



# Westfield School Boosters Association Presents 42nd Annual Booster Club Awards to 20 High School Senior Athletes

The Westfield High School (WHS) Booster Club recently awarded 20 student athlete scholarships in honor and memory of WHS coaches, athletes and boosters. Some scholarships were funded by the Boosters Association. Others have been funded in whole or in part by the Friends of Westfield Track, Taylor and Love Realtors, the family of Toni Bristol, the family of Greta Schoenemann, the friends and family of Marge and Bob Brewster, the John Byrne family, the Westfield Baseball Association, the Girls Softball League of Westfield, the Westfield Tennis Association, the Westfield Basketball Association, the Friends of Girls Lacrosse, the family of Deborah Tuohy, and an anonymous donor who has provided funding for the scholarships in honor of Peter Houlihan.

A scholarship committee, which consisted of Jim Lau, Bill Taylor, John Bennett, Nick Norton and John Fietkiewicz, evaluated the candidates based on the information received from the athletes themselves, the Guidance department, and Athletic Director Ed Tranchina, who also reviewed all the applications. The selection criteria consisted of: athletic achievement, scholastic performance and leadership qualities, with achievement given the most emphasis.

The Walter L. Clarkson Honorary Award was presented by Thom Hornish, coach of the girls cross-country team, for the Friends of Westfield Track to honor the memory of Walt Clarkson, the renowned coach of cross-country (X-C) and track teams. The recipient, Josh Einbinder, son of Nina Palius and Michael Einbinder, earned 10 varsity letters in X-C, winter track and spring track. He was captain of the spring track team.

This winter, Einbinder was named first team All-Area, second team All-County (UC) in the 800 and qualified for the Meet of Champions (MOC). The *Star-Ledger* named him UC's "Break-out" runner, and the *Courier News* called him the "Most Improved Athlete." In spring track, he has also been part of Westfield's 4x800 relay teams that competed at the Penn Relays. He is a member of the National Honor Society, a Transition Project Leader, a Model UN delegate and member of Invisible Children. Josh will attend American University, where he will run track.

The Alumni Scholarship (funded jointly by Taylor and Love Realtors and by the WSBA) was initiated by the Roger Love family, four generations, which have graduated from WHS and participated in varsity athletics. Roger Love (WHS Class of '57), and his daughter Traci, (Class of '84) presented the award to Patrick Tresnan, son of Jane and Tom Tresnan.

Tresnan earned six varsity letters (3 soccer, 3 in ice hockey). In soccer this year, he won the Coach's Award and

was first team All-UC and second team All-State Central. Last year, he was second team All-UC and third team All-State Central. In ice hockey, Pat was selected as the Most Valuable Senior.



Patrick Tresnan

Tresnan is an honor roll student and member of the National Honor Society. He donates his time to various community organizations, including the Westfield Community Center, the Westfield Recreation Department and the WBA. He is the co-founder of the Sports Service Club. Pat will attend St. Joseph's University.

The Toni Bristol Honorary Award, presented by George Kapner, the boys varsity soccer coach and the boys varsity tennis coach, was given to honor Toni Bristol, a long time volunteer coach in lacrosse, girl's soccer and girl's basketball at WHS. The recipient, Bridget Grogan, daughter of Jacqueline and James Grogan, earned 11 varsity letters (4 spring track; 3 X-C, 1 winter track, 3 swimming). She was captain of the girls XC team and was third team All-UC in X-C junior and senior years.

Bridget is a distinguished honor roll student and member of the National Honor Society. She is a Transition Project leader, vice-president of the Junior Optimist Club and member of the CYO. Bridget will attend Franklin and Marshall College in the fall and will continue her running career.

The Gary Kehler Award was presented by coach Kehler's wife, Alice, and their sons, Glen and Doug. The award, given by the boosters in memory of Gary Kehler, WHS's "Hall of Fame" former Athletic Director, football coach, wrestling coach and golf coach, was presented to John Barnes, son of Bernadette and John Barnes. John, a two-year team captain, earned four varsity letters in wrestling. He was selected by his teammates as the Most Valuable Senior.

Barnes was a three-time District 11 champion; a four-time Region 3 qualifier; a two-time Region 3 finalist, and a two-time NJSIAA qualifier. He was first team All-Conference and All-Area, and he was selected as the Watchung Conference's outstanding wrestler of the 2008-2009 season.

