



## Leominster High School Student Receives MIAA Student-Athlete of the Month Award May 2023

**Ricky Encarnacion** – Leominster High School  
Nominated by Catherine Brow, Teacher at Leominster High School

Ricky is a three-sport standout athlete and engaged member of the Class of 2023. Ricky volunteers his time for many groups within the community. He is a dedicated member of our Best Buddies Club, volunteering to spend his time building relationships and making connections with our LifeSkills students, taking them out to different events and things within the community. He also spends time on the weekends coaching and refereeing for the Leominster Flag Football League, volunteering his time to help teach today's youth the sport he loves so much.

As an athlete, Ricky has had a great senior year. His football season included 51 catches for 952 yds, 20 rushes for 301 yds, 20 TDS (2 on kick returns), 1600+ all-purpose yards, 43 tackles, 4 interceptions, 2 fumble recoveries, 1 forced fumble. Ricky also competed on the Basketball Team where his leadership was unmatched as his team went far into the Division II state tournament. The past two Springs, Ricky competed in Track. In the 2022 season he won every event competed in at the District Meet (triple jump, long jump, & 100 meter dash) and went on to earn 2nd place at Divisional Meet, 3rd place at the State Meet, 10th place in New England for Triple Jump. The Spring season saw similar results and recently won 1st place in Triple Jump at Divisional Meet over Memorial Day Weekend. A celebrated student that takes numerous honors and AP Level classes, Ricky is a member of the National Honor Society at Leominster High School.

Catherine Brow had this to say in her nomination, *“Ricky is a dedicated student and athlete, and has been a pleasure to work with over the past four years. Throughout the course of his time as a high school student, Ricky has grown to be a strong, powerful leader. A captain of the Leominster High School football team, a dedicated member of the Varsity basketball team, and strong competitor and teammate on the Varsity Track & Field team, Ricky truly shows the ability to balance a full schedule while also enrolling in challenging courses and maintaining a class rank in the top half of his class. He is dedicated to his studies, and puts a great deal of effort into being successful in the Honors and AP courses that he is enrolled in. In addition to his sports and his academics, he also holds a part-time job at a local establishment in the city and spends his weekends refereeing games for the Leominster Flag Football League. He is a phenomenal leader and sets good examples for his classmates and his teammates in everything he does. Whether it be by helping set up or pick up equipment at practice, contributing positively to a group activity in the classroom, or volunteering his time to mentor young athletes in our community, Ricky is truly a well-rounded individual. If he feels overwhelmed or is struggling, he uses that as a motivator to work harder and achieve the results he desires, both on and off the field. When he wants to get better at a skill on the field, he asks his coaches for extra lessons or practice. When he wants to get better at a skill in the classroom, he*

*communicates effectively with teachers and stays after for extra help. He has also demonstrated the ability to face adversity head-on, overcoming every challenge thrown at him with dignity, integrity, and poise. Ricky's academic and athletic accomplishments are rivaled only by his long list of personal strengths. His kindness, caring nature, and genuine ability to connect with others make him a true asset to our school, our sports teams, and our community as a whole. Ricky is someone who enters a room and has the ability to impact everyone in it for the better. The way he carries himself, the lighthearted spirit he brings, and the positive outlook he has make him a role model for all those around him. These qualities have all helped him become a strong leader, one whom his peers truly look up to, trust, and know they can count on in any time of need. As I hope I have conveyed, Ricky is very much loved not only by his peers, but also by the adults who have been fortunate enough to have the pleasure of teaching and coaching him. I truly think he is a very deserving recipient of the Student-Athlete of the Month Award, and would love to see him earn this accomplishment as he finishes out his high school academic and athletic career."*

## EDUCATIONAL ATHLETICS



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