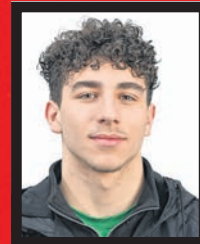
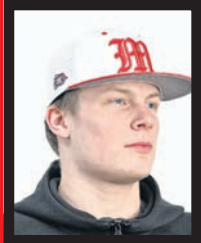


2026

# STUDENT-ATHLETE AWARD NOMINEES

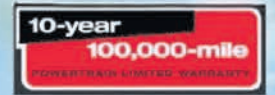


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# 64th annual Salem News Student-Athlete of the Year to be named tonight



The venerable Salem News Student-Athlete trophy will be awarded for the 64th time this evening during a dinner celebration at Danversport Yacht Club.

By Phil Stacey

» Executive Sports Editor

*“Send me a postcard, drop me a line,  
stating point of view.  
Indicate precisely what you  
mean to say,  
yours sincerely, wasting away”*  
— The Beatles, “When I’m Sixty Four”

When Paul McCartney recorded that song in December 1966 — to be eventually released on “Sgt. Pepper’s Lonely Hearts Club Band” the following June — The Salem News Student-Athlete trophy had already been awarded five times.

Now the trophy itself will be presented for the 64th time Wednesday night to one of 15 North Shore student-athletes to cap off a gala banquet at Danversport Yacht Club.

Celebrating the best of the best the North Shore has to offer in teams of students who combine academic brilliance, athletic excellence, and exceptional community service, the prestigious Salem News Student-Athlete Trophy — the oldest such trophy given out yearly in the region — will be bestowed upon a deserving male or female who has shown all-around proficiency at their high school the last four years.

Once again, we are grateful that this event — which has been held every year since 1962 (except for 1994), will be sponsored by our long-time partners in the Student-Athlete program, Salem Five.

One student-athlete from Beverly, Salem, Danvers, Peabody, Gloucester, Marblehead, Masconomet, Swampscott, St. John’s Prep, Bishop Fenwick, Pingree, Essex Tech, Hamilton-Wenham, Ipswich and Manchester Essex have been chosen by their principals and athletic directors to best represent their school for this year’s event.

Each of the 15 candidates will be interviewed in 15-minute segments

Wednesday afternoon by our panel of judges, who will have the transcripts, recommendations and list of accomplishments of each nominee. When that is completed, the judges will whittle down the candidates to ultimately pick this year’s winner.

Last year’s Student-Athlete recipient was Brigid Carovillano from Manchester Essex. She was the first winner from her school in 42 years and marked just the second time a Hornet had received this honor.

Our traditional celebration dinner for our student-athlete candidates and their families will be held at Danversport Yacht Club. As part of the night’s festivities, there will be a slideshow of the student-athletes, gifts, guest speaker Paul Tucker, the Essex County District Attorney; and finally the announcement of the Student-Athlete winner.

We will also present the Nelson Benton Memorial Scholarship to this year’s Student-Athlete winner. It is named in honor of the late and longtime Salem News reporter and editorial page editor, who retired in 2013.

The winner will also be given a commemorative bowl signifying their win. In addition, their name will be engraved on the Student-Athlete trophy, which will reside in the winner’s school until next year’s ceremony. The Paul Revere-style bowl made of sterling silver has the names of all 63 previous winners engraved on its base.

This year’s Student-Athlete judges will once again be Shelley Murray, a Senior Vice President, Regional Manager at Salem Five; Brad Hunt, Vice President at Salem Five; Erin Truex, former player Boston Renegades and Director of Development and Communications for Plummer Youth Promise; Matt Williams, the assistant sports editor at The Salem News; and Phil Stacey, Executive Sports Editor of The Salem News.

Profiles by Phil Stacey, Matt Williams and Nick Giannino. Portraits by David Sokol.

## SALEM NEWS / STUDENT-ATHLETE NOMINEE

# GRACE WILLIAMS, Beverly

From a young age, Grace Williams's parents stressed the importance of, in her own words, "balancing strong academics with meaningful extracurricular involvement." That message was certainly taken to heart.

"Grace is the definition of a true scholar-athlete," said her Beverly High soccer coach, Kristin Simpson. "She demonstrates an exceptional commitment to excellence in every area of her life, balancing academics and athletics with maturity, discipline and integrity. She is a high-achieving student who excels academically, consistently demonstrating strong work ethic and dedication in the classroom. She represents our school community with pride and character."

Ranked seventh in Beverly's senior class of 319 students, Williams has a superb 4.72 GPA. She earned entirely A+'s as a freshman and has continued her academic excellence during her time in high school by challenging herself with various Advanced Placement and Honors classes, including AP Calculus, Statistics and Environmental Science as a senior. Her favorite class has been AP Psychology, and she plans to major in marketing in college.

Williams has been a three-season varsity performer all four years of high school, playing center midfield for the Panthers' soccer team in the fall and running both indoor and outdoor track, competing in everything from the 400 meters and the mile

to various relays. A perennial Northeastern Conference all-star, it speaks volumes about her leadership and communicative skills that she was named a captain in all three sports.

"Grace's contributions to our team have been invaluable," said Carla Femino, a counselor at BHS and a member of the track and field coaching staff. "From the moment I first saw her compete as a freshman, I recognized her determination and competitive spirit. I even turned to our head coach (Dave Jellerson) and said, 'That one has a fire in her belly!' That drive has remained constant throughout her career.

"But what makes her truly exceptional is the genuine kindness and encouragement she extends to her teammates, inspiring everyone around her to rise to their potential."

Leaving an impact doesn't stop in the classroom or in the athletic realm, either. Williams serves as DECA Chapter Co-President, is a National Honor Society officer, and a Best Buddies officer. She has also immersed herself by volunteering at BHS for such opportunities as freshman orientation and blood drives, and has become involved in the North Shore Rovers soccer program and helped organize a Beverly Youth Soccer clinic to help young girls develop their skills in the offseason.

Additionally, she volunteers at the Acord Food Pantry in Hamilton and works at Giuseppe's in Beverly.



### Meet Grace Williams

**Hometown:** Beverly

**Age:** 18

**College you will be attending:** I'm not exactly sure where I'll be attending yet, but I've narrowed it down to Clemson, UMass Amherst, UConn, and the University of Georgia. I plan to major in marketing.

**What is your favorite book?:** "Little Women" by Louisa May Alcott

**What is your favorite movie?:** 27 Dresses

**Who is your favorite singer or musical group?:** Noah Kahan

**What is your favorite app?:** Notes app

**What is your favorite class in school?:** AP Environmental Science

**What athletic feat are you most proud of?:** Qualifying for New Balance Indoor Nationals with a 600 time of 1:41.86 my freshman year. Although I wasn't able to attend, celebrating with my teammates showed me how special the sport of track and field is and how although you race individually, the support within the team make it just as much a team sport.

**Where do you see yourself 10 years from now?:** I hope to be building a career at a marketing firm in Boston, doing work that challenges me creatively and allows me to make a meaningful impact. Just as important as my career, I hope to be surrounded by the people who matter most to me: family, friends, and a strong community that supports and inspires me.

**What's something most people don't know about you?:** I played the baritone horn in elementary school!

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# JULIA DAVIS, Bishop Fenwick

Bishop Fenwick senior Julia Davis responds to challenges in the same that she approaches the finish line of a big race — she leans in.

