



Westfield School Boosters Association Presents 40th Annual Booster Club Awards to 19 High School Senior Athletes

The Westfield High School (WHS) Booster Club recently awarded 19 student athlete scholarships in honor and memory of WHS coaches, athletes and boosters. In addition to scholarships funded by the Boosters Association itself, funding for scholarships has been provided by the Friends of Westfield Track, the Friends of Girls Lacrosse, Taylor and Love Realtors, the family of Toni Bristol, the family of Louis Kessler, the family of Greta Schoenemann, the friends and family of Marge and Bob Brewster, the John Byrne family, the family of Alvin Pfeiffer, the Westfield Baseball Association, the Westfield Tennis Association, the Westfield Basketball Association, and an anonymous donor who has funded scholarships in honor of Peter Houlihan.

A scholarship committee consisting of Rick Lessner, Bill Ludlum, Tom Tresnan, John Bennett, Jim Lau 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 athletic achievement given the most emphasis.

Representing the Friends of Westfield Track, Thom Hornish, the coach of the girls cross-country team, presented The Walter S. Clarkson Honorary Award given to a member of one of WHS's cross-country (X-C) or track teams. Walt Clarkson was a renowned coach of Westfield X-C and track.



Brent Souders

Brent Souders, the son of Barbara and Dick Souders, earned seven varsity letters in X-C, indoor track and spring track. He was captain of the X-C team, the indoor track team and the spring track team. He was voted Most Valuable Senior (MVS) of the X-C and the indoor track teams.

Brent, a member of the National Society of High School Scholars, a Transition Project Group leader, a delegate to the Model UN, and a peer support leader, will attend Drew University.

The Alumni Scholarship, donated by Taylor and Love Realtors and given by the Roger Love family, which consists of four generations of WHS graduates who participated in varsity athletics, was presented by Roger Love, WHS Class of '57, and his daughter Amanda, Class of '96.

The recipient, Marlena Sheridan, the daughter of Patricia Kenney and Kevin Sheridan, earned seven varsity letters in X-C, indoor track and spring track. She also played soccer for three seasons. Marlena was captain and MVS of the indoor track team and captain of spring track this year. Marlena also was part of the team that set a WHS record in the 4x400-meter intermediate hurdles.

Marlena's credits include: member of the National Honor Society, French Honor Society, French Club, German Club, National Merit Scholar semifinal-

ist and Edward J. Bloustein Distinguished Scholar Award. Marlena will attend Barnard College.

The Toni Bristol Honorary Award, presented by George Kapner, the boys varsity soccer coach and boys varsity tennis coach, is given to honor Toni Bristol, a long time volunteer coach in lacrosse, girls' soccer and girls' basketball. The recipient, Katherine Taylor, the daughter of Kim and Bill Taylor, earned three varsity letters (2 field hockey - captain senior year, 1 lacrosse). Katherine also played two years of basketball.

Katherine's credits include: member of the National Honor Society and the Latin Club, Senior Class Secretary, representative on the Student Council, Treasurer of the Council for Caring, and deacon at her church. Katherine has maintained a 4.0 grade-point average (GPA). Katherine will attend Wake Forest University.

The Gary Kehler Award was presented by Coach Kehler, his wife and their son, Glen, Gary Kehler, in the WHS Hall of Fame, is a former Athletic Director, football coach, wrestling coach and golf coach.

The recipient, Will Harbaugh, son of Elizabeth and Mark Harbaugh, earned three letters in football (captain senior year, defensive MVP) and three in lacrosse. In football, he was named First Team All-Area and All-Conference and Second Team All-County - Third Team All-County in junior year.

Will was the WHS recipient of the NJSIAA's Scholar-Athlete award. He credits include: member of the National Honor Society, representative on the student council, transition project group leader, peer minister, youth basketball coach at his church and first seat bass player for WHS chamber orchestra. He will attend Washington and Lee University, where he will play football.

