



# Harry Agganis Student-Athlete of the Year Scholarship Recipients 2022

For Immediate Release  
June 16, 2022

Franklin, MA - The Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association (MIAA) in partnership with the Agganis Family is honored to announce the 2022 recipients of the Harry Agganis Student-Athlete of the Year Scholarship: Ijeoma Ezechukwu, Ayer Shirley Regional High School and Cole Hamernick, Swampscott High School.

## Congratulations to both Ijeoma and Cole!

This is the third year the Agganis Family and the MIAA have partnered for this prestigious recognition. The legacy of Harry Agganis as a scholar, an athlete and a servant to his community is now enshrined in this annual scholarship recognition of two outstanding MIAA student-athletes. Ijeoma and Cole, who each received a \$1,500.00 scholarship, were selected from the 2021-2022 selections of monthly MIAA Student-Athletes of the Month. These two student-athletes best exemplify the highest achievement in the areas of academics, athletics and community service. Bob Baldwin, MIAA Executive Director avows that the “MIAA is extremely pleased to partner with the Agganis family to provide to our outstanding student-athletes the scholarship opportunity as well as spotlight the legacy of Harry Agganis as a model for educational athletics.”



Ijeoma “Ijay” Ezechukwu, a senior at Ayer Shirley Regional High School is a three-sport athlete in Cross Country, Indoor Track and Field, and Outdoor Track and Field. She is the class Salutatorian, a service provider in her native country of Nigeria and to her new community of Ayer Shirley, holds school records in the 100M and 200M, and has received many athletic and academic accolades. Ijay is a quiet leader modeling the qualities desired of Ayer Shirley athletes. Steve Kendall, Athletic Director stated, “Ijay is humble, displays integrity and honor, she leads a healthy lifestyle, and is hungry to improve in all aspects of her life.” Ijay will attend Boston University in fall of 2022.

Cole Hamernick, a senior at Swampscott High School is a multi-year Football, Indoor Track and Field and Lacrosse student-athlete. Cole is a leader, someone who has a unique ability to unite his peers no matter the situation. He was a key contributor in Swampscott's 2021 undefeated football season and their Division 5 State Championship. Cole serves as an Algebra 2 Math Teacher Assistant and volunteers for a soccer program for special needs children. Principal Dennis Kohut said, "Cole represents all of the values that we hope to instill in a Swampscott High School student. He has served four years as a leader and a tremendous role model for our younger students." Cole will attend the Colorado School of Mines in Golden, CO this fall.



Greg Agganis, great-nephew to Harry Agganis, stated on behalf of the Agganis family, "I want to congratulate Ijeoma Ezechukwu of Ayer Shirley Regional High School and Cole Hamernick of Swampscott High School for being selected to receive the Harry Agganis Student-Athlete of the Year scholarship for 2022. Ijeoma and Cole both had tremendous athletic high school seasons. Each is a three-sport athlete; Ijeoma in Cross Country, Indoor Track and Field, and Outdoor Track and Field, and Cole in Football, Indoor Track and Field and Lacrosse. Both were top honor students and made significant contributions to their respective communities. I am honored to announce that both Ijeoma and Cole possess great character, leadership and dignity." Baldwin affirms the "character displayed by Ijay and Cole is in direct alignment with Harry Agganis' qualities of character, leadership and community service."

The Harry Agganis Student-Athlete of the Year Scholarships was recently presented to Ijay at the MIAA Girls and Women in Sport Day at Faneuil Hall in Boston, and to Cole during the Swampscott High School Senior Awards Night. For additional information about the Harry Agganis Student-Athlete of the Year Scholarship and the MIAA Student-Athlete of the Month Award program, please visit the "Student" tab at [www.miaa.net](http://www.miaa.net).

**EDUCATIONAL ATHLETICS**

MIAA | 33 Forge Pkwy | Franklin, MA 02038 | 508-541-7997

A collage of four images: a person in a white shirt and blue shorts, a group of people holding a "MIAA CHAMPION" sign, a person in a blue and white athletic uniform, and a person in a black jacket.