Barnes is an Honor Roll student at the Magnet School. He has been a class officer or representative in each of his four years at the school and he was selected as the outstanding participant in the 2009 National Achievement Scholarship Program. He is a member of the Black Achievers at the Westfield Y, and he has also volunteered his time during the summers as a youth wrestling coach. John will attend the United States Military Academy at West Point, and he will continue his wrestling career there.

The Jack Martin Spirit Award, given to a male or female runner and presented by Jack Martin, was given by the Friends of Westfield Track in honor of WHS X-C and track coach Jack Martin, who began his service as a Westfield

coach in 1972. The recipient, Julian Applebaum, son of Lynne and Jonathan Applebaum, earned eight varsity letters in X-C, winter track and spring track. He was a captain of the X-C team and was voted the Most Valuable Senior in X-C and winter track.

He earned second team All-UC honors in X-C his senior year and third team All-UC in his junior years. An honor roll student and a member of the National Honor Society, Julian won the English Department award. In his spare time, he is a bassist in a rock band. Julian will attend Wesleyan University where he will continue his running career.



Julian Applebaum

Two Peter Houlihan Memorial Awards were presented by Bruce McLane, a friend of Mr. Houlihan's. The scholarships are funded by an individual (and anonymous) booster, as well as by the WSBA itself. The late Peter Houlihan, a past member of the Boosters, was especially active in promoting soccer through his work with the Westfield Soccer Association.

The male recipient, Todd Saunders, son of Lori and Bob Saunders, earned 10 varsity letters (4 soccer, 3 indoor track, 3 spring track). In his junior and senior soccer seasons, Saunders was selected to several All-UC, All-Area, All-Group, and All-Conference first teams. His senior year, he was selected UC Player of the Year by the UC Coaches and as the Most Valuable Senior by his teammates. He was an accomplished sprinter on the track team and recently competed at the Penn Relays.

Saunders is a Transition Project leader, member of the Breast Cancer Awareness Club, Latin Club, Sports Services Club and is a volunteer youth soccer coach. He will attend William and Mary, where he will run track.

The female recipient, Shannon Murray, daughter of Anna and Sean Murray, earned 11 varsity letters (3 soccer, 1 X-C, 3 winter track, 4 spring track). She was selected as the Most Valuable Senior on the winter track team. Murray is a member of the National Honor Society and she has made the distinguished honor roll in each of her semesters at WHS. She is an Editor in Chief of *Hi's Eye*.

Shannon is active in the Model UN, is a Transition Project leader and has been a Student Council representative. Shannon will attend NYU where she will run X-C and track.

The Westfield Basketball Association Awards were presented by Bill Mann, the President of the WBA, to male and female varsity basketball players who have demonstrated good sportsmanship and leadership on the basketball court.

Tony DiIorio, son of Mary Beth Groome and John DiIorio, played football and basketball, earned six varsity letters, was captain of both and selected the Most Valuable Senior on both. He was made first team All-Conference and second team All-UC in football. DiIorio was the WHS male recipient of the UC Scholar Athlete Award. He is a member of the National Honor Society, the Italian Club and the Breast Cancer Awareness Club. Tony will attend Villanova University in the fall.

Tara Handza, daughter of Dianne and George Handza, earned nine varsity letters (4 soccer, 4 basketball, 1 spring track). She was a captain of the basketball team and the soccer team, and she was first team All-UC in soccer and basketball.

Tara was selected as the WHS female recipient of the Watchung Conference Scholar Athlete Award. She is a Bloustein Scholar, member of the National Honor Society, member of the French National Honor Society and the News Editor for *Hi's Eye*. She will attend UCLA in the fall.

Owen Brand presented The John Byrne Memorial Scholarship, funded jointly by the Byrne family and the boosters in memory of John Byrne, a

former WHS athlete in the late 1970s, to a male or female athlete who has competed in at least two sports. The recipient must have exhibited leadership, determination, hustle, academic achievement, and school and community involvement.

Aileen Grogan, daughter of Jacqueline and James Grogan, earned 10 varsity letters (3 X-C, 3 swimming, 4 spring track). She also played soccer her freshman year. Aileen was X-C captain, voted the Most Valuable Senior, and she was second team All-UC.

Aileen is a distinguished Honor Roll student, National Merit Scholarship Commended Student and member of the National Honor Society. She is also the Sports Editor for *Hi's Eye*, Transition Project Leader, senior advisor for the Junior Optimist Club, member of the Invisible Children Club and member of the CYO. She will attend Villanova University.

The Friends and Family of Marge and Bob Brewster

Award was presented by granddaughters, Keely and Jordan. The parents of four former WHS athletes, the Brewsters have been long-time supporters of the Boosters and the local football, basketball and baseball programs.