Throughout a rigorous academic and athletic career at the Peabody parochial school, Davis has impressed her teachers and peers alike with her perseverance, curiosity, drive and intellect.

The Newburyport native doesn't just take Advanced Placement courses (she's tackled 13, including six this year); she acers their tests. Davis has scored a 5 on five different AP exams — an extraordinarily rare and difficult feat.

"Julia thrives on challenge, balance, and responsibility. She manages a rigorous schedule not out of obligation, but with genuine love and commitment for each area of her life," Bishop Fenwick science chair Alan DeLorenzo lauded. "She takes full ownership of her education, her leadership, and her service to others."

For Davis, service has encompassed a number of admirable projects. She co-founded the Bishop Fenwick Red Cross club, organizing blood drives and clean water initiatives. She also works as a medical assistant and has been part of the Boston College Young Catholic Leaders program.

At age 9, she launched a lemonade and bake sale fundraiser for her parish's sister school in Haiti and raised more than \$45,000 to support education.

"She's the smartest, hardest



## Meet Julia Davis

**Hometown:** Newburyport

**Age:** 17

**College you will be attending:** I have been accepted to the University of Virginia, William & Mary, and Villanova, and am still waiting to hear from the University of Notre Dame, Boston College, and Georgetown. I am planning on majoring in neuroscience and minoring in history.

**What is your favorite book?:** "The Book Thief" by Markus Zusak

**What is your favorite movie?:** Hacksaw Ridge

**Who is your favorite singer?:** Taylor Swift

**What is your favorite app?:** Instagram

**What is your favorite class in school?:** AP Biology

**What athletic feat are you most proud of?** Winning the 600m and setting a personal record at the league championships this year after an extremely difficult season the previous year, when multiple injuries and severe iron-deficiency anemia kept me from PRing for a year-and-a-half. That comeback made every hour of physical therapy, extra training, and fighting from the back of the pack feel deeply rewarding and worthwhile.

**Where do you see yourself 10 years from now?** I see myself in Boston as a doctor training to become a surgeon, filling my free time with long runs with my dog as I prepare for my next marathon.

**What's something most people don't know about you?:** I have to drink two glasses of chocolate milk a day — one before and one after school — or I can't function.

working scholar at Bishop Fenwick," said social studies department chair John Daniell. "She perseveres and has a growth mindset."

That growth mindset has certainly been on display in cross country and track. Davis has blossomed into a versatile distance and middle distance runner for the Crusaders, earning Salem News all-star honors on multiple occasions. She recently won the Catholic Central League championship in the 600 while also earning a CCL gold medal as part of the

4x800 relay team.

A multi-season captain as well, Davis has displayed outstanding leadership in all three seasons of track.

In addition to receiving a President Scholarship from her school, Davis' numerous academic accolades include the High Point University Book Award, Harvard Club of Boston/Brady Award, Rensselaer Medal Award Certificate, a Student Athlete of the Month nod, and being named an AP Scholar with Distinction.

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**SALEM NEWS / STUDENT-ATHLETE NOMINEE**

# LILA DOUCETTE, Danvers

Versatility, commitment, kindness and intelligence. Those are just four words that can best be used to describe Danvers High senior Lila Doucette.

“Lila gives every ounce of energy and effort to every task, making each one personal and relevant to her life rather than simply doing work for a grade or to pad a resume, like so many teenagers do,” Danvers High Principal Alan J. Strauss stated. “She is not afraid of her own emotions and she is not afraid to speak her mind when she feels it necessary, yet she never is malicious in her conversations ... she lives the mantra that kindness matters and be kind even when others are not.”

Doucette is ranked in the 1st decile of her senior class as its No. 4 student and carries a weighted classroom average of 102.474. She scored 1,230 on her SATs, received the Brown University Book Award, and is a high achieving DECA student, showcasing the depth of her talents in the STEM, humanities, visual arts and business.

Some of the classes Doucette has immersed herself in as a senior include AP Microeconomics, DECA 3, AP Calculus AB, and AP Statistics as a secondary mathematics course. Her interests lie in marketing and business management.

Among the many academic awards and accolades that have come her way, Doucette was named an AP Scholar with Honor, is a member of the National Honor



Society, National English Honor Society, National World Language Honor Society, and National Art Honor Society; and received High Academic Achievement in Accelerated Algebra II and Health.

“With the most rigorous courses on her schedule,” said school counselor Whitney McNeilly, “Lila has continued to earn a perfect GPA senior year.”

Her other activities include serving as secretary for both the Student Council and National Honor Society, being manager of the school’s Math Team, and part of Tomorrow’s Teachers Club, where she supports elementary students in reading and other lessons.

A four-year member of the Falcons’ perennial powerhouse girls soccer team, Doucette served as a

team captain this past fall. She ran indoor track and field for the first time this past winter, and has been a two-year member of the Danvers outdoor track and field team as well. She also played softball as a freshman.

“Lila embodies everything this award represents: competitive excellence, academic achievement, leadership, and service to her

## Meet Lila Doucette

**Hometown:** Danvers

**Age:** 18

**College you will be attending:** I am hoping to attend Clemson University or Providence College, and am currently planning on going undecided in my major.

**What is your favorite book?:** ‘The Penderwicks’ by Jeanne Birdsall

**What is your favorite movie?:** Iron Man

**Who are your favorite singers?:** Jon Pardi and Rihanna

**What is your favorite app?:** TikTok

**What is your favorite class in school?:** AP Language and Composition

**What athletic feat are you most proud of?:** My ability to play multiple positions in all of the sports I’ve played throughout my life. I love how it has made me a versatile player for every team, allowing me to play wherever I was needed with confidence.

**Where do you see yourself 10 years from now?:** I see myself becoming a mom, starting a family and still figuring out what I want to do for work — since trying new things is something I love to do. I also see myself travelling a lot, making memories with my family and friends.

**What’s something most people don’t know about you?:** I love to play pickleball.

school community,” Danvers High athletic director Drew Betts noted. “Lila has distinguished herself as one of the most well-rounded and impactful student-athletes.”

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# JACOB CASINELLI-TARASUIK, Essex Tech

Opposing football coaches must have nightmares when game planning ways to contain Essex Tech's Jacoby Casinelli-Tarasuik.

A dual-threat quarterback, Casinelli-Tarasuik earned the starting nod under center as a freshman for the Hawks and never looked back. He closed out his exceptional career on the gridiron by throwing for 1,099 yards and 12 TDs while also rushing for 1,121 yards and 10 more trips to paydirt this past fall. Casinelli-Tarasuik was one of just two players in the entire North Shore area to reach the 1K mark both through the air and on the ground in 2025.

"As a coach at a different school in the league, I knew our No. 1 priority was going to be stopping (Casinelli-Tarasuik)," said Essex Tech football coach Tim Freiermuth, who previously coached at Hamilton-Wenham. "When I took the job at Essex Tech, I had multiple coaches say 'I can't believe you get to work with that quarterback.' Not only is Jacoby a great player, but also a great teammate. His leadership was unmatched."

Despite taking on a lead role offensively, Casinelli-Tarasuik rarely came off the field on defense. As a starting safety he had 67 tackles, 2 interceptions (one of a TD), four pass breakups, two forced fumbles and two fumble recoveries during his senior year.

