

THB SPORTS AWARDS

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ATHLETES OF THE YEAR



SILAS ALLRED

SHENANDOAH WRESTLING



ERIKKA HILL

SHENANDOAH TRACK & FIELD

BY ROB HUNT
THE HERALD BULLETIN

Undefeated season, state title earn Raiders wrestler season's boys award

This year, it really wasn't fair. Shenandoah junior wrestler Silas Allred dominated his sport like no other boys athlete in the area in 2018-19. Undefeated. State Champion. Ranked No. 2 in the nation. With his 35-0 season, including 32 wins by fall, concluding with a state championship at Bankers Life Fieldhouse, Allred put together as perfect a season as an athlete in any sport can have. Now, also qualified to represent the country on the world stage, Allred is a runaway choice as the THB Sports 2018-19 Boys Athlete of the Year. Earning this award means a great deal to Allred, but he's most excited about what it might mean to his sport.

"It's a privilege," he said. "Often-times, wrestling gets overlooked and it's not the sport that is on everyone's mind. My biggest thing with this is that I can bring a little recognition to it and get people in our community excited about it, and I think I accomplished that." Always humble, Allred shares this award with his teammates, coaches and his family as thanks for all the support they have given him over the years. "I'm enjoying the recognition and I'll take a little bit of credit for it," he said. "But it's not all about me and what I've done. It's about what everybody has put into me and allowed me to accomplish it. That's what's important."

See **ALLRED** / 5

Sophomore earns podium in shot put, leads Raiders to another accolade

With a champion's drive that has been instilled since an early age, Erikka Hill had already been successful in all the sports she plays. But never more so than June 1, 2019, when she reached the absolute pinnacle of Indiana high school athletics, standing atop the podium during ceremonies in Bloomington and being awarded the title of state champion. The second Shenandoah athlete to complete an undefeated state championship season this year, the Raiders sophomore has also earned the title of THB Sports 2018-19 Girls Athlete of the Year. "It means I (had) to outwork every one of those girls out there," Hill said. "It means no one put in more work or more effort than you did. I

know a bunch of girls around here who could easily be contenders for that ... I don't know how to react, to be honest." Hill did not get here by accident. A relentless worker in the weight room, Hill sits atop the lifting record board at Shenandoah in all categories for girls athletes. Less than a week after the state meet, she was already back in the weight room each day, getting ready for volleyball season, and participating in a weekend basketball shootout that Shenandoah was hosting. The daughter of Carl and Karis Hill, Erikka gives credit to her father for pushing her early, then allowing her to develop her own drive to succeed.

See **HILL** / 5

PROGRAM OF THE YEAR

Pair of state championships lift Raiders to top spot

BY GEORGE BREMER
THE HERALD BULLETIN

MIDDLETOWN — In perhaps the upset of the school year, Shenandoah knocked off defending champion Pendleton Heights to win the THB Sports Awards Program of the Year honors for 2019. The Raiders scored 478 points in a formula that takes into account county titles as well as sectional,

regional, semistate and state championships for teams and individuals. Undefeated state champs Silas Allred and Erikka Hill — the THB Sports Awards Boys and Girls Athletes of the Year — led the way for the program, accounting for a total of 270 points. That point total alone would have finished ahead of every area school except Pendleton Heights. Shenandoah also got major



points from a boys basketball team that won its first regional title since 2001, three-time state wrestling finalist Hayden Lohrey and track sectional champion Gabe Young.

Altogether, the Raiders' efforts were enough to unseat perennial juggernaut Pendleton Heights. The Arabians — led by multiple wrestling sectional champions — finished with 369 points. Alexandria was third with 230 points led by its state championship baseball team. Elwood (173) and Lapel (164) rounded out the top five. The Panthers featured

a pair wrestling regional champions — Jaylen Morgan and Kyle Cornwell — as well as track regional champion Kaylee Lane. The Bulldogs had the overall lead after a fall season that featured state finalist performances from Luke Combs in cross country and Kristen Hobbs in girls golf as well as a football sectional title. Combs returned to the state finals in track, finishing third.