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State Champions

Girls Gymnastics

Section VI Team

For the second straight year, the Section VI Girls Gymnastics Team finished in 1st place winning another NYSPHSAA Championship on March 4, 2017 in Long Island! The Section VI team scored 186.525 points beating Section III (181.30), Section XI (179.70), Section I (176.35), Section VIII (174.70), Section II (170.025), Section V (166.575), PSAL (166.20), Section IX (157.175) and Section VII (152.425). Section VI continues to dominate Girls Gymnastics at the state level. The team was comprised of ten gymnasts from five schools including Frontier, Lancaster, Orchard Park, Williamsville North, and Williamsville South.



A Section VI gymnast won a state championship in each of the four events and the All-Around competition, shutting out the other sections. This is the first time in history that Section VI has won all four events including the all-around and team championship. The victory was a combined team effort and all gymnasts competed unbelievably well.

Leading the team with a strong performance was Williamsville North gymnast Zoe Kyriakopoulous. Kyriakopoulous won three State titles! Kyriakopoulous placed 1st in the All-Around competition with a score of 37.9 and won a State title on both the Uneven Bars with a score of 9.55 and the Floor Exercise with a score of 9.85. Kyriakopoulous' score of 9.85 on Floor set a new State record breaking the score of 9.825 set in 2009 by Brittany Cassar (Kings Park- Section XI). Kyriakopoulous also placed 4th on Vault (9.475).

Gabbi Gare from Williamsville South and Madison Penetrante from Williamsville North also came away with State titles and had amazing performances. Gare won a State Championship on Vault with a score of 9.7. Penetrante won a State Championship on Beam with a score of 9.6. Gare also placed 2nd on Bars (9.35), 6th on Floor (9.3) and 7th in the All-Around (36.35). Penetrante also placed 7th on Floor (9.375), 7th on Bars (9.05) and 6th in the All-Around (36.575).

Other gymnasts with outstanding performances include:

Makenzie Castiglione (Lancaster) - placed 6th on Bars (9.1), 4th on Beam (9.35), 4th on Floor (9.45), and 4th in the All-Around (37.10)

Miranda Roberson (Williamsville South) - placed 5th on Vault (9.425), 6th on Bars (9.1), 4th on Floor (9.45), 5th in the All-Around, and awarded the NYSPHSAA Sportsmanship Award.

Kelly Rose Devine (Lancaster) - placed 6th on Vault (9.4)

Also, contributing with great performances were Savannah Gonsiorek (Frontier) on Bars, Sarah Chan (Williamsville North) on Beam, and Trinity Tartaro (Orchard Park) on Floor. Supporting and cheering on her teammates was injured gymnast Cali Czarcinski (Frontier).

Congratulations to all Section VI gymnasts for an amazing performance, great season, and another State Team title!...Go Section VI!

-Joe Buscaglia, Section VI Girls Gymnastics Chair



State Champions

Girls Gymnastics

Zoe Kyriakopoulous & Madison Penetrante - Williamsville North

"It was an honor to be part of the most amazing, supportive team. I am so proud of them for going into the meet and performing to the best of their ability. Our hard work and dedication proved us to be the best Section in the state, and we're so proud to have gotten the 2017 team title. I am honored to have received the 2017 All Around title as well; it was a feeling of relief and accomplishment standing up on the podium, looking at my smiling parents in the sea of people. I'd like to thank my coaches and my family for the endless support they have provided for me and my love for the sport." said Zoe.

Sophomore Madison Penetrante has been a member of the varsity gymnastic team for four years. Her hard work paid off with a State title on the balance beam, March 4th at the NYSPHSAA Championship in Spring Harbor. Madison had a solid regular season and her 2nd place

finish at the Section 6 Championships earned her a spot on the State team. After six weeks off for a broken thumb, Madison came back strong and determined to earn a 9.6 and a 1st place finish on the balance beam. A 36.575 in the All-Around placed her 6th in NYS and helped Section VI to the State Team Title.