Finishing his career with 3,119 passing yards on 218 completions with 30 TDs while running for another 2,251 yards and 32 TDs,



Casinelli-Tarasuik earned a nod as a First Team Cape Ann League all-star while taking home team MVP.

When transitioning from season to season, Casinelli-Tarasuik shined on both the indoor track surface and baseball diamond. Again, he earned a starting position in baseball beginning his

freshman year, and his name is now all over the team's record book. A captain, Casinelli-Tarasuik also became the first athlete in ET baseball program history to earn recognition as a First Team CAL all-star.

"He is one of the best players in ET baseball history," said Hawks baseball coach and history teacher

Sean Sullivan.

Always putting his studies first, Casinelli-Tarasuik leaves no stone unturned in the classroom. Holding a 3.8 GPA, "he exemplifies what it means to be a 'coach's dream' with his constant work ethic, positive attitude and honesty," said Sullivan.

"Most importantly, in an age

## Meet Jacoby Casinelli-Tarasuik

**Hometown:** Salem

**Age:** 18

**College you will be attending:** Undecided (plans to major in either cybersecurity or computer science)

**What is your favorite book?:** "Refugee" by Alan Gratz

**What is your favorite movie?:** The Wolf of Wall Street

**Who is your favorite singer or musical group?:** Playboi Carti

**What is your favorite app?:** YouTube

**What is your favorite class in school?:** Genocide Studies taught by one of my coaches, Justin Bilton

**What athletic feat are you most proud of?:** My Cape Ann League all-star honors for football, baseball and indoor track (4x200 relay team)

**Where do you see yourself 10 years from now?:** Succeeding in whatever path or career I decide to go down, and being a good man in faith, family and community.

**What's something most people don't know about you?:** I am Argentinean.

where students specialize and three-sport athletes are quickly becoming a thing of the past, Jacoby stands out as a tremendous example of a young person who is totally committed to what it truly means to be a full time student-athlete," added Sullivan.



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**SALEM NEWS / STUDENT-ATHLETE NOMINEE**

# KEAGAN JEWELL, Gloucester

Anybody that's crossed paths with Gloucester's Keagan Jewell would provide nothing but glowing reviews for the type of athlete and person she is.

A sensational student, Jewell has received the Sawyer Medal for being in the Top 10 percent of her graduating class with a near perfect 99.85 GPA. As a member of the National Honor Society and Student Council, she challenges herself with top level courses without missing a beat.

"Keagan has proven herself time and time again as she exhibited great maturity and creative thinking," said Jewell's honors chemistry teacher, Tracy Lowthers. "She was very energetic, inquisitive and developed a strong talent for problem solving due to her intellectual curiosity. Keagan is driven, ambitious and very goal oriented when interested in a subject."

Jewell's impressive transcript paints a clear picture of just how dedicated she is to her studies. It's her willingness to go above and beyond that separates her from the pack.

Still, the standout senior finds a way to carve out plenty of time for athletics within her busy schedule.

A two-year captain in ice hockey, field hockey and



lacrosse, Jewell is a leadership-driven competitor who's earned the utmost respect from her coaches and teammates. She's taken home such honors as Northeastern Conference MVP (hockey) and multiple All-Conference selections (ice hockey, field hockey). Just this past winter, Jewell became the first female hockey player in GHS program history to surpass 100 career points.

A fantastic goalie in

field hockey, Jewell is also the school's career record holder for shutouts with 46. She consistently finds a way to impact the game in different ways, standing out as an unselfish player through and through.

"Keagan is an incredibly talented year-round athlete, playing field hockey, ice hockey and lacrosse all four years of high school," said GHS school counselor Courtney Royal, who noted that Jewell also plays club

hockey during the off-season. "Her commitment to excellence in her sports comes from a deep drive to always be her best, work hard and show up for her teammates; the same dedication and energy needed to commit to a pre-med program and eventually work as a doctor."

As Royal alluded to, Jewell will be taking her talents to the University of St. Joseph on the pre-med track, majoring in biology.

She will continue both her field hockey and ice hockey careers at the collegiate level.

Jewell's other extracurriculars include membership in the Gender Equity in STEM Club, Racial Equity and Advocacy Club, and Youth Advisory Council. She serves as the secretary for the Interact Club, a mental health ambassador, peer mediator and the vice president on the executive board.

## Meet Keagan Jewell

**Hometown:** Gloucester

**Age:** 18

**College you will be attending:** University of St.

Joseph (Conn.), where I plan on studying Biology (pre-medicine)

**What is your favorite book?:** "The Great Gatsby" by F.

Scott Fitzgerald

**What is your favorite movie?:** Miracle

**Who are your favorite singers?:** Drake

**What is your favorite app?:** Apple Music

**What is your favorite class in school?:** AP Biology

**What athletic feat are you most proud of?:** Being able to push through moments when I wanted to quit and still finishing strong. While balancing school, sports and social life, I've learned that the biggest victories aren't always trophies, but discovering how determination and resilience can help me conquer any obstacle in all aspects of life.

**Where do you see yourself 10 years from now?:** I see myself starting my career in anesthesiology, using my knowledge of biology and medicine to help patients throughout surgery. I hope to combine my compassion and leadership to make patients feel safe during some of the most vulnerable moments of their lives.

**What's something most people don't know about you?:** In my free time I work closely with the Red Cross and donate my blood to help support those patients in need.



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# EVELYN BERNARD, Hamilton-Wenham

A quick glance at Evelyn Bernard's high school transcript will tell all you need to know about just how serious she takes her studies.

The Hamilton-Wenham student has received nothing but straight As in her senior year and has earned no worse than a B+ (twice as a junior) throughout her high school tenure.

A member of the National Honor Society, Bernard maintains an impressive 4.34 GPA (on a 4.0 scale) and received a 1,410 (660 English, 750 math) on her SATs. She's been a high honors student every single semester while taking on six AP classes.

But her stellar grades only tell half the story.

"I must mention Evelyn's natural ability to connect with others and to lead with kindness and purpose," said Bernard's AP biology teacher Stacey Pawson. "When I asked Evelyn what makes her happiest in life she replied, 'When I get to share experiences and things that I love with other people.'"

The class president and a four-year member of DECA, Bernard also serves as a member of the Environmental Club, is a youth soccer and lacrosse coach, and helped lead a service trip to Panama.

Athletically, Bernard's accomplishments simply jump off the page.

A five-time captain across three sports, she's a standout contributor in soccer, lacrosse and skiing. On the pitch, she's been a three-year varsity starter and two-time



Cape Ann League all-star while leading her team to the Division 4 Elite Eight three times and the state finals once. She's been a three-time individual qualifier for the MIAA state tournament in skiing and was a member of the school's inaugural team in 2022-23.

But Bernard's finest moments have certainly come on the lacrosse field, where she continues

to set the standard. A three-team CAL First Team all-star and two-time CAL MVP, Bernard has guided the Generals to three straight Division 4 state quarter-final appearances while becoming the school's all-time leader in goals (305 and counting) for her career. She had 91 goals as a junior last spring.