The Alvin Pfeiffer Memorial Scholarship Award, on behalf of the Pfeiffer family, was presented by Mrs. Pfeiffer and her children, Jodie and Tom. Mr. Pfeiffer had been a former Westfield Booster and a lifelong supporter of WHS athletics.

The recipient, Erica Ammermuller, the daughter of Jeanne and Art Ammermuller, earned 10 varsity letters (3 soccer, 3 indoor track, 4 spring track - captain this season).

In soccer, Erica earned All-County Honorable Mention (HM) her senior year. In track, she was part of the 2004 relay team that set the school outdoor record for the 4x100 relay. She was also part of the 4x400 relay team that ran in the Penn Relays last year. Erica will attend the College of Charleston.

The two Peter Houlihan Memorial Awards were presented by Cathy McGarry, Peter's daughter. These scholarships, donated by an anonymous individual Westfield Booster, are given to a male and female student athlete to honor the late Peter Houlihan, who was especially active in promoting soccer through his

work with the Westfield Soccer Association.

Chris Mattes, son of Sue and Ray Mattes, earned four varsity letters in soccer and four in lacrosse - captain of both teams this year. In soccer, Chris earned First Team All-County, All-Area and Central All-State honors, and he received the WHS Coach's Award. After his junior year in lacrosse, Chris earned First Team All-Area and Second Team, All-Fitch Division.

Chris is a transition project group leader, a representative on the Student Council, and a member of the Junior Optimist Club. He will attend Rutgers University, where he will play lacrosse.

Gillian Kape, daughter of Laurie and Brian Kape, earned four varsity letters in soccer - captain and MVP - and two in indoor track. Her soccer credit include: All-Union County freshman team, All-County HM (sophomore), First Team All-County and All-Conference, and Third Team All-Group 4 (junior) and First Team All-County, First Team All-Conference, Second Team All-Group 4 and Third Team All-State (senior).

Gillian has made the Honor Roll on many occasions; she is a member of the Spanish Club, the Junior Optimist Club, and the Key Club, and she has been active in St. Helen's Youth Ministry. She will attend Marist College where she will play soccer.

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

Mike Venezia, son of Ann and Mike Venezia, earned three varsity letters in basketball (captain junior and senior years, MVS in senior year) and one in baseball. He was First Team All-Area and All-Conference (junior and senior). He was Second Team All-County (senior) and Third Team All-County (junior). He was selected to play in many prestigious high school All-Star games after his senior season.

Mike was nominated to the National Society of High School Scholars. He is a Transition Project Group Leader and he has been on the Honor Roll and Distinguished Honor Roll during his four years at WHS. Mike will attend Colgate University, where he will play basketball.

Katie Cronen, daughter of Betsy and Vin Cronen, earned three varsity letters in basketball (captain junior and senior, selected MVS). Katie also played volleyball her freshman and sophomore years.

Katie has maintained a 4.0 GPA. Her credits include: member of the National Honor Society, National French Honor Society, French Club, Triathlon Club, National Merit Commended Scholar and AP Scholar, Transition Project group leader and Peer Minister at Holy Trinity. Katie will attend Georgetown University.

Owen Brand presented The John Byrne Memorial Scholarship given by the Byrne family in memory of John Byrne, a former varsity athlete at WHS in the late 1970s, to a male or female varsity athlete who has competed in at least two sports. The recipient must have exhibited leadership, determination, hustle, academic achievement, and school and community involvement.

Christine Isabella, daughter of Mary and Matt Isabella, was a member of the field hockey team (2 varsity letters, MVS), the swim team (3 varsity letters)

and the spring track team. Christine was Second Team, All-County in field hockey, and she also was All-Area, Honorable Mention. In swimming, she received the Lt. Daniel Nichols Memorial Award (senior year), and the Andrew Ruotolo II Memorial Award for most improved swimmer (sophomore year).

Christine is a member of the National Honor Society, a Peer Minister at St. Helen's, and she was a volunteer camp counselor at Sister Pat's Cancer Camp.