I was pleased to have made the trip, as part of the Section VI coaching staff. This was a great group of young ladies representing our Section and doing so very well. Also, from Williamsville North was 8th grader, Sarah Chan, whose beam score contributed to the team win. Having a young and talented team gives promise and excitement to next year.

-Torey Hirsch, Coach



Zoe Kyriakopoulous



Madison Penetrante

Gabbi Gare - Williamsville South

Gabbi Gare has been on the varsity Gymnastics team at Williamsville South since the 7th grade. She has been a member of the Section VI State team for the last 3 years, helping Section VI win the State title in 2016 and 2017. At this year's State meet, at Cold Springs Harbor, Long Island, Gabbi won the State title on Vault scoring a 9.70, she placed 2nd on bars with a 9.35, 6th on Floor with a 9.30, and placed 7th in the All-Around with a 36.35.

During this season, Gabbi scored 38.05 in the All Around breaking the old Section VI record of 37.95 (2003). At this year's Sectional meet, Gabbi placed 2nd in the Vault (9.50), 2nd in the Uneven Bars (9.375), 12th in the Balance Beam (8.65), 6th in the Floor Exercise (9.27), and 4th in the All Around (36.80).



NYSPHSAA

Girls Gymnastics Championship Results

Team

1st Section 6 186.525

All-Around

1st	Zoe Kyriakopoulous	Will North	37.90
4th	Makenzie Castiglione	Lancaster	37.10
5th	Miranda Roberson	Will South	36.975
6th	Madison Penetrante	Will North	36.575
7th	Gabbi Gare	Will South	36.35

Vault

1st	Gabbi Gare	Will South	9.70
4th	Zoe Kyriakopoulous	Will North	9.475
5th	Miranda Roberson	Will South	9.425
6th	Kelly Rose Devine	Lancaster	9.40
7th	Madison Penetrante	Will North	9.375
10th	Makenzie Castiglione	Lancaster	9.20

Bars

1st	Zoe Kyriakopoulous	Will North	9.55
2nd	Gabbi Gare	Will South	9.35
6th	Makenzie Castiglione	Lancaster	9.10
6th	Miranda Roberson	Will South	9.10
7th	Madison Penetrante	Will North	9.05
11th	Savannah Gonsiorek	Frontier	8.65

Beam

1st	Madison Penetrante	Will North	9.60
4th	Makenzie Castiglione	Lancaster	9.35
11th	Zoe Kyriakopoulous	Will North	9.025
11th	Sarah Chan	Will North	9.025
12th	Miranda Roberson	Will South	9.00
29th	Gabbi Gare	Will South	8.00

Floor

1st	Zoe Kyriakopoulous (State Record 2017)	Will North	9.85
4th	Makenzie Castiglione	Lancaster	9.45
4th	Miranda Roberson	Will South	9.45
6th	Gabbi Gare	Will South	9.30
18th	Trinity Tartaro	Orchard Park	8.95
28th	Madison Penetrante	Will North	8.55

Sportsmanship Award

Miranda Roberson Will South

State Champions

Boys Ice Hockey

Williamsville North

Williamsville North Spartans captured their fifth state Division I crown in 2017, behind solid defense and goaltending throughout the championship weekend. In the semifinal matchup, the Spartans faced the number one ranked team - defending State Champion Mamoroneck. The Tigers had only been defeated once all season entering the semi-final contest. An unlikely hero for Williamsville North, Junior Trevor Cavalier, picked a great time to net his first marker of the season by tipping in a Joe Oliver pass from the right corner. Cavalier's tally would be enough as the stingy Spartan defense kept Mamoroneck off the board killing off six Tiger power plays. Williamsville North Goalie Jake Zurat recorded the shutout stopping 13 shots. The victory put Williamsville North in its 8th championship in the last 17 years, with their neighbor from Western New York, Pittsford. Pittsford advanced to the finals over Massena with a 2-1 margin. During the final, Pittsford jumped out early to a 1-0 lead before



the Spartans scored three straight times from Juniors Brett Sardina and Andrew Bruno and the game winner from Senior Adam Batz late in the second period. Pittsford would add a second goal in the final frame, but again, the Williamsville North defense turned back four Panther power plays while Zurat made 13 saves for the State Championship title.