"For as talented as Evie is — and she is as or more talented as

any student-athlete we have had at Hamilton-Wenham in over a decade — the greatest thing about Evie is her ability connect with her classmates and teammates," said H-W athletic director Craig Genualdo. "She leads with encouragement and is at once fierce and tenacious while simultaneously being humble and gracious. She gets more excitement when her teammates do well and succeed

## Meet Evelyn Bernard

**Hometown:** Wenham

**Age:** 17

**College you will be attending:** University of Pennsylvania

**What is your favorite book?:** "We Were Liars" by E. Lockhart

**What is your favorite movie?:** The Hunger Games

**Who are your favorite singers?:** Mt. Joy

**What is your favorite app?:** Spotify

**What is your favorite class in school?:** AP Economics

**What athletic feat are you most proud of?:** Being named an Academic All-American by USA Lacrosse. This honor reflects my hard work both in the classroom and on the field, and it means a lot to me because I was nominated and voted on by other coaches.

**Where do you see yourself 10 years from now?:** I hope to be living in a city with some of my friends and working in a career related to economics. I want to have a stable job that I enjoy and that allows me to keep learning while building a life in a place I'm excited to live in.

**What's something most people don't know about you?:** I have skied at 20 different mountains in my life!

than when she inevitably does something great."

Bernard is committed to continue her promising lacrosse career in the Ivy League at the University of Pennsylvania.

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## SALEM NEWS / STUDENT-ATHLETE NOMINEE

# KAMEYA PERRON, Ipswich

Described by Ipswich High principal Jonathan Mitchell as an “unassuming and quiet leader whose friendly demeanor and ‘never quit’ attitude make her a favorite amongst both coaches and teachers,” Kameya Perron simply checks all the boxes.

Challenging herself with advanced placement and honors level courses since entering high school, Perron carries a phenomenal 4.122 GPA and has received more A’s than any other grade throughout her high school tenure.

Perron is always searching for new experiences and different ways to grow, and that’s been evident in the passionate way she attacks all that high school has to offer.

“My first interaction with Kameya came when she was a freshman on our school music department trip to England that happens every four years,” recalled Mitchell. “I was a chaperone, and I typically like to go for a morning run when traveling to see the sights and get a lay of the land. I put out an open invitation to the 200-plus kids on the trip, and a handful of them decided to join me on a run in Liverpool.

“Kameya was one,” he continued, “and she was a trooper because she was not yet a distance runner and it was at least a 5-mile run.



It was clearly a challenge for her to keep up with the group that consisted mostly of upperclassmen, but she did so with her trademark smile and positive attitude. Kameya made every run

(for the rest of the trip), even though they started at 7 a.m.”

A truly bright individual, Perron plans to pursue a degree in pre-physical therapy at Ithaca College, where

she’ll continue her budding track career.

That brings us to Perron’s prowess in athletics.

A decorated and dedicated competitor, Perron has been a standout member of

### Meet Kameya Perron

**Hometown:** Ipswich

**Age:** 18

**College you will be attending:** Ithaca College, where I plan to major in Clinical Health Studies on the Doctor of Physical Therapy track while competing on the track and field team.

**What is your favorite book?:** “If You Could See the Sun” by Ann Liang

**What is your favorite movie?:** Journey 2: The Mysterious Island

**Who is your favorite singer or musical group?:** Arctic Monkeys

**What is your favorite app?:** Libby

**What is your favorite class in school?:** AP Biology and Ceramics

**What athletic feat are you most proud of?:** After a break from gymnastics, I am most proud of coming back to the sport and having a strong junior season to end my career. I was able to learn new skills, compete at a high level, and qualify for individual states in the vault, where I earned eighth place.

**Where do you see yourself 10 years from now?:** As a practicing physical therapist, enjoying new adventures, and having the ability to travel the world with people I love.

**What’s something most people don’t know about you?:** I like to make my own clothes through sewing and crochet — and once sewed my own homecoming dress.

the Tigers’ track and field team, breaking the school record in pole vault during her sophomore year, among other accomplishments.

Under her captaincy, Perron’s teams have earned multiple Team Sportsmanship awards, a “testament to the kindness, humility and encouragement she models and extends to teammates and competitors,” said Ipswich High director of school counseling Justine May.

Also shining in the 100 meter hurdles and triple jump, Perron has earned All Cape Ann League honors and was a Boston All-City First Team all-star in the pole vault.

Perron has also competed at a very high level in gymnastics, earning NEC all-star status in vault (top score of 9.4) as a junior last year. In addition, she’s blossomed into a terrific cross country runner.



## Congratulations, student athletes!

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# HARPER BROOKS, Manchester Essex

Many student-athletes sustaining an injury as serious as Harper Brooks did when she tore her ACL in the fall of 2024 would find it difficult to grind their way back and reach their previous top-tier athletic form.

But Brooks used the setback as motivation to not only return and contribute on her respective athletic surfaces, but come back stronger than ever.

A basketball captain for Manchester Essex this past winter, the 5-foot-4 guard returned to the hardwood with a knee brace and made a massive impact on the glass, averaging a team-high 10.7 rebounds to go with 14.6 points per game. She earned Cape Ann League Baker Division Player of the Year honors while helping her squad rebound from a 3-7 start to an eventual appearance in the Division 4 Elite Eight.

“Harper’s athletic journey is defined as much by resilience as it is by achievement,” said Manchester Essex athletic director Cami Molinare. “Rather than allowing (the torn ACL) to define her, Harper attacked rehabilitation with determination, discipline and an unwavering positive mindset. Her recovery became a source of inspiration for her teammates and the broader school community.

“To this day, I am in awe of her persistence and ability to overcome such adversity at such a young age.”

Also a First Team CAL all-star in soccer, Brooks has taken home such honors as the Moynihan Lumber Student-Athlete of the



Month and Cape Ann Savings Bank Student-Athlete of the Week. She also shines as a fearless leader and versatile contributor for the Hornets’ talented and balanced lacrosse team.

Brooks will continue her soccer career at Wheaton College in Illinois and hopes to also secure a spot on the women’s basketball team.

In the classroom, she’s ranked third in her graduating class with a GPA of 5.37, boasting nearly all

As on her transcript. Brooks tests herself with AP and honors level classes and manages that rigorous course load with aplomb.

Beyond those personal achievements in sports and studies, Brooks makes sure to take time to give back to her community. She has volunteered extensively with the Manchester Essex youth soccer, basketball and lacrosse programs, mentoring young athletes and serving as a true role model.

Brooks has also volunteered at

various community events, supported Beverly Bootstraps and, according to Molinare, “stepped into supportive roles for her own varsity teams while injured.”

“Harper represents the true meaning of a student-athlete,” added Manchester Essex principal Julie Sgroi. “She has demonstrated extraordinary commitment, discipline and competitive excellence. She embodies excellence, resilience, integrity and service.”

## Meet Harper Brooks

**Hometown:** Manchester-by-the-Sea

**Age:** 18

**College you will be attending:** Wheaton College (Ill.). I plan to study business administration and entrepreneurship

**What is your favorite book?:** “It Ends With Us” by Colleen Hoover

**What is your favorite movie?:** The Devil Wears Prada

**Who is your favorite singer or musical group?:** Morgan Wallen

**What is your favorite app?:** Messages or TikTok

**What is your favorite class in school?:** AP Psychology

**What athletic feat are you most proud of?:** My resilience in coming back from a tough ACL injury and being named First Team CAL all-star in both soccer and basketball, as well as CAL Player of the Year in my first season back in basketball.