Christine will attend Penn State University in the fall.

The Friends and Family of Marge and Bob Brewster scholarship is given by the Friends and Family of Marge and Bob Brewster was presented by their son Brad and two of their grandchildren, Tyler and Jordan. The parents of four former Westfield High School athletes, the Brewsters have been long-time supporters of the Boosters and the local football, basketball and baseball programs.

Ryan Yarusi, son of Joyce and Wayne Yarusi, earned seven varsity letters (3 football - captain senior year, 4 lacrosse - 4-year starter, captain junior and senior years). He was All-State Honorable Mention in lacrosse last year, and was selected to the All-Conference team.

Ryan is an honor roll student, Transition Project mediator, volunteer youth lacrosse coach, and youth volunteer at this church. Ryan will attend the Salisbury School in Connecticut, where he will play lacrosse.

The Louis Kessler Memorial Scholarship was presented by Rita Kessler, her son-in-law Rob Horowitz, and her granddaughter Nina Horowitz (Given in memory of Louis Kessler by his wife Rita, daughter Karen and son Todd).

Louis Kessler was an All-State athlete at Hillside HS, lettering in football, wrestling, baseball and track. He went to Temple University and West Chester University and was a stand out in football, wrestling and lacrosse. After moving to Westfield, he became an avid supporter of Westfield athletics.

The scholarship is given to a senior athlete who is dedicated to his or her teammates, has a strong character, is a good student, and is enthusiastic about sports. Anna Koehler, daughter of Sally and Hank Koehler, lettered three times in volleyball - captain senior year. She was First Team All-State, All-County and All-Conference (senior). She was First Team All-County and All-Group 4 (junior). Anna played club volleyball and participated in the 2006 Junior Olympics.

Anna is an Honor Roll student who has maintained a 4.0 GPA. Other credits: member of the National Honor Society, page editor for Hi's Eye and delegate to the Model United Nations. Anna was recognized as the female recipient from WHS of the Watchung Conference's Scholar-Athlete award. Anna will attend New York University, where she will play volleyball.

The Greta Schoenemann Memorial Scholarship was presented by Greta's parents, Wendy and Robert Schoenemann. To honor Greta's memory, 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."

Erin McCarthy, daughter of Jeanmarie and Jack McCarthy, earned four varsity letters in soccer and was the captain. She also earned two letters in indoor track. Erin made First Team All-County (se-

nior), Second Team All-County (junior) and All-County HM (sophomore). She was selected by the NJ Girls Coaches Association to their All-State team and by the National Soccer Coaches Association of America to their All-East Region team. In track, as a sophomore, Erin was a member of the 4X400 relay team that broke the county indoor record.

Erin's credits include: member of the National Honor Society, member of the Latin Club, staff writer and advertising editor for Hi's Eye and peer minister at St. Helen's. For three years, she was nominated for National Leadership Camp and she received a scholarship to the Governor's School of International Studies. Erin will attend Wake Forest University.

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. This award recognizes 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 Westfield community.

Ayn Wisler, daughter of Merry and Eric Wisler, earned 11 varsity letters (3 X-C, 4 indoor track, 4 outdoor track - captain senior year). Ayn was selected to the All-County, Third Team in X-C in 2004 and 2005 - fifth in the county

in the 3,200 in 2005, second in the 800 in 2006. She was a member of the 4X400 relay team at the Penn Relays in 2005 and 2006, and she was a member of the 4X800 relay team at the Easterns in 2006 and 2007.

Ayn maintained a 4.0 GPA. Her credits include: member of the National Honor Society, Features Page editor for Hi's Eye, Transition Project leader, National Honor Society tutor, and Regional Committee Chair for the Model United Nations. In 2006, she received the National Guard Community Service Award. Ayn will attend the University of Virginia in the fall.

Phil Russo, the Vice President of the WBL, presented The Westfield Baseball League Award, recognizing a senior student athlete who plays baseball and recognizes his leadership and sportsmanship in representing his town and school.

