



Press Release:

IMMEDIATE

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North Eastern Athletic Conference Announces Sportsmanship Award Winners

GANSEVOORT, NY – The North Eastern Athletic Conference (NEAC) announces the Sportsmanship Award Winners for Female Student-Athlete, Male Student-Athlete, Female Team, and one Institutional Winner. These winners have consistently demonstrated good sportsmanship and ethical behavior in his/her/their daily participation in intercollegiate athletics. They have exemplified the values of respect, caring, fairness, civility, honesty, integrity and responsibility, while also demonstrating good citizenship outside the sports setting.

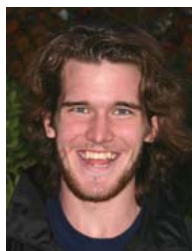
In 2006-2007, The NEAC Student-Athlete worked together to create and foster a new sense of sportsmanship throughout the conference. They created the NEAC sportsmanship statement and slogan which is endorsed throughout the conference:

“The student-athletes of the North Eastern Athletic Conference uphold the responsibility of sportsmanship by demonstrating leadership, positive attitudes, and respect so that all collegiate participants will maintain the integrity and character of the conference. We strive to achieve these ideals through a commitment to fair and honest competition.”

“Stay Classy NEAC!!!”



Christine Halter (Holley, NY), a sophomore at D’Youville College who plays on the Women’s Basketball team, was selected as the Female Award Winner. She is a student-athlete who dominates not only on the court but off the court too. She is a three-sport athlete, playing volleyball, basketball and softball; the only D’Youville athlete that does so. Opposing coaches would say that their team would bump into Christine and if they got knocked down, she would apologize and pick them up. She is a great competitor and sportswoman. She never shows hostility towards opponents that try to be more physical with her, and there is never any trash talking or glaring at an opponent after she blocks a shot. Christine is active in the campus community, being a Resident Assistant in her dormitory. Her work has helped ease the transition to college, not only for herself but the freshman away from home for the first time too. Christine is studying Occupational Therapy and as only a sophomore, has taken a role in leading others around her.



Charles Barnes (Chappaqua, NY), a sophomore at Bard College who is the captain of the Men’s Cross Country team, was selected as the Male Award Winner. He is a fine ambassador and representative of Bard College on and off the trails. Being a tall runner, Charlie would stand out in a field of runners. This didn’t stop him. His never ending generosity and sense of humor was part of his reputation on the team. Other coaches would comment on his enthusiasm and outreach both before and after events. He would always extend a handshake or supportive word to the runners that he had scouted and knew he would be strategically vying for during each race. During the vacations at Bard, he would volunteer his time with a group from the institution that travels to New Orleans to assist with the clean up as a result of Hurricane Katrina. This past year, he worked on the grounds of an elementary school, which since that time has re-opened. Charlie is a valued member of the Bard’s Student-Athlete Advisory Committee and attended the NCAA Student-Athlete Leadership Conference in Pittsburg where he brought back some effective ideas for the SAAC to consider.

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Baptist Bible College Women's Volleyball Team, coached by Dave Shumaker was selected as the Women's Team Winner. They have continually impressed the importance of positive behavior and team cohesiveness. During the season, the Bard Women's Volleyball Team had to endure a tragic accident that killed their captain's father. The death took an impact on their whole team and coaching staff, which supported the student's return home on a personal leave of absence during the middle of the season and semester. The teams played each other a week later. Before the match began, the Baptist Bible players gave the Bard team a beautiful, personalized card that was signed by each player with special prayers and thoughts. This act is not unusual; the Baptist Bible team is known to give an outreach of support like they showed to Bard College.



Baptist Bible College was selected as the Institutional Winner. Baptist Bible has displayed sportsmanship by the kind and generous hospitality offered to all visiting teams. They do not treat visiting teams as opponents; rather, they treat teams more like allies on the court or field. Baptist Bible is respectful, congenial, and very appreciative of other institutions in the conference. Tennis coaches, Kelly and Josh Arp are great role models for their student-athletes demonstrating how tennis is a lifetime sport. Men's basketball coach, Mike Show is another example of sportsmanship; Mike always has a supportive word or comment for each of the opposing players. Women's volleyball coach, Dave Schumaker, encouraged his team to support another conference team during tough times. Jim Huckaby is a wonderful example of a kind, generous, and honest human being; it is not surprising his staff exhibit such wonderful sportsmanship qualities since Jim is a lead-by-example Director of Athletics. Not just these coaches and administrators listed above but all staff members have demonstrated the utmost sportsmanship throughout their participation in the NEAC. We applaud your consistent and honest example of sportsmanship.

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*In 2006-2007, the North Eastern Athletic Conference had twelve NCAA Division III member institutions which include: Baptist Bible College, Bard College, Cazenovia College, Chestnut Hill College, D'Youville College, Keuka College, Keystone College, Pennsylvania State University – Berks, Philadelphia Biblical University, Polytechnic University, Purchase College, and Villa Julie College. Joining the conference in 2007-2008 are Penn State University – Harrisburg, Wells College and Wilson College. Departing the conference in 2007-2008 are Bard College, Chestnut Hill College, Polytechnic University, Purchase College, and Villa Julie College. For more information, visit us at: [www.neacsports.com](http://www.neacsports.com) or call the NEAC Commissioner's Office at (518) 320-7354.*

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