State Champions

Indoor Track & Field

Tariq Taul, Roshain Wallace, Christian Meranto, & Rodney Barnes - Niagara Falls - 4x200 Meter Relay

- Section VI record holders with a time of 1:29.59

- Team consists of:

Rodney Barnes, grade 11- Section VI Champion in the Long Jump as well.

Tariq Taul, grade 12 -Section VI Champion in the High Jump

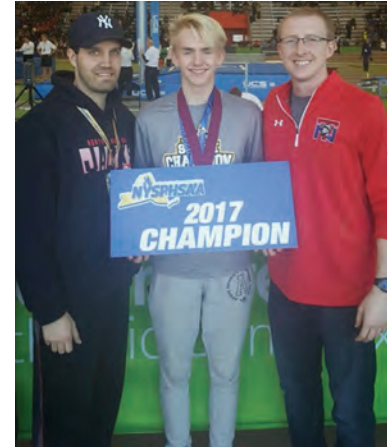
Christian Meranto, grade 12 -Also ran a leg of Intersectional relay for Section VI at the State Meet

Roshain Wallace, grade 12- Section VI Champion in the 55 High Hurdles



Anton Kunnas - North Tonawanda Pole Vault

In addition to his achievement of winning a State Championship in the Pole Vault, Anton had a very successful season on the track. Kunnas broke North Tonawanda High School's records in the 600m, 1000m, and the Distance Medley Relay as the 1600m leg. Anton's times in the 600 and 1000 were quick enough to rank as the 3rd fastest runner in Section VI in each event.



Treston White - Lockport - 600 Meters



Treston is a three-sport athlete who has garnered 9 varsity letters. Three of his varsity letters were earned playing volleyball. In 2016, Treston played in the Section finals, where he was voted 2nd Team All-WNY. He has been a 1st Team All-League player twice, North Tonawanda All-Tournament Player twice, Lockport All-Tournament Player twice, and Williamsville South All-Tournament Player. Treston was captain of the volleyball team and won the Coaches Award his senior year. He was also a member of the 2016 volleyball Scholar Athlete Team.

During the off-season, Treston has played club volleyball and worked as a coach for the Lockport Volleyball Camp.

During the 2015-2016 season, Treston earned two varsity letters in Indoor Track and placed thirteenth in the State in the 300m sprint (36.12 sec). He placed 3rd in sectionals in the 300m sprint (36.02 sec). This year, Treston leads Section VI and has a school record for the 600m (1:21.18 sec). He also set the school record in the 300m (36.02 sec). He was also a member of the 4x200m (1:36.16 sec) and the 4x400m (3:33.32) relay teams, which also broke Lockport school records. While competing at the Spire Invitational in Ohio, Treston set

a new school record for Lockport in the 400m sprint (49.14 sec). At the conclusion of the Indoor Track season, Treston was State Champion for the 600m run and was named Section VI Athlete of the Year.

Treston has run Outdoor Track for five years, four of which he ran for the varsity team. He is currently ranked second in the State and 61st in the nation (400m sprint). He has been to Nationals two years in a row. Most recently, Treston finished second in both the NYSPHSSA and Federation High School Championships in the 400m (48.32 sec). He finished first in the 2015 Section Championship, and second in 2016. He has been League Champion for several years and has also won several select invitational competitions.

In addition to his athletic achievements, Treston has served as a member of the Lockport Student Advisory Committee and participated in Lockport Athletes Against Hunger Food Drive. In 2017, Treston was a recipient of the Lockport Quality Student Award.

