



# Coach of the Year

2019-2020

## — Congratulations —

The Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association is pleased to announce the twenty-nine coaches from MIAA member schools who were selected this year by a subcommittee of MIAA Coaches' Education Instructors.

The award seeks to recognize and honor "teacher coaches" who have had an impact on the lives of student-athletes, by encouraging them to succeed and by helping them develop self-confidence, ambition, a sound work ethic, and other skills or values necessary or helpful for success in their later lives. Award candidates should have a record of encouraging student-athletes to be well-rounded (i.e. displaying excellence in areas of scholarship, citizenship, fine arts, etc.), as well as a reputation, among their peers and the athletic community, for fair play, good sportsmanship, and the development of these attributes in their student-athletes.

The 2019-20 honorees are the tenth class of MIAA Coach of the Year Award recipients. Please see below for the list of honorees and their coaching philosophies. Congratulations to the 2019-2020 MIAA Coach of the Year Recipients!

### BASEBALL

**JOHN SILK**, *Assabet Valley Regional Technical High School*: "The philosophy of the baseball program is for players to be accountable, prepared and to be school ambassadors to their school and families. The culture is one of winning, but winning the right way and treating all opponents and officials with respect."

### BASKETBALL (Boys)

**SEAN RYAN**, *Jeremiah Edward Burke High School*: "My philosophy hasn't changed in my six years at the Jeremiah E. Burke High school. Be the male role model that so many of the young men need. Be the father figure that instills discipline off the court. Be there, with tough love, through the highs and lows. By doing this, the trust as a coach will be there to perform on the court."

### BASKETBALL (Girls)

**JAY KEANE**, *Malden Catholic High School*: "I am a disciple of the traditional values of loyalty, hard work, discipline and respect. My belief is that the young people of today should not only be exposed to these ideals, but should live them. In order for any program to be successful each member must strive for the same goals. Coaches should be educators. The job of the coach is to teach basketball in a manner that is stimulating and challenging to the participant. Develop a sense of pride and character. To encourage sportsmanship at all times. To accept both victory and defeat with class and humility."

### CROSS COUNTRY (Boys)

**PERRY PAPPAS**, *Wakefield Memorial High School*: "At Wakefield Memorial High School, our team culture provides a fun environment allowing each member of the team to enjoy the process while working hard towards a common goal. Using the team as a support system allows each individual to be successful over four years which also contributes to team success."

### CROSS COUNTRY (Girls)

**JOSEPH COLBERT**, *Triton Regional High School*: “I believe that through athletics we are helping prepare young people for the “real world.” I believe that life for our athletes will consist of challenges that go beyond anything they can learn in the classroom. Through running, my athletes learn to realize their own talents and abilities, whatever they are, and to maximize them. They learn to rely on themselves and their own work ethic, while also learning to grow and thrive in a team atmosphere in which everyone supports each other.”

## FIELD HOCKEY

**KAREN GOMEZ**, *Agawam High School*: “Athletics is an extension of the classroom. Athletes are students first. I take a mastery approach to sport rather than a scoreboard approach. It is my goal to teach athletes to put forward hard work and maximum effort, continuously learn and improve, and not let themselves be stopped by mistakes or fear of mistakes. I encourage my student-athletes to love yourself, love the game, have fun, and give back to others.”

## FOOTBALL

**ANDREW MacKAY**, *Ashland High School*: “My philosophy on athletics is very simple. It’s about creating relationships. It is about working extremely hard to earn everyone’s respect and then raising the bar on expectations. The best days are sometimes the toughest and our staff knows that winning over a young person is far more important than winning an actual game. The moment you gain someone’s complete trust is the moment you can guide them into being a great person.”

## GOLF (Boys)

**MARY O’BRIEN**, *Weston High School*: “At Weston High School, we consider athletics an integral part of the educational experience. Athletics provides opportunities that will help students develop physically, mentally, and emotionally. We view the competition of athletics as a healthy educational and physiological activity because it challenges each student to excel, to discover his or her physical limits, and to work cooperatively with team members.”

