is a member of the National Honor Society, a student orientation leader and a winner of the Shawsheen citizenship award. Craig participates in the Shawsheen cooperative education program working at Nardone Electric Corporation and plans to attend a 4-year college to pursue a Mechanical Engineering degree. “Craig is one of the hardest working student-athletes I have come across throughout my entire teaching and coaching career,” said Shawsheen Baseball Coach and U.S. History teacher Brian McCarthy. “He truly exemplifies that mold as a student-athlete... and he will be the first to tell you that it is no coincidence that the word student comes first in that expression.”

Outside of the classroom and athletic arena, Craig is a significant contributor in his community. He is a volunteer for the Special Olympics of Massachusetts, participates in the Relay for Life and volunteers at local youth football and basketball camps. In addition, Craig is an Eagle Scout who is also a member of the National Honor Society of Scouting and is the leader of Troop 11. “Craig Rich is the total package. He is a terrific student, a stand out athlete and a true leader in our community, said Shawsheen Basketball Coach, Greg Bendel. “Craig is a great ambassador for Shawsheen Tech. He is a very hard worker and I know he will be very successful going forward.”

The Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association (MIAA) Student-Athlete of the Month Award is presented on a monthly basis to one male and one female student-athlete who display excellence in the areas of academics, athletics and community service. Students in grades 9-12 who attend MIAA member schools are eligible to receive the award. Monthly award winners receive a certificate of recognition and are featured on MIAA.net. Nominations for the award may be submitted by principals, athletic directors, teachers, coaches, guidance counselors or other school administrators. A complete list of “MIAA Student-Athlete of the Month Award” recipients and finalists can be found under the “Educational Athletics” and “Leadership” sections at www.miaa.net.