Kevin Hennessey, son of Terry and Joe Hennessey, earned five varsity letters in baseball, soccer and indoor track and has participated in those sports in all four years. Kevin was voted as the MVS on the soccer team, and was named First Team All-County and All-Conference. During his junior year, he was named Second Team All-County.

Kevin also achieved the distinction of becoming an Eagle Scout. He will attend Millersville University, where he will play soccer.

Lois Hely presented The Friends of Girl's Lacrosse Award, in recognition of a student athlete who plays lacrosse and who promotes the sport through leadership, sportsmanship and scholarship.

Julie Shelman, daughter of Rhonda and Perry Shelman, is captain of the lacrosse team and has earned eight varsity letters in lacrosse and soccer. Julie was selected to the All-Conference and All-Area teams (junior), and she was named All-County in soccer after both her junior and senior years.

Julie was recognized by the Union County Interscholastic Athletic Conference as the female recipient from WHS

of its Scholar-Athlete award. Other credits include: member of the National Honor Society, winner of the Edward J. Bloustein Distinguished Scholar Award, Show Director of Blue Devil News, delegate to the Model UN and Transition Project Peer Leader. Julie will attend Villanova University, where she will play lacrosse.

The Westfield Tennis Association Award, presented by Nancy Freundlich and Mike McGlynn, 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 a team player.

Nikki Reich, daughter of Sylvia and David Reich, a four-year varsity member, was the captain of the 2006 squad that won the Group 4 state championship. She was a finalist in the State Tournament of Champions as a first singles player. Nikki was named First Team All-County, All-Area, and All-Conference and Second Team All-State.

Nikki has maintained a 4.0 GPA. Credits include: member of the National Honor Society, Edward J. Bloustein Scholar, and nominated as an Emory Scholar, Morehead Scholar and Robert C. Byrd Scholar. Nikki will attend Williams College, where she will play tennis.

The Executive Committee Award, presented by Bill Taylor, the first vice-president of the Boosters, is given on behalf of the 51 active Boosters to a student athlete whose hard work, dedication, and leadership are indicative of what high school athletics represent.

Luke Baran, son of Tola Murphy-Baran and John Baran, was captain and MVS of the swim team. He earned seven varsity letters (4 swimming, 3 lacrosse). He has been named First Team All-County (100-backstroke and 200-medley relay), and Second Team All-County (100-backstroke and 400-freestyle relay). He also received the Spirit Award in 2006 and received All-American consideration for the 200-medley relay.

Luke is an honor roll student who has maintained a 4.0 GPA. His credits include: National Honor Society, AP scholar, National Merit Letter of Commendation, member of the concert choir, Transition Project Group Leader, and the Westfield chairman of the Student Movement against Cancer. Luke was recently selected as the male recipient from WHS of the Scholar-Athlete Award that is given by the Union County Interscholastic Athletic Conference. Luke will attend Harvard University, where he will play lacrosse.

Bill Ludlum, the President of the Boosters presented the prestigious President's Award, given to an outstanding Senior athlete who exemplifies leadership, character, good sportsmanship and the spirit of Westfield athletics.

The recipient, Tom Bonard, the son of Georgene and Tom Bonard, earned eight varsity letters (3 basketball - captain as junior and senior, 3 football, 2 baseball - captain senior year). He was voted MVS in football, First Team All-Conference, and Second Team All-County and All-Area. In basketball, he scored 650 points and set the school record for assists in a career and in a season. He received All-Area Honorable Mention in each of his three varsity seasons, as well as All-Watchung Conference honors. He was selected to the All-County defensive team, he was the MVP of the Rahway Christmas tournament in 2005, and he was selected to play in the Union County All-Star game in 2007.

Tom was honored as the male recipient from WHS of the Watchung Conference Scholar-Athlete award. He is a member of the WHS chorus and the concert choir, and an active member of his church. Tom will attend Montclair State University, where he will play basketball.

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