## GOLF (Girls)

**JAY DURFEE**, *Notre Dame Academy, Hingham*: “Athletics are an essential part of the educational process. Through athletics student athletes learn the fine balance and challenges of competitive sport and classroom success. The lessons a student-athlete learns are more than victories and losses, they are life-long building blocks to future success. Athletic competition provides the ground work for sportsmanship, and building respect for others will lead to better human relations and leadership skills.”

## GYMNASTICS (Boys)

**RICH BUTLER**, *Attleboro High School*: “I feel so lucky that I am honored with the title of COACH. Being a coach means so much more to me than teaching a sport. It is molding student-athletes to be hardworking, confident, determined individuals who never give up on their goals no matter how unreachable they may seem. It is my job as a coach to encourage each athlete to press on, and help them turn their dreams into reality.”

## GYMNASTICS (Girls)

**JENNIFER WRENN**, *Medfield High School*: “My main goal of coaching is to try and have my athletes love Gymnastics as much as I do and have them learn the amazing lessons that I learned as a gymnast of time management, commitment, responsibility and to realize their own self-worth. While winning is of course a goal, I truly try to instill in the girls to focus on the process that gets them there – consistency and accountability are key to their success and understanding not only in sports but life. My coaching philosophy is truly simple; my expectations of them as athletes is extremely clear with focus on building character, being a team player, a great teammate and winning gymnastics meets is simply a byproduct.”

## ICE HOCKEY (Boys)

**JOHN MESSURI**, *Arlington High School*: “Athletics gives students a chance to better themselves socially, emotionally, and academically. The lessons learned on the ice can be applied in the classroom and in your everyday life. Hard work, listening and confidence all allow student-athletes to improve both on and off the ice.”

### **ICE HOCKEY (Girls)**

**EDWARD AMICO**, *Westwood High School*: “With any team that I could, I always make sure to bring community service into it. I want my players to be awesome players on the ice, but I want them to be better people off the ice. The high school experience only comes once, so let’s make the most of it on the ice and make an incredible difference off the ice.”

### **LACROSSE (Boys)**

**WAYNE PUGLISI**, *Andover High School*: “To prepare the men of Andover Lacrosse to be servant leaders in the community. To be men built for others, developing life experiences through our game that will prepare them for the rest of their lives. With the goal that one day they will be great sons, brothers, husbands and fathers.”

### **RUGBY (Boys)**

**GREG BRUCE**, *Belmont High School*: “At Belmont Rugby our top priority is for all of our players to have a positive experience and for all to feel welcome and valued as members of our club. The way we set out to accomplish this is through our relationships and establishment of a positive and supportive culture that has high expectations for everyone involved, from 1<sup>st</sup> year to 4<sup>th</sup> year players, as well as the coaching staff.”

### **SKI, ALPINE**

**ERIK RUHMANN**, *Westford Academy*: “It is really important to me that the kids on the teams understand the concept of student-athlete and that academics come first. At the same time, I feel that athletics affords students opportunities to grow and learn in ways that academics don’t offer. I want them to learn that through hard work and focus, that when they are standing at the top of the course and pressure is on, they can count on themselves to succeed. I want them to take away that skiing is a life-long sport and that the experiences and values they learn from their teammates, opposing team racers and parents are something that they can share with their friends, family and even their own kids in years to come.”

### **SKI, NORDIC**

**PAT GARRISON**, *Acton-Boxborough Regional High School*: “I encourage athletes to do rowing or cross country rowing or any other sport. I train them to be as fast/great as they want to be and work with each athlete individually. I need to reach all athletes.”

### **SOCCER (Boys)**

**JARED SCARPACI**, *Masconomet Regional High School*: “The soccer program at Masconomet RHS is committed to the physical, emotional, social, and mental development of all who participate. Participation in sports is a privilege; athletes are expected to exhibit the highest level of personal conduct on and off the field. They must show respect for fellow teammates, students, staff members, community members, opponents, game officials, and spectators.”

### **SOCCER (Girls)**

**STEVEN ESTELLE**, *Gateway Regional High School*: “I believe that athletics are an integral part of the education experience. I feel that athletics help shape the lives of the participants. My coaches strive to be good role models to all of our student-athletes.”