Treston would like to thank his coaches and other staff members who supported him throughout his academic and athletic career at Lockport High School. He would like to extend his gratitude to his Track and Field Coaches Miles Patterson, Josh Jablonski, and Matt Vermette, and his Volleyball Coach Elizabeth Smorol. Treston is also grateful to his School Counselor Karen Catalano, Athletic Director Todd Sukdolak, and former Athletic Director Patrick Burke. Most importantly, Treston would like to thank his parents Andre and Geraldine White-Akin, his brothers, his sister, and his grandmother Geraldine White.

We wish Treston the best of luck at Eastern Michigan University in his academics and as a member of the Track and Field team.

Please follow us on Twitter @Section VI

State Champions

Wrestling

Laith Alsous - Lew-Port - Division II, 285 lbs.



Laith Alsous is a three-time Section VI champion compiling an 85-14 record during his 3 year varsity career. Laith is a two-time State place finisher, 4th in 2016 and the 2017 Champion. He is also a two-time National High School Coaches Association All-American, placing 6th as a junior and 4th as a senior. Laith is a three-time First Team All-League selection and was honored by the Western New York Coaches Association with the Champion of Champions Award as the most outstanding wrestler in Section VI. He will be continuing his academic and athletic career at Division 1 Campbell University next year.

Regional Champions

Boys Basketball

Franklinville - Class D



Health Sciences - Class B



"I don't want the 'best' players...I need the 'right' players. You're looking for players whose team name on the front means more than their own name on the back"

-Herb Brooks, Olympic Coach

Regional Champions

Girls Basketball

Fredonia - Class B



Panama - Class D



Sectional Champions

Boys Bowling

Fredonia - Class C



West Seneca West - Class A



Iroquois - Class B



Sectional Champions

Girls Bowling

Cheektowaga - Class B



Frewsburg - Class D



Niagara Wheatfield - Class A



Tonawanda - Class C



Sectional Champions

Boys & Girls Bowling

All Section Teams



Sectional Champions

Boys Basketball

Chautauqua Lake - Class C



North Tonawanda - Class A



Niagara Falls - Class AA



Sectional Champions

Boys Ice Hockey

West Seneca East - Division II



Sectional Champions

Boys Swimming

Chautauqua Lake / Maple Grove /
Panama - Class C



East Aurora - Class B



Orchard Park - Class A



Section VI State Team



Sectional Results 2017 - Individual/Relay Champions

EVENT	NAME	GRADE	SCHOOL	TIME
200 MEDLEY RELAY	Michael Mauer Luke Kennedy Christian Steiner Liam O'Connell	11 12 10 11	Hamburg	1:38.44
200 FREE	Anthony Marinello	12	Williamsville South	1:45.18
200 IM	Michael Mauer	11	Hamburg	1:56.02
50 FREE	Seth Farrand	12	Olean	:20.84
DIVING	Timothy Finley	12	Williamsville East	547.75
100 FLY	Michael Clough	11	Williamsville East	:51.52
100 FREE	Seth Farrand	12	Olean	:46.43
500 FREE	Liam O'Connell	11	Hamburg	4:46.17
200 FREE RELAY	Mason McMullen Sean Duffy Riley McLaughlin Trevor Hoch	12 12 12 10	Orchard Park	1:28.61
100 BACK	Michael Mauer	11	Hamburg	53.02
100 BREAST	Luke Kennedy	12	Hamburg	57.26
400 FREE RELAY	Braden Feasley Liam O'Connell Luke Kennedy Michael Maurer	12 11 12 11	Hamburg	3:15.46