These honors mean so much to me not just because of the recognition, but because they represent the perseverance, discipline, and determination it took to overcome adversity and come back stronger than before.

**Where do you see yourself 10 years from now?:** I hope to be the owner of my own personal fitness studio, where I will teach classes and run the business. I also hope to be starting a family and traveling the world with family and friends.

**What’s something most people don’t know about you?:** I have read the entire Bible from start to finish.

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student athletes!

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**SALEM NEWS / STUDENT-ATHLETE NOMINEE**

# JOY MESHULAM, MARBLEHEAD

How does an extremely high achiever such as Joy Meshulam — a student who will be this year’s class valedictorian at Marblehead High, someone with more honors and accolades on her resume than there are letters in the alphabet, and an athlete who became the first female captain in her school’s golf history — react when things don’t go as planned?

Let Tracy Ackerman, the girls tennis coach at MHS, explain it to you.

“Joy suffered a shoulder injury during the first week (of her junior tennis season) and was never able to play a match all season. Given her commitment to improving her game (over the previous year), it was a devastating injury,” said Ackerman.

“Instead of feeling sorry for herself, Joy chose to be the consummate teammate, doing whatever necessary to help the team be successful. It was a natural expression of her compassionate and empathic nature. Joy could be counted on to artistically decorate our ‘line up board’, clean up the tennis courts, supply hot chocolates, report the score of matches to me, and cheer loud and proud in the rain, sleet, and yes even snow on occasion, all with a wide grind and kind words.”

Her ascension to captain of the school’s golf team was certainly warranted, said head coach Bob Green. A mentally strong player who golfed out of the team’s No. 2 spot, she was always professional,



**Meet Joy Meshulam**

**Hometown:** Marblehead

**Age:** 18

**College you will be attending:** Dartmouth College to study Evolutionary Biology and Art History.

**What is your favorite book?:** “Game of Thrones” by George R. R. Martin

**What is your favorite movie?:** La Land

**Who is your favorite singer?:** Sabrina Carpenter

**What is your favorite app?:** Slopes (a skiing/snowboarding tracking

app that tracks how fast you go, the distance you travel, and the time you spend on the mountain)

**What is your favorite class in school?:** AP Biology

**What athletic feat are you most proud of?:** I shot 1-under par during a round at high school golf tryouts this year!

**Where do you see yourself 10 years from now?:** Discovering a new species somewhere in Australia.

**What’s something most people don’t know about you?:** I am insanely good, according to my besties, at escape rooms.

confident and respectful.

“Joy’s demeanor didn’t change whether she played well or not, whether she had won or lost. That was noticeable to the other players on the team, and they adopted the same attitude during and after matches,” said longtime Magicians golf coach Bob Green. “Our team was selected by the Northeastern Conference coaches and players of other teams as the Team Sportsmanship Award winners this past season, and I have no doubt Joy was the most significant influence on our team’s sportsmanship.”

Mashulam, who has never received a grade lower than an ‘A’ in her high school career and scored a staggering 1,470 on her SATs, has a grade point average of 4.639. Winner of the Dartmouth College Book Award, she is a member of the National Honor Society, National Art Honor

Society, National Junior Classical League, and National Social Studies Honor Society.

The club co-president of Team Harmony (World of Difference) and National Junior Classical League, Meshalum is also creating a field guide of species she observes firsthand within Marblehead, documenting them on a Canon EOS 5D camera with a SIGMA 150-600 mm lens. She’s also a volunteer tutor, works as a sales associate at Shubie’s Marketplace in her hometown, and is a recreational snowboarder.

“The letters from her coaches, her transcript, and application speak for themselves,” said Marblehead athletic director Kent Wheeler, “yet they barely scratch the surface of how impressive Joy really is. Her character, dedication and grit are truly extraordinary.”



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**CONGRATULATIONS  
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# CAL WEIDMAN, Masconomet



Any time Cal Weidman sets out to accomplish something, he brings his whole team along with him.

So when the First Church of Boxford had some low stock in their food pantry and Weidman heard about it, the entire Masconomet football team showed up for the cause.

“What began as a simple request in church one day, Cal and his family turned into a meaningful tradition for the entire Masco football program,” said First Church administrator Sara Perkins. “It’s such a great example of how sports and teamwork can translate to something impactful for the community.”

A throwback athlete, Weidman excels at three different sports. He’s also been a consummate leader for all three of his Chieftain teams, helping the football, basketball and baseball teams achieve unprecedented success in his time at the Tri-Town school.

This past fall, Weidman broke every Masconomet school receiving record while helping the team win its first-ever Northeastern Conference title. He was voted to the Division 3 All-State team while helping inspire his team’s memorable fourth quarter comeback

against Marblehead.

“Cal represents everything that’s great about high school athletics: Elite performance, leadership, commitment and character,” said Masconomet head football coach Pat Sheehan.

On the basketball court, Weidman is a multi-year starter who wasn’t afraid to do the thankless work as a defender. He deferred his own shot, but was ready to sink a 3-pointer when needed. Masconomet has won more state playoff games (7) in his two years as a starter than it had in the previous four decades combined, and made back-to-back Division 2 state Final Fours.

“When you set out to build a culture, you need the right kids to build around and Cal Weidman is absolutely one of those kids,” said Chieftain boys basketball coach Jaycob Morales. “He’s an ultimate example of ‘We before me.’”

Weidman balances all three sports with a tough courseload that includes several Advanced Placement courses. Human geography teacher Jared Scarpaci describes him as “competitive yet collaborative and intellectually curious yet humble.”

An all-star in baseball as well, Weidman is lauded by his coaches

## Meet Cal Weidman

**Hometown:** Boxford

**Age:** 18

**College you will be attending:** Bentley University to study Business Finance and playing football

**What is your favorite book?**

“The Great Gatsby” by F. Scott Fitzgerald

**What is your favorite movie?:**

Creed II

**Who is your favorite singer?:**

Olivia Dean

**What is your favorite app?:**

Geometry Dash

**What is your favorite class in school?:** AP Human Geography

**What athletic feat are you most proud of?** Breaking the all-time and single season football receiving records at my school senior year. I set that goal for myself going into the season and completed it.

**Where do you see yourself 10 years from now?** Working a good job in finance and supporting a loving family.

**What’s something most people don’t know about you?** I love working with kids. I work at a summer camp, babysit a family, and do a lot of volunteer work for youth sports.

for his willingness to speak up when he sees unfairness. He’s a measured, respectful leader who inspires his teammates rather than criticizing them.

His combination of high performance and low ego help create strong team cultures — and inspires not just his teammates, but the next generation of student-athletes, too.

“For all those reasons, he’s become my 7-year-old daughter’s favorite player,” Chieftain baseball coach Bryan Duplissie.



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**SALEM NEWS / STUDENT-ATHLETE NOMINEE**

# ELIZABETH BETTENCOURT, Peabody

From the moment she started hitting home runs as a youngster, opponents have been pitching around Elizabeth Bettencourt. Which just means that whenever a good pitch comes her way, she's ready to knock it out of the park.

That's true both on the softball diamond, where Bettencourt is one of the most feared hitters in North Shore history; on the volleyball court, where she's only of only a handful of players locally to ever reach 1,000 career kills; and in the classroom, where she ranks No. 2 in Peabody High's graduating Class of 2026.