### **SOFTBALL**

**KATHY GEORGINA**, *Agawam High School*: “Athletics are an essential part of the student’s learning experience. Many of the lessons learned through participation in athletics are life lessons that can be carried over into all aspects of life such as developing a strong work ethic, teamwork skills, cooperation, determination and most importantly how to succeed and how to build the character to lose gracefully. Athletics are an integral part of building self-confidence and selflessness and build pride that teaches students to be part of something bigger than just themselves.”

## **SWIMMING & DIVING**

**JEAN FEDAK**, *Algonquin Regional High School*: “My coaching philosophy is grounded by my desire to influence young adults to reach their full potential as students, swimmers/divers, and human beings through an expectation of excellence in academics, sports performance, and sportsmanship. I truly believe if one has the knowledge, the ability and the passion, the sky is the limit!”

## **TENNIS (Boys)**

**DOUGLAS CHAPMAN**, *Somerset Berkley Regional High School*: “I subscribe to the three F’s – fair, firm and fun. Sportsmanship and academics are paramount. I want my players to give the best effort that they have to give, and the wins and losses take care of themselves.”

## **TENNIS (Girls)**

**TAMI DEGELDER**, *Plymouth South High School*: “As a high school coach, it is essential to help student-athletes build confidence and a positive attitude, while helping them to develop skills to become good teammates and strong leaders through their hard work, dedication, and support and respect for their teammates and opponents.”

## **TRACK & FIELD, INDOOR (Girls)**

**JOHN GRIFFITH**, *Wellesley High School*: “I encourage my student-athletes to have fun, work hard and compete at their highest level. I want them to represent their family and school with class and have good character while learning the sport of track and field.”

## **TRACK & FIELD, OUTDOOR (Girls)**

**JOHN GODA**, *Pope Francis Preparatory School*: “One of the reasons I have always loved coaching track and cross country is that every athlete has the opportunity to grow and improve during the season regardless of how many meets are won or lost. Success for us has always been about how much better we can get as a team and as individuals, and about making the most of our potential.”

## **UNIFIED BASKETBALL**

**JOE ZENUS**, *Milford High School*: “Milford High School has focused on educational opportunities which promote inclusion. Special Olympics Unified Sports brings together Unified athletes with intellectual disabilities and Unified partners without intellectual disabilities and provides them with the opportunity to practice and compete together on an equal playing field. We work to highlight individual’s abilities and goals (personal and team) instead of focusing on their disabilities. The goal is for these student-athletes to take these lessons and become role-models for inclusion in the school and community.”

## **UNIFIED TRACK & FIELD**

**LAUREN TARLOW**, *Needham High School*: “Coaching Unified Sport is all about helping every student feel included and successful, while simultaneously learning how to be a part of a team. I strive to build a team environment that encourages team spirit, sportsmanship, and competition. I try to meet every athlete where they are and push to take them to the next level of athletic

achievement. I hope to teach the athletes life skills and help build relationships that extend far beyond the Unified Sports season.”

## VOLLEYBALL

**COURTNEY CHALOFF**, *Needham High School*: “My philosophy of athletics centralizes around the idea of the positive impact of sports in shaping the whole person. Through athletics, coaches and athletes learn the true meaning of grit, resilience, failure, and confidence. I realized that I needed to work on the mental component of the game just as much, if not more, than the physical components. No matter the circumstances or score, if we could bring ourselves back to our confidence and grit then we could get through any challenge.”

## WRESTLING

**DESHAWN FENTRESS**, *Brockton High School*: “Encouraging and guiding students in athletics has been a passion for me. I have instilled in students a hierarchy of high school sports which is: Family, School, Wrestling/Sports. Each day, my coaches and I train our athletes to develop specific skills. The skills we train in our athletes are how to be disciplined and set goals. We educate student-athletes to realize that once they master these skills then they can apply them in their everyday life. I try to build a network through athletics so that all have a shoulder to lean on and additional voices to help fight for what they believe in.”

# EDUCATIONAL ATHLETICS

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