Christopher Sheehan, son of Jane Ann and Jack Sheehan, played the two sports, which Brewster himself excelled in high school (football, basketball). Chris earned two varsity letters in football and three in basketball and was captain of both teams. In football, he was first team All-Conference, first team All-UC and third team All-Group 4 in 2008. He was second team All-UC and All-Conference in 2007. Sheehan also holds the school record for receptions by a wide receiver in a game, in a season and in a career.

Sheehan is an honor student and recently he was selected as the WHS male recipient of the Watchung Conference Scholar Athlete Award. He is a member of the National Honor Society, was freshman class president, is a member of the Latin Club and the Breast Cancer Awareness Club. Chris will attend Villanova University in the fall.

Katie Wertheimer, the varsity girls soccer coach, presented the Greta Schoenemann Memorial Scholarship award on behalf of Greta's parents, Wendy and Robert Schoenemann. The Boosters have established a scholarship in her name to be awarded to a senior girl's soccer player about whom it can be said - "she was a great teammate."

The recipient, Brianna Goncalves, daughter of Maria and Francisco Goncalves, earned 4 varsity letters (3 soccer, 1 winter track). She was captain of the soccer team and selected Most Valuable Senior. She received all-star recognition on the county and state levels.

Goncalves is vice-president of the National Honor Society, member of the National French Honor Society, member of the Community Service Club, member of the Westfield-Plainfield Connection and a student mentor for the Transition Project. Brianna will attend Holy Cross in the fall.

Thom Hornish presented the Jim Nicoll Scholarship Award in honor of Jim Nicoll, who has served as the Financial Secretary of the Friends of Westfield Track for many years. The award recognized the commitment made by a student athlete to the Cross Country and/or Track and Field programs both as a competitor and as a volunteer to the Friends of Westfield Track and the community.

Amanda Garfinkel, daughter of Laurie and Matthew Garfinkel, was a captain of the winter track and the spring track team. She earned eight varsity letters and also ran X-C and played soccer in her freshman and sophomore years. She was named Most Valuable Senior in winter track and was part of the distance medley team that set the WHS outdoor

record.

Garfinkel is a distinguished honor roll student, member of the National Honor Society, commended National Merit Scholar, College Board AP scholar, and a nominee for the National Association of Secondary School Principals Spirit of Community Award. She is also a Tri-Editor-in-Chief of *Hi's Eye*, a Transition Project Mentor, participant in the Model UN and a Committee Chair of the Youth and Government Club. Amanda will attend Duke University.

The Westfield Baseball League Award was presented by Frank Fusaro, the Treasurer and former president of the WBL, for a baseball athlete who demonstrates leadership and sportsmanship in representing his town and school. Matt Isabella, son of Mary and Matt Isabella, earned four varsity letters (2 soccer, 2 baseball). He earned All-UC recognition in soccer and he was a captain of the baseball team this year.

Isabella is a member of the National Honor Society, and he was nominated for membership in the National Society of High School Scholars. He is a member of the Math League and Breast Cancer Awareness Club. He has been a volunteer counselor at Sister Pat's Cancer Camp during the summer and a volunteer basketball coach for the St. Helen's CYO during the winter. Matt will attend Lehigh University.

The Girls Softball League of Westfield Scholarship was presented by Ed Ronk, the President of the GSWL to an athlete who has achieved a high level of success in softball and who, by her teamwork, leadership and sportsmanship, exemplifies the type of player the league strives to develop.

Cyndil Matthew, daughter of Judith and Samuel Matthew, earned seven varsity letters (4 softball, 2 basketball, 1 volleyball). Cyndil, captain of the softball team, the *Star-Ledger's* UC Player of the Year in 2007, and she won the UC Baseball Association's Award as the Most Valuable Scholastic Softball Player as well. She set the WHS record for the highest batting average in a season. During her career, she has been first team All-Conference, first team All-UC, first team All-Area, second team All-Group IV, and third team All-State.

Cyndil has been a member of the Community Service Club, Asian Awareness Club, Girl Scouts and the 4-H club. She was the WHS female recipient of the UC Scholar Athlete Award. Cyndil will attend the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, where she will continue her softball career.

The Westfield Tennis Association

Award, presented by Rich Pardo of the WTA is given on behalf of the WTA to a varsity tennis player who has demonstrated exceptional dedication to improving his or her tennis skills, exhibiting good sportsmanship and being an ultimate team player.

