



Belle Vernon Area Department of Athletics
Matt Humbert - Athletic Director
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Athletic Department Awards

PRESS RELEASE

On Sunday, April 14, 2019 the BVA Athletic Department honored its senior athletes at the annual “Senior Athletic Awards Banquet” @ Georgetown Centre. All seniors were given awards and the following Student Athletes were given special awards.

Richard Dolfi Award (Football)	JOHN MCCA HILL
Amur Award (Football)	ANTHONY REBAR
John Granish Award (Boys Soccer)	AARON BROWN
Thomas Flook MVP Award (Girls Soccer)	JILLIANN MCCULLOUGH
Paul Sasko Memorial Scholarship (Boys Soccer/Girls Soccer)	JAKE SEPESKY JILLIANN MCCULLOUGH
Eagle Award (Golf)	THOMAS HUFFMAN
Ace Award (Volleyball)	DAEJA HOLMES
Delance Stanley Award (Boys Basketball)	JAKE SEPESKY
Sasha Zuro Basketball Scholarship	LINDSAY STEEBER KYLA WILLIAMS
BVA Alumni Swim Award	ROBERT SPEKIS MORGAN SUSICK
Heart and Soul Award (Wrestling)	SCOTT JOLL
Chris Williams Memorial Award (Baseball)	ERIK PIETRANTONI
Chris Williams Memorial Award (Softball)	LINDSAY STEEBER
Mike Fenyar Memorial Softball Scholarship	MEKENZIE SOKOL
Ryan Moravec Memorial Track & Field	JAKE SEPESKY EZRA JOHNSON-MILLS
Donald Asmonga -Mighty Leopard Award	MARKELLO APODIAKOS AARON BROWN JORDAN FRENCH
Spirit Award(Cheerleading)	JULIANN DAWSON
Gold Award (WPIAL/PIAA Gold)	ROBERT SPEKIS
Hail Mighty Leopard/Grit Award	HUNTER MARTIN ALLISON PACAK

The Donald Asmonga Foundation presented scholarships of \$2,500 each to three student-athletes yesterday (Sunday, 4/14) as part of the Belle Vernon Area Athletic Department's Senior Awards Banquet.

Winners of the "Mighty Leopards" awards were Markello Apodiakos and Aaron Brown, both members of the soccer team, and Jordan French, a member of the girls softball team. All are also high-achieving academic students.

They were among dozens of BVA seniors honored at the annual sports banquet, held again this year at the Georgetown Center in Pleasant Hills.

Nine student-athletes submitted essays and letters of recommendation in competition for the Asmonga scholarships, awarded in memory of the school's legendary basketball and baseball coach who died in January 2014.

"One again, the applicants were exceptional, so it was a challenging process to choose the winners," said Nancy (Asmonga) Colleton, head of the foundation whose funds are derived from an annual golf tournament. "Dad would have been proud to know that BVA has so many high-performing young people in sports and in the classrooms."

Sunday's \$7,500 in scholarships brings to nearly \$25,000 the amount of money awarded by the Donald Asmonga Foundation during its first five years of existence.

While Apodiakos set numerous school soccer records and has been widely recognized for his excellence in sport, he also is active as a volunteer at church, Salvation Army and the school. He will be furthering his academic and athletic careers at Duquesne University.

Brown was known for his outstanding work ethic, leadership and versatility, playing nine positions over this career and serving as team captain this season. He has been an active Eagle Scout involved with several community projects and is vice president of the senior class.

French overcame an early serious knee injury to become a three-year letterman, two-year team captain and member of two WPIAL championship softball teams. She has been deeply involved with special needs students at the high school and Special Olympics activities. She will major in electrical engineering at West Virginia University.

The oldest tradition is awarding the Richard O. Dolfi Scholar-Athlete Award in memory of the top Rostraver High School student and football player who died Oct. 22, 1961, as a result of head injuries suffered during a game the previous night. The award is academically and presented to a senior football player.

The John Garnish Award is our soccer award in honor of John Garnish, who was instrumental in starting the boys soccer program.

The Flook award is a memorial scholarship for a senior MVP for the girls soccer team. Tom Flook was instrumental in the early years of the girls soccer program.

Paul Sakso award is in honor of our late girls soccer coach Paul Sasko. Paul was a longtime successful coach who passed away in 2016. The scholarship is awarded to a senior boy and girl annually.

Delance Stanley was an outstanding basketball player who died at the age of 31. The annual award is presented to a senior boys basketball players with the highest GPA.

The Sasha Zuro award is in honor for a senior girls basketball player. Sasha tragically died in a house fire in her early twenties.

Chris Williams award for our a baseball and softball player. Chris was an outstanding baseball player who died of cancer at the age of 26.

Ryan Moravec Memorial award goes to a male and female track and field athlete. Ryan was an outstanding runner who ran in highschool and college. Ryan died tragically in a motorcycle accident.

The Hail Mighty Leopards Grit Award is given to a male and female student athlete annually. This award is dedicated to outstanding student athletes who play an “unsung hero” role within their program.

The BVA Alumni Swim Award is a scholarship to honor a male and female outstanding swimmer.

The Gold award is a special achievement honor for anyone student athlete that has won WPIAL or PIAA gold in an individual contest.

The following awards are presented an outstanding student-athlete in their respective sport: Heart and Soul (Wrestling), Spirit (Cheerleading), Eagle (Golf), Ace (Volleyball), and Amur (Football).

In addition “National Student Athlete Day” was observed by awarding student athletes with a 3.0 or above average with a certificate from the National Student Athlete Day foundation.