



MIAA Announces Student-Athletes of the Month for Fall 2022 Season

The **MIAA** is proud to announce the recipients of the **Student-Athlete of the Month** for the 2022 Fall Season.

This award recognizes two student-athletes on a monthly basis 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 will receive a certificate of recognition, be featured on the MIAA website and social media, and be honored individually. This year, there is also a \$1000 monetary prize that accompanies the award. Nominations may be submitted by principals, athletic directors, teachers, coaches, guidance counselors, or other school administrators. Nominations must be received by the last day of each month in order to qualify for that month's award. Award recipients will be selected from September through May each school year.

SEPTEMBER

Cooper Berube – Grafton High School

Nominated by Kevin Anderson, Athletic Director at Grafton High School



Cooper is known as a Captain's Captain and is an integral part of the success of the Grafton Football Team. As a role model for all players, Cooper takes five AP classes and is a leader among his peers volunteering and mentoring at both Grafton High School and Grafton Middle School. He serves on the Student-Athlete Advisory Committee, the ADs Captains Council, and is an MIAA Student Ambassador. He has also raised awareness about depression and has spoken courageously about his own personal battle with depression. Cooper also volunteers and enthusiastically supports the Michael Cherry Walk in honor of a

GHS Alum that passed away after his own bouts with depression. As a football player, Cooper led Grafton as an offensive linemen and linebacker and was a vital part of the team's Division IV State Football Championship run. He was also named Massachusetts High School Football Coaches Association Division 4 All-State Player at the linebacker position.

Molly O'Connor – Carver Middle/High School

Nominated by Brian Witkowski, Teacher at Carver Middle/High School



Molly is one of the first students at CMHS to complete the Biotechnology Pathway, a robust series of core and elective courses and certifications that prepare students for a career in life sciences. Playing volleyball for four years, Molly has also competed in lacrosse, track, and basketball. A volunteer for the Walk for Hunger and Congenital Heart Walk every year in Boston, Molly also raises money to sponsor a family every year for the Christmas holiday. As stated by Brian Witkowski, "*Molly O'Connor exemplifies what it means to be engaged in the school and community. Her commitments to her team, her studies, and volunteering are commendable as she does not do them for attention or credit but because she vies to do what is right.*"

OCTOBER

Andrew Hogan – Douglas High School
Nominated by Marydolores Sokol, Athletic Director



A member of the National Honor Society with a 4.2 GPA, Andrew is the captain of the Douglas High School Golf Team and also plays basketball and baseball. A two-time team MVP and DVC all-star, Andrew competed in the MIAA State Golf Tournament. Outside of school, Andrew is active in volunteering at the March of Dimes Annual 5K, and at the Diocese of Worcester's office with their tech support. This year, he assisted at the 1st Annual Kyle Cares 5K at Douglas High School, a walk/run to bring attention to the mental health struggles of teens. Described as a personable young man who engages others in meaningful conversations, Andrew recognizes the importance of giving back to the community.

Diya Ackerman-Vallala – North Andover High School
Nominated by Steve Nugent, Athletic Director



A high achieving and dedicated student, Diya is a state champion and record holder for the North Andover swim team. She captained the team her senior year and was named Swimmer of the Year by the Eagle Tribune as well as All-Scholastic in the Boston Herald and Boston Globe as she captured the 100 breaststroke title at both the Division 2 state meet and North sectional, and also finished first in the 200 IM at the state meet. She is currently enrolled in 5 AP classes and has taken nine in her academic career at NAHS and is actively involved in the NAHS Black Student Union, National Honor Society, and Editor of the NAHS Yearbook. On a regional and national level, Diya also serves on the USA Swimming National Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee, New England DEI Committee, and has volunteered at the Greater Boston Food Pantry. She has championed swim initiatives for people of diverse backgrounds and drowning prevention and swim lessons for all children. As Steve Nugent states, *"Diya is the full package, a scholar, an athlete, and a dedicated community volunteer."*

NOVEMBER

Allie Fritz – St. Mary's High School (Lynn)
Nominated by Jim Foley, Coach



A Garrity Scholar and member of the Principal's List every semester, Allie is an exceptional student-athlete at St. Mary's of Lynn. As a member of the girls soccer team for four years, Allie received the Spartan Award her sophomore season and captained the team her senior season. She has also played lacrosse and softball at St. Mary's. She is ranked 3rd in her class and is a member of the National Honor Society and a recipient of the Advanced Placement Honor and Scholar Award. An active member of the community, Allie volunteers at My Brother's Table, sings with the Grace Methodist Church Adult Choir, and helps out with the North Shore Rovers, a soccer program for players ages 3-21 with intellectual or physical challenges. As Coach Foley expressed, *"Allie is a true Spartan in every sense of the word. I cannot think of anyone more deserving of a student-athlete award."*

Patrick Ginnity – St. Bernard’s High School (Fitchburg)
Nominated by Ray Cosenza, Athletic Director



Patrick has had an amazing career at St. Bernard’s High School. He has been a member of the golf team since 8th grade, earned 5 Varsity letters and been the number 1 golfer since Freshmen year. Patrick has been a two year captain and team MVP and had an amazing senior season as a medalist in 12 of the 14 matches. Shooting a 4 under 68 in the state Finals, Patrick captured the Division 2 Championship at Maplegate Country Club. His play led the team to a 6th place finish. This summer, he travelled to Oregon to play in the USGA Junior Amateur Championships. Also a basketball star, Patrick is a two year captain and team MVP as a junior. His teachers describe him as an *“active learner that asks engaging questions.”* He was a top achiever in English class and *“respected the subject matter and held his education in high regard.”* As President of the Senior Class, Patrick also volunteers in numerous youth sports programs, campus ministry, is an MIAA Student Ambassador, and interns at the Beyond Sports podcast.

DECEMBER

Alex Carucci – North Reading High School
Nominated by Edward Blum, Coach.



Alex is the epitome of a student-athlete as he has taken 6 AP courses, has a 3.93 GPA, and been the Class President since his sophomore year. He is a three sport-athlete playing football, basketball, and baseball and led North Reading to its first State Football Championship victory this past fall. A captain of all three sports, Alex has been a league all-star in football and baseball. During the championship football season, Alex was the Cape Ann League MVP, and named to the Boston Herald and Boston Globe All-Scholastic Teams. Active in numerous community service groups, Alex also participates in Unified Basketball, North Reading Little League Challenger Program, North Reading Youth Football, and mentors the 9th grade students at North Reading High School. Coach Blum states, *“Alex’s pursuit of greatness and excellence in academics and athletics is unmatched. He has been able to achieve so much individually, while giving back even more by his volunteer work particularly as a mentor or a partner working with students with disabilities and by Class President constantly working to build school pride and spirit.”*

Faith Boutin – Tri-County Regional Vocational Technical High School
Nominated by Stephanie Caffrey, Teacher and Coach at Tri-County Regional Vocational Technical High School



A stellar student, Faith is ranked 6th out of 215 students and has scored highly at all Skills USA competitions. As a starter on the volleyball team for four seasons, Faith has won the Coaches Award and Unsung Hero Award as well as being named a league all-star. During the spring, Faith has played softball and was named a league all-star and plays multiple positions. A volunteer for her church ministry, Faith is also active in Tri-County’s school events and the main influencer in the school’s Food Drive for the Franklin Food Pantry. As Ms. Caffrey states, *“Faith is an exceptional student, one that we do not come across often. Faith goes above and beyond for her school, her teams, her community, and anyone else that needs her.”*

EDUCATIONAL ATHLETICS



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