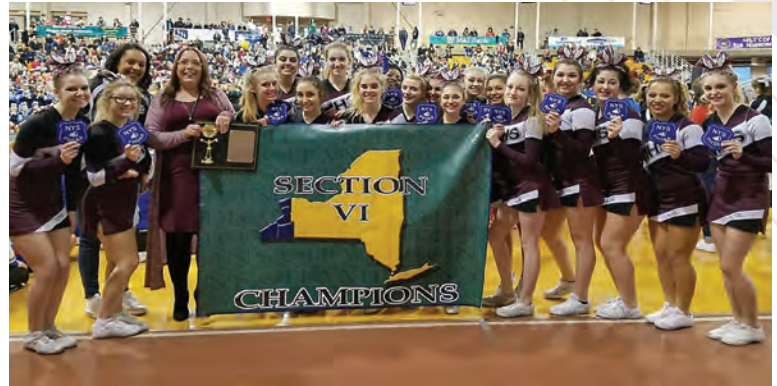
Sectional Champions

Cheerleading

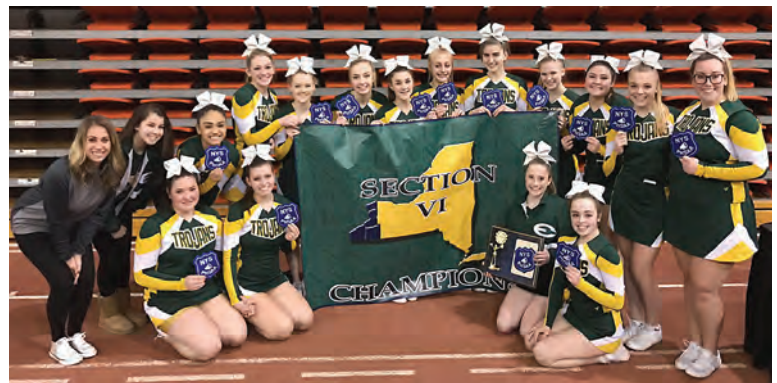
Grand Island - Co-Ed



Maryvale - Division 2 Large Schools



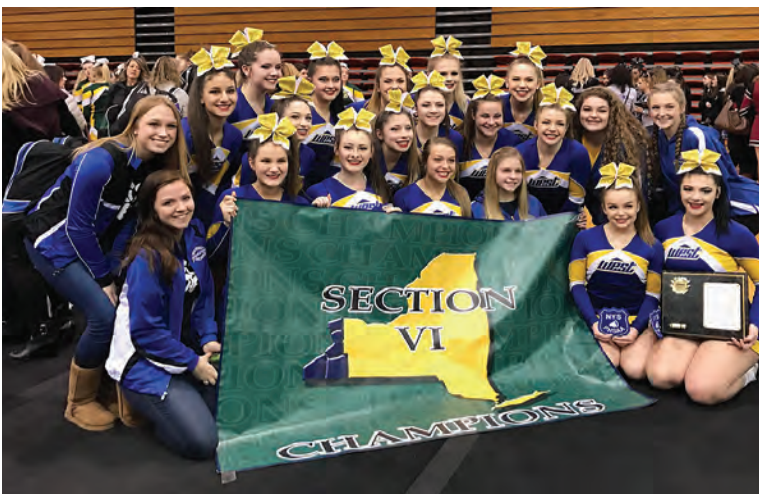
West Seneca East - Division II Small Schools



Frontier - Division 1 Large Schools



West Seneca West - Division 1 Small Schools



*"Our greatest glory is not in never failing,
but in rising up every time we fail."*

