



Leicester High School Student Receives MIAA Student-Athlete of the Month Award

Abigail Bernabei, a junior at Leicester High School, has been selected as a recipient of the "MIAA Student-Athlete of the Month Award" for November 2021. A three-sport student-athlete, Abigail has been a force in Cross Country since middle school. She is also a strong member of the Basketball and Outdoor Track teams. Abby is a dominant runner in the Southern Worcester County League (SWCL), going undefeated in all league meets this fall. According to Norman Everett, Abby's Cross Country and Track Coach, "Abby has an exceptionally strong work ethic when it comes to training for the season." Abby took home top honors in the SWCL Championship meet, a first for Leicester High School, and she placed 16th at the District 3 State Meet, which qualified her for the All-State Meet. She is only the second runner at Leicester to ever achieve this qualification. Abby has been recognized as a SWCL Cross Country All-Star since she began running Varsity in 2017. She has been a Captain of the Cross Country team since her sophomore year.

Abby "is a diligent, mature, and humble young woman," noted her Advanced Placement English Teacher. She ranks in the top 10 of her class, takes Honors and Advanced Placement courses, and has consistently earned High Honor Roll status. She is a member of the Leicester National Honor Society and is actively involved with Student Council. "Abby seems to be living her best life," said her Psychology Teacher, "Her hard work ethic in the classroom transfers to all avenues of her life. She is competitive and up for the challenges – even when they are tough. She continues to persevere and has a smile on while doing it." Her Math Teacher added, "Abby approaches every task with determination and dedication. She consistently puts forth her best. She is a role model for those around her."

Abby volunteers as a coach for Leicester town Soccer and town Basketball. She has helped in the community at Leicester's Harvest Festival, as well as Marlborough's Scarecrow Festival. For the high school, Abby is on the Prom Committee and serves as a tutor for students in need of academic help. In 2019, Abby and a friend ran the Falmouth Road Race as a fundraiser for the Jimmy Fund. She stated, "I have had several loved ones pass away due to cancer, so this campaign was very close to my heart. The most meaningful part of this event for me was knowing that I ran for such a great cause." According to Athletic Director Jen Reynolds, "Abby is a competitor, a scholar and a role model for her classmates and teammates. She truly embodies the term student-athlete with her dedication to her studies and her running."

The Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association (MIAA) Student-Athlete of the Month Award is presented on a monthly basis to two student-athletes 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 recipients receive a certificate of recognition, are featured on www.miaa.net and MIAA social platforms, and will be honored at a local ceremony to honor their selection. Each recipient will be eligible for the Harry Agganis Student-Athlete of the Year Scholarship provided on behalf of the Agganis family. Nominations for the MIAA Student-Athlete of the Month award may be submitted by principals, athletic directors, teachers, coaches, guidance counselors or other school administrators. For additional information about the MIAA Student-Athlete of the Month Award program please visit www.miaa.net.

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