Dean Thompson, son of Mary and Drew Thompson, a captain of the tennis team, earned four varsity letters in the sport. In his freshman year, he was a first doubles state quarterfinalist. His sophomore year, he was a first doubles state finalist and was selected first team All-State. He won the UC third singles title his freshman year. His junior year, he was selected as second team, second singles in New Jersey. This year, he won the UC title at second singles.

Dean is a distinguished honor roll student, member of the National Honor Society, a Transition Project Leader, member of the Wall Street Society Club and the Key Club, and he is active in his Church Youth Fellowship Group, having traveled to Guatemala with the group to build houses last summer. Dean even founded his own business, giving tennis lessons and stringing racquets. Dean will attend the College of New Jersey and play tennis there.

Lois Hely presented The Friends of Girls' Lacrosse Award that recognizes a student athlete who plays lacrosse and who promotes the sport through her leadership, sportsmanship and scholarship. Elizabeth McCarthy, the daughter of Jeanmarie and Jack McCarthy, is captain of the lacrosse team and has earned eight

varsity letters (4 lacrosse, 4 X-C).

Last season, Liz was first team All-UC in lacrosse. The *Star-Ledger* named her as one of the 35 lacrosse players to watch in 2009. In X-C, Liz won the Watchung Conference JV championship in 2006, and the UC JV championship race in 2007.

Liz is an honor roll student who was a nominee for the National Society of High School Scholars and the National Youth Leadership Forum. She is a leader for the Transition Project, Peer Minister at St. Helen's, member of the Latin Club and she has coached youth lacrosse players for the Blue Devil Lacrosse Club. Liz will attend the College of New Jersey and she will continue her lacrosse career there.

Patrick Tuohy, the WHS assistant varsity lacrosse coach, presented The Deborah Tuohy Memorial Scholarship in memory of Deborah Tuohy by her husband and three sons, two of whom are former WHS athletes. Mrs. Tuohy was a long time supporter of Westfield football, lacrosse and baseball. The award is given to a male lacrosse athlete who demonstrates leadership, enthusiasm, initiative, integrity and selflessness on and off the lacrosse field.

Christopher Rhodes, son of Kim and Mark Rhodes, earned three varsity letters (2 lacrosse, 1 X-C). Chris also played football in his freshman and sophomore years, and he was on the varsity lacrosse roster all four years. He was freshman team captain and defensive MVP. This year, he is captain of the varsity lacrosse team.

Chris is a member of the National Honor Society and an Eagle Scout. He has been a member of the Community Service Club, the Ski Club and the Biking Club. Chris will attend the University of Michigan.

The Executive Committee Award was presented to Tom Tresnan, the President of the Boosters. The award was given on behalf of the 52 active Boosters to a student athlete whose hard work, dedication and leadership are indicative of what high school athletics represent. Michael Lessner, son of Nancy and Rick Lessner, was the captain of the basketball team for two years and earned eight varsity letters (4 basketball, 3 soccer, 1 baseball). As goalie on the soccer team, Mike has been first team All-Conference, first team All-UC, first team All-Central Jersey, Section 1, and second team All-State. In basketball, he won the WBA's Coach's Award and earned All-Star recognition after each of his four years on the varsity.

Lessner is a distinguished honor roll student, member of the Breast Cancer Awareness Club, member of Pedals For Progress and he coaches young players at the Blue Devils Basketball Camp. He will attend Syracuse University in the fall.

The Most Prestigious Award, considered the most prestigious, was presented by Tom Tresnan, the President of the WSBA, to an outstanding senior athlete who exemplifies leadership, character, good sportsmanship and the spirit of Westfield athletics. Christopher DeLaFuente, son of Vilma DeLaFuente and the late Richard DeLaFuente, was captain of the swim team, where he earned four varsity letters. Chris was first team All-State in the 200-free, and first team All-UC in each of his four years. He was the *Star-Ledger's* Freshman of the Year and UC Swimmer of the Year in 2008 and 2009. He was the *Courier News's* New Jersey Swimmer of the Year in 2008 and 2009. He has earned All-American honors in four events and he has set WHS and UC records in several events.

Chris was a USA Swimming scholastic All-American, an AP Scholar, Ventures Scholar, member of the National Honor Society and member of the Spanish Honor Society. He also was the WHS recipient of the NJSIAA Scholar Athlete award. Chris is a Transition Project leader and he has been a swim instructor and coach for the Rahway Rays and for the Elizabeth Coalition to House the Homeless. Chris will attend the University of Pennsylvania, where he will continue his swimming career.

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