"Elizabeth is a rare student whose intelligence, compassion, and leadership truly elevate those around her. She brings energy, curiosity, and humanity to everything she does," Peabody High math department head Jeanna Posteraro said.

While being an all-star and captain in three different sports — volleyball, basketball and softball — Bettencourt has aced 13 different Advanced Placement courses. An AP Scholar With Distinction, she's received a Smith Book Award and carries a 4.13 GPA on a 4.00 scale.

She still finds time to volunteer, being active in Peabody's Unified Sports



Program. Bettencourt is also a part of the Uniting Borders charity that brings sneakers to kids in Brazil and is

dedicated to improving the lives of underprivileged children all around the world. "Lizzy is kind, thoughtful,

and always willing to help others," said Peabody High teacher Jennifer Smith, recalling a time when

## Meet Elizabeth Bettencourt

**Hometown:** Peabody

**Age:** 18

**College you will be attending:** Bates College

**What is your favorite book?** "Where the Crawdads Sing" by Delia Owens

**What is your favorite movie?:** Miracle

**Who is your favorite singer?:** Dean Lewis

**What is your favorite app?:** Instagram

**What is your favorite class in school?:** AP Stats

**What athletic feat are you most proud of?** I'm most proud of reaching 1,000 career kills in volleyball, because it showed that the hard work I put in paid off!

**Where do you see yourself 10 years from now?** Doing something I love, surrounded by the people I love.

**What's something most people don't know about you?** I'm a righty in everything except for basketball. I've always shot with my left hand!

Bettencourt was generous in class. "She gave up her limited free time to tutor a younger student in danger of failing chemistry, and during a midterm exam period, when a student in an adjacent physics exam panicked over a lost graphing calculator, Lizzy offered to lend hers, instead using a basic classroom calculator."

The team MVP for both her volleyball and softball teams, Bettencourt broke Peabody High's school record for kills this past fall, finishing with more than 1,000 in her career.

A four-year starter and multi-time All-Conference selection in softball, she batted .508 last spring and hit

11 home runs. As a powerful batter whose blasts often clear the fence with ease (she once put one on the roof at Kiley School adjacent to her home field), Bettencourt has 26 career dingers and stands a great chance of breaking her older sister Abby's school record this spring.

"Lizzy's one of the best hitters I've ever seen. She's very patient at the plate and she can make adjustments based on the way she's being pitched to," said Tanner softball coach Steve Lomasney. "She's also a great leader. She's been an incredible role model for our younger players."



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# CALLIE BRADY, PINGREE

Be it in academics, athletics or community service, Callie Brady attacks each of them with enthusiasm, determination and compassion.

“Callie possesses a rare combination of tenacity, intellectual depth, and moral clarity that make her a selfless team captain and trusted teammate,” said Betsy Kennedy, the athletic director at the Pingree School. “Grounded. Purpose-driven. Selfless leader. Thoughtful beyond her years ... Callie embraces rigor because she is intrinsically motivated to grow.”

With A grades across the board, Brady has been a frequent member of the Honor Roll at Pingree. Earner of Departmental Distinction in History for all four years of high school and in Language for the last two, she made the Head of School’s List this year.

As a sophomore, she was awarded the Grade Ten Prize, which is given to a deserving student who “models the Pingree mission through their love of learning, integrity, decency, compassion and commitment to others and the world at large.” The following year, Brady took the maximum number of APEX courses allowed, including APEX American Cultural Studies



and APEX Spanish, and is currently enrolled in three more APEX classes:

Historiography of the Holocaust, Creative Writing, and Environmental Science.

“She has become my go-to leader, the person I know will hold steady in the face

## Meet Callie Brady

**Hometown:** Beverly Farms

**Age:** 17

**College you will be attending:** University of Virginia

**What is your favorite book?:** “We Were Liars” by E. Lockhart

**What is your favorite movie?:** Whiplash

**Who is your favorite singer or musical group?:** Red Hot Chili Peppers or The Marshall Tucker Band

**What is your favorite app?:** Photos

**What is your favorite class in school?:** APEX Creative Writing

**What athletic feat are you most proud of?:** I am especially proud to have been named captain of the tennis team during both my junior and senior years and to have earned All-EIL honors during my sophomore season. I am also proud of helping my field hockey team reach the NEPSAC semifinals in my junior year.

**Where do you see yourself 10 years from now?:** I see myself potentially working in national security and intelligence. I also hope to travel as often as possible.

**What’s something most people don’t know about you?:** I love spending time in Vermont riding ATVs and snowmobiles!

of chaos, the student who most adeptly centers others in her pursuits,” said Anna Mae McCoy, a history teacher and Director of Civic Engagement at Pingree.

A member of Model UN, Brady has founded Paws for Pingree, a student initiative to volunteer in local animal shelters. She is a Stanford Climate Leader, went on an Rosebud Indian Reservation service trip, is a two-year leader in the Pingree pals program — a childcare and athletic engagement program for local children, including those with disabilities — and volunteers for her town’s historical society and local non-profit that provides baby essentials such as diapers, clothing, bottles and more to families in critical need.

Athletically, Brady is a two-time captain of the varsity girls tennis team, playing No. 2 singles and earning All-Eastern Independent League and Salem News all-star honors as a junior. She helped the Highlanders’ field hockey team win back-to-back EIL titles, and served as captain of the school’s junior varsity girls basketball team for two years.

“Callie has had triumphant victories, and a few heartbreaking losses, as with any singles player,” said her tennis coach at Pingree, Eric Olson, “but with each match Callie improves and earns the respect of her opponent — always growing and pushing herself to be the best player she can be.”

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# 2026 Student-Athlete nominees in action



ROSE RAYMOND PHOTO

**Masconomet's Cal Weidman turned 66 catches into 1,019 receiving yards and 10 TD for the Northeastern Conference Dunn champions.**



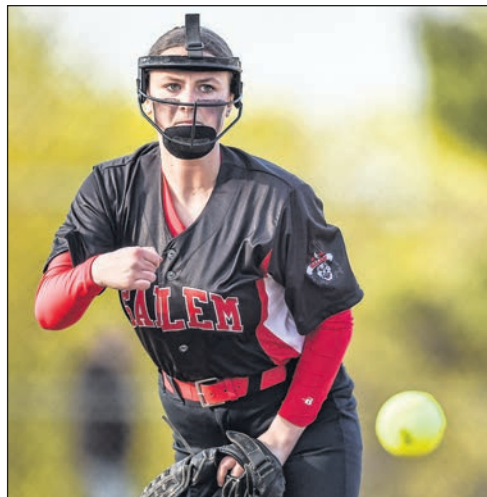
DAVID SOKOL/Staff photo

**Marblehead golf captain Joy Meshulam watches the flight of her tee shot on the third hole at Tedesco Country Club.**



TIM CARDEW

**Danvers captain Lila Doucette lets out a yell after scoring her fourth goal in a win over Peabody last fall.**



JAIME CAMPOS

**Salem's Annie Thornett has been striking out enemy batters for years.**



ROSE RAYMOND FOTOWERKS1@AOL.COM

**Kevin Correa serves as a team captain for both the hockey and lacrosse teams at St. John's Prep.**



JARED CHARNEY

**Peabody's Lizzy Bettencourt, a three-sport star, blasted 11 home runs for the Tanners last spring.**



ROSE RAYMOND PHOTO

**Hamilton-Wenham's Evie Bernard is one of the most lethal goal scorers in North Shore girls lacrosse circles.**

**Essex Tech quarterback Jacoby Casinelli-Tarasuik both ran for over 1,000 yards and threw for over 1,000 for the Hawks.**



JARED CHARNEY

**Swampscott's Claire Slomski was this winter's NEC Female Swimmer of the Year.**



**Ipswich's Kameya Perron is as quick on her feet on the track as she is inside the classroom.**

NICOLE GOODHUE BOYD

# ANNIE THORNETT, Salem

Annie Thornett has shared a lot of high fives with her Salem High School teammates on the softball diamond and the volleyball court. One of those, however, stands out to head volleyball coach Angie Giancola as a moment that shows why Thornett is among the best and the brightest.

