



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

Cole Hamernick, a senior at Swampscott High School, has been selected as the recipient of the "MIAA Student-Athlete of the Month Award" for February 2022. A major contributor to his Football, Indoor Track, and Lacrosse Teams, it is Cole's "unmatched work ethic and ability to unite his peers that sets him apart from the rest," according to his Track and Field Coach, Brian Kirkland. He continued, "Very few people can positively transform a team's demeanor in the manner he did." As a Captain and a two-way starter in Football at receiver and cornerback, Cole has proven to be one of the most technically sound defensive cornerbacks in the league. He was a key contributor to his team's undefeated 2021 regular season as well as in capturing the Division 5 State Championship at Gillette Stadium. Cole was selected as a League All-Star in Football. His Football Assistant Coach said, "Cole unequivocally knows the meaning of hard work and possesses a characteristic of determination which always keeps him well prepared to meet all challenges." According to his Coach, Geoffrey Beckett, Cole demonstrates the qualities of hard work and strong character required in Lacrosse. "Cole is the first to volunteer to help out in any way he can with the youth or younger players on the team," Beckett said.

Cole challenges himself with Advanced Placement courses and holds a solid 3.8 GPA in the classroom. He is strong in math and serves as a Teacher Assistant in Beckett's Algebra 2 Honors course where Beckett observes firsthand the math knowledge Cole possesses. His Physics teacher stated, "Cole is an extremely bright and hardworking student who can learn and apply material at a very fast pace. He works well with others, often acting as a tutor to those who are struggling." Cole plans to pursue studies in Science and Engineering next year. Principal Dennis Kohut congratulates Cole on his selection and stated, "Cole represents all of the values that we hope to instill in a Swampscott High School student. He has served for four years as a leader and a tremendous role model for our younger students."

Cole volunteers at youth lacrosse and helps with various town lacrosse clinics and camps. He also gives his time to help out at youth football clinics. A volunteer for the North Shore Rovers, a soccer program for special needs children, Cole is a one-on-one aide/soccer coach. He keeps children engaged, motivated, and comfortable by utilizing unique communication strategies to guide the kids during the program. Over the summer of 2021, he volunteered his time to The Wall That Heals, which is a traveling wall replica of the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial located in Washington, D.C. Swampscott Athletic Director Kelly Wolff stated, "Cole is a hard-working and determined student-athlete! He is a role model and a positive influence for his teammates both on the field, in the classroom, and in the stands cheering for his classmates. I know Cole will do outstanding things next year as he moves on to college."

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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