“It was in between a practice and a team dinner. I walked into the fieldhouse and there was Annie, working with a teammate tutoring them in Algebra II,” Giancola recalled. “As I approached, I heard Annie exclaim with sheer delight and watched as she gave her teammate a high-five to celebrate her newfound understanding of how to solve the math problem.”

Simply put, that’s just who Thornett is — a student-athlete who is always looking for ways to help others.

Besides volunteering with Salem’s middle school volleyball camps, she has also spent time with the school’s Unified Sports programs for students with special needs.

Academically, Thornett carries a 4.58 grade point average and has taken more than a half-dozen Advanced Placement classes. She has never received a grade other than an A in her four years at Salem High.



Remarkably, her athletic career for the Witches is even longer than four years. She made the Salem High varsity softball team in eighth grade ... and took over as the team’s pitcher during that season. Being in the circle

## Meet Annie Thornett

**Hometown:** Salem

**Age:** 18

**College you will be attending:** Undecided, but will be studying English

**What is your favorite book?** “On Earth We’re Briefly Gorgeous” by Ocean Vuong

**What is your favorite movie?:** Juno

**Who is your favorite singer?:** Phoebe Bridgers

**What is your favorite app?:** Spotify

**What is your favorite class in school?:** AP Literature

**What athletic feat are you most proud of?** Being named All-Northeastern Conference in softball freshman year. This achievement meant a lot for me, as it felt very daunting entering high school and being the only pitcher on my team. This honor felt like recognition of all of the effort I put into the sport.

**Where do you see yourself 10 years from now?** I hope to be teaching English at a high school. I would like to have a dog and a cat and live somewhere near the water.

**What’s something most people don’t know about you?** I love music and I play guitar. I started teaching myself to play in eighth grade, and it’s my favorite hobby.

comes with natural leadership responsibilities, and guiding senior girls some four years older than you can be challenging. It was an obstacle Thornett embraced to great success.

“Annie proved she could lead by example without ruffling feathers,” Witches softball coach Rick O’Leary said.

A Northeastern Conference all-star in both of her sports, Thornett has 493 career strikeouts heading into her senior season and is a sure bet to hit 500 (or even 600) this spring. She helped Salem’s volleyball team end a long state playoff drought this past fall and holds the school record for aces in one match (20) while ranked second all-time in kills and rotational points.

“Annie has raw talent, but it’s her character, enthusiasm and heart that set her apart,” said Giancola. “She always postures herself as a learner first and foremost by asking questions and seeking feedback.”

Giancola calls Thornett one of the most consistent athletes to ever come through Salem’s volleyball program, and it’s hard to argue with that point. To sum up her standout and captain, the coach recalled a famous quote from President John Quincy Adams:

“He once said, ‘If your actions inspire others to dream more, learn more, do more, and become more, you are a leader.’ As I’ve pondered the truth of this quote, one person has consistently come to mind: Annie Thornett.”

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# All-time Salem News Student-Athlete Award winners

Year	Winner	High School
2025	Brigid Carovillano	Manchester Essex
2024	Jake Vana	St. John's Prep
2023	Penny Spack	Peabody
2022	Jamie DuPont	Beverly
2021	Molly McDonald	Essex Tech
2020	Antonio Craveiro	Peabody
2019	Chris Masta	Essex Tech
2018	Lydia Runnals	Danvers
2017	Hugh Calice	Beverly
2016	Michaela Hedderman	Ipswich
2015	Spencer Craig	Marblehead
2014	Jillian Witwicki	Pingree
2013	Dylan Mann	Masconomet
2012	T.J. D'Amato	Peabody
2011	Olivia Raisner	Marblehead
2010	Christopher Splinter	Masconomet
2009	Gregory Doonan	Peabody
2008	Courtney Colantuno	Marblehead
2007	Patrick Bailey	Beverly
2006	Annie McNeerney	Swampscott
2005	Kynan Mello	North Shore Tech
2004	Jessica Larsen	Salem
2003	Mike Shanahan	St. John's Prep
2002	Jared Jaffe	Swampscott
2001	Caleb Pelger	Peabody
2000	Andrew Nechtem	Masconomet
1999	Sarah Keenan	Ipswich
1998	Kristin Gleason	Masconomet
1997	Jonathan Eng	Pingree
1996	Molly Cronin	Masconomet
1995	Christopher Lang	Bishop Fenwick
1994	No award	
1993	Sarah Guerin	Swampscott
1992	Sarah McGrath	Beverly
1991	Brant Firestone	Marblehead
1990	Lori E. Hayes	Hamilton-Wenham
1989	Billy Madden	Swampscott
1988	Jeffrey M. Landry	St. John's Prep
1987	Nicole Turgeon	Salem
1986	Mark Jones	Peabody
1985	Duke Pascucci	Beverly
1984	Kathleen Toner	Swampscott
1983	Conrad Keville	Manchester
1982	Scott T. Powers	Danvers
1981	Kristen Foley	Peabody
1980	Benjamin Paul	Ipswich
1979	William Wiltshire	Hamilton-Wenham
1978	Bruce Lynn	Ipswich
1977	Francis Walker	Peabody
1976	Mark Agnew	Masconomet
1975	James Michael Leahy	St. John's Prep
1974	James P. Rosenfield	Marblehead
1973	Peter A. Barry	Hamilton-Wenham
1972	John S. Olbrych	St. John's Prep
1971	Thomas J. Alexander	Beverly
1970	Peter Gorniewicz	Ipswich

## Number of winners by school

- 8: Masconomet, Peabody
- 7: Beverly
- 6: Marblehead
- 5: Ipswich, Hamilton-Wenham, St. John's Prep, Swampscott
- 3: Salem, Danvers, Essex Tech
- 2: Pingree, Manchester Essex
- 1: Bishop Fenwick



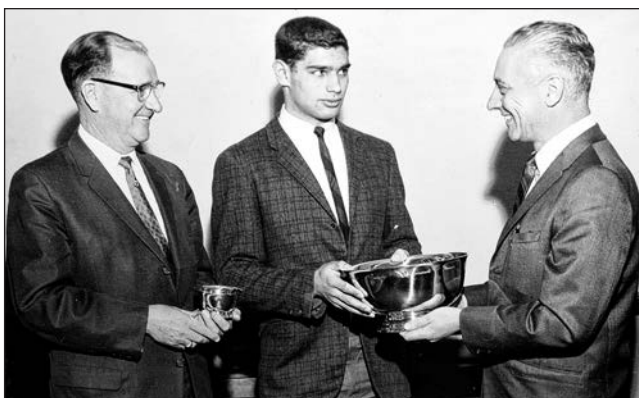
St. John's Prep's Jim Leahy (left) of Marblehead accepts the 14th annual Salem News Student-Athlete Award from former Salem News Sports Editor Bill Kipouras (far right). At rear (left to right) are Student-athlete judges Vernon Coffey of Parker Brothers, Elmo Benedetto of the Lynn Public Schools, and William Follett of Daniel Low.



MARK TEIWES  
The 49th annual Salem News Student-Athlete Award winner, Olivia Raisner of Marblehead High School, with her parents Bruce and Carolyn.



FILE PHOTO  
Ipswich High's Michaela Hedderman, winner of the Salem News Student-Athlete award in 2016.



Peter Zeitzoff of Beverly High School was the first winner of the Salem News Student Athlete award in 1962. Giving him the award are former Beverly High School Principal Bill Foley (left) and former Salem News Sports Editor Tony Romano.



JIM DALY  
Jessica Larsen of Salem High School was the 2004 Salem News Student-Athlete Award winner.



FILE PHOTO  
Hugh Calice of Beverly speaks

# KEVIN CORREA, ST. JOHN'S PREP

A gentleman, a scholar, an athlete and a well-rounded individual. For all of the things St. John's Prep hopes to bring out in their students to develop "the whole person", Kevin Correa embodies them all with dignity and class.

"Kevin's academic achievements are impressive, and the many recognitions he has earned complement his impeccable record," said My Doan, a school counselor at St. John's Prep. "But he is so much more than great grades, impressive honors/AP curriculum, and a notable resume. What truly captures him as a scholar and dedicated community member is his level-headed and calm demeanor, no matter the situation."

Never one to shy away from challenging himself academically, Correa has taken four Advanced Placement classes as a senior in English Literature, Psychology, US History and Chinese. Before he was eligible to enroll in AP classes, he filled his schedule with Honors classes — and excelling in both.

Well-prepared and goal oriented, he has consistently maintained a place of honor on the Head of Schools academic achievement list, one of the highest accolades at St. John's Prep.



"In class, he is very upbeat and focused, asks leading questions, and can often be found helping others with the material," Philip T. Feir, a teacher in the Math and Science Department, noted. "Kevin is also inherently kind, caring and outgoing, and consistently

displays a positive attitude and demeanor. Simply put, he is an absolute joy to be around."

Leadership skills are a huge part of who Correa is, as he served as captain of both the hockey and defending Division 1 state championship lacrosse teams in his

senior year. He was a Catholic Conference and Salem News all-star defenseman for the hockey team this past winter, and is in the midst of his fourth varsity season as a midfielder with the lacrosse team.

"On and off the ice, Kevin has had a major impact on

the success of our program through his strong leadership skills and tireless work ethic," veteran hockey coach Kristian Hanson said.

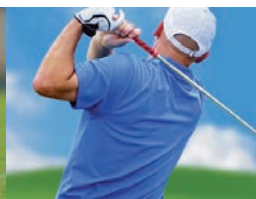
"Kevin is the embodiment of everything high school athletics should represent," John Pynchon, the lacrosse coach for the Eagles, added.

## Meet Kevin Correa

**Hometown:** Georgetown  
**Age:** 18  
**College you will be attending:** Lehigh University to study Finance  
**What is your favorite book?:** "Endurance: Shackleton's Incredible Voyage" by Alfred Lansing  
**What is your favorite movie?:** The Town  
**Who is your favorite musical group?:** Red Hot Chili Peppers  
**What is your favorite app?:** Spotify  
**What is your favorite class in school?:** Economics  
**What athletic feat are you most proud of?:** Winning two lacrosse state championships and one hockey state championship.  
**Where do you see yourself 10 years from now?:** I see myself with a family and staying active, maybe playing some pickup hockey. I hope to work in commercial real estate or another financial field.  
**What's something most people don't know about you?:** I love to spend time in nature. I love fly fishing and hunting.

"He's anchored our midfield with a physical presence and tough-as-nails style that sets the tone every time he steps on the field ... he will continue his academic and athletic career at Lehigh University, and his impact on our program will be felt long after he graduates."

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**SALEM NEWS / STUDENT-ATHLETE NOMINEE**

# CLARE SLOMSKI, SWAMPSCOTT

It takes confidence and grace to break records in the pool — and those two qualities are exactly how Clare Slomski approaches everything in her life.

A gifted student who finds time for volunteering as well, her extra-curriculars leave Slomski most comfortable in the water. Not only is she a member of Swampscott's varsity sailing team, but she's one of the most decorated swimmers the school has ever seen.

This year's Northeastern Conference Female Swimmer of the Year, Slomski holds three individual school records in addition to being on a Big Blue record breaking relay team. Her team's MVP this winter, she qualified for the state championship in all four years of high school and earned All-State honors in the 200 freestyle and 50 freestyle as a senior.

"Claire's athletic resume is remarkable, but what makes her truly rare is her ability to maintain this level of athletic intensity while excelling at the highest academic level," said Big Blue athletic director Kelly Wolff. "Claire demonstrates a work ethic that is second to none."

Carrying a 4.61 grade point average, Slomski ranks in the Top 10 percent of Swampscott's Class of 2026 (17th overall). She has



take five different Advanced Placement courses while excelling in the sciences

with a hands-on approach. She even tackled an Advanced Manufacturing

Innovation Pathways program, where she demonstrated confidence, skill,

## Meet Claire Slomski

**Hometown:** Swampscott

**Age:** 18

**College you will be attending:** Penn State University

**What is your favorite book?:** "The Giver" by Lois Lowry

**What is your favorite movie?:** How to Lose a Guy in 10 Days

**Who is your favorite singer?:** Tyler Childers

**What is your favorite app?:** Weather App

**What is your favorite class in school?:** AP Psychology

**What athletic feat are you most proud of?:** I take the most pride in my 200 freestyle. I love the strategic pacing the event requires, and executing my race plan always gives me an incredible sense of accomplishment.

**Where do you see yourself 10 years from now?:** I aspire to work for a pharmaceutical company dedicated to developing treatments for currently incurable diseases.

and leadership in a largely male-dominated field.

"Claire embodies everything we hope to see in a student-athlete: discipline, excellence, and a commitment to her team," Wolff said.

Slomski is the type of student who is both humble and curious; one of her teachers didn't even know she was a swimmer until seeing her name all over the school record board.

While in class, she is never shy about taking risks and enjoys challenging herself.

"Her enthusiasm is contagious, as is her determination," science teacher Michelle Yanofsky said.

Swimming is unique about high school sports in the way it blends both

individual and team competitions. Slomski brought this blend to life by bringing as much energy and enthusiasm to big meets and team scores as she did to going after her own personal bests.

"She always stepped onto the pool deck with a bright smile and warm presence," Big Blue swim coach Ashley Vieira said. "Every day she brings with her positivity, laughter, and helps lift the spirits of those around her. As our team's captain, she gave confidence to our newest members through her willingness to teach, support and encourage."

"With all of her accomplishments in the pool, her biggest achievement is the work she has done lifting up those around her."



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