-Ralph Waldo Emerson

Sectional Champions

Girls Basketball

Amherst - Class A



Clarence - Class AA



Sectional Champions

Girls Ice Hockey

Frontier / Lake Shore / Orchard Park



Sectional Champions

Indoor Track & Field

2017 Indoor Track & Field State Championship Highlights

Boys Indoor Track & Field

- The Section VI Team finished 5th among the 11 Sections with 53 points
- 8th among the Sections plus the PSAL - CHSAA & AIS w/49pts.
- Scored in and medaled in eight events
- NYSPHSAA/Federation Champions:
 - TRESTON WHITE from Lockport in the 600 Meters - 1:21.18
 - Anton Kunas from North Tonawanda in the Pole Vault - 15' 6" plus a New Section VI Indoor Track & Field record.
- NYSPHSAA Champions:
 - The Niagara Falls Boys 4 x 200 Meter Relay Team of Tariq Taul - Roshain Wallace, Christian Meranto, and Rodney Barnes in 1:29.59 - Another Section VI record.
- Section VI Records:
 - Chris Nowak from Sweet Home in the 1000 Meters - 2nd place and Section VI Record of 1:27.20. Chris broke a 29 year-old record set by Dennis Webster from Clarence back in 1988.

Girls Indoor Track & Field

- Finished 5th among the 11 Sections with 59 points
- 6th among the Sections plus the PSAL - CHSAA & AIS w/62 pts.
- Medaled in 15 events

- Section VI Records:
 - The Dunkirk/Silver Creek 4 x 400 Meter Relay Team of Emilee Hanlon, Jaylah Cossin, Jericha Pettrella and Emma Seiders in 4:00.81 - Another Section VI record.
- Other Top Performances:
 - Brianne McKenzie from Lancaster in the Weight Throw & Shot Put - 2nd & 3rd Place
 - Emily Marchitte from West Seneca West in the Triple Jump & Long Jump - 2nd & 7th Place
 - Jenna Crean from Orchard Park in the 300 Meters - 2nd place
 - Isabella Licata from Lancaster in the 300 meters - 3rd place
 - Samantha Spinella from Depew in the Long Jump - 4th place
 - Rachel Donner from Iroquois in the Shot Put - 4th place
 - Olivia Gervan in the High Jump - 4th place
 - Christina Ward from Kenmore West in the Triple Jump - 4th place
 - Amaya Turnage from Sweet Home in the High Jump - 6th place
 - The Williamsville South 4 x 800 Meter Relay Team of Molly Moore, Sarah Cook, Sam Vahue, and Amberlee Robertson - 6th place
 - Jamilyah Mallory from Amherst in the triple Jump - 7th place
 - Rachel Ward from Falconer in the Pole Vault - 8th place

Cheektowaga Boys - Class C



Dunkirk/Silver Creek Girls - Class C



"Excellence is the gradual result of always striving to do better."

-Pat Riley

Sectional Champions

Indoor Track & Field

Lancaster Girls - Class A



Sweet Home Boys - Class B



Niagara Falls Boys - Class A



Sweet Home Girls - Class B



"You don't always get what you wish for, you get what you work for"
-Unknown

Sectional Champions

Rifle

Air Rifle Team - Alden



3P Air - Kenmore



Prone - Jessica Mogavero - Clarence



Air - Kiersten Mucha Lancaster



Offhand, Kneeling, Aggregate - Sarah Golas - Alden



"You don't have to be great to start, but you have to start to be great."

-Zig Zagler

Sectional Champions

Rifle

Results of the 2017 Section 6 Rifle Sectionals in which 8 schools, 6 high school teams and 54 individuals participated in 3P Air Rifle and 32 in Air Rifle are listed below.

3P Air Rifle TEAM	Kenmore	1138.44
	Lancaster	1137.37
	Alden	1130.29
	Clarence	1127.45
	Pioneer	1111.33
	Iroquois	1068.25

AIR Rifle	Alden	1114.29
	Lancaster	1107.30
	Clarence	1082.19
	Kenmore	1066.18

Section 6 High School Champion - Kenmore (3P Air) and Alden (Standing Air)

Individual Sectional Champions:	Prone	Jessica Mogavero	Clarence	100.10*
	Offhand	Sarah Golas	Alden	97.03*
	Kneeling	Sarah Golas	Alden	98.04*
	Aggregate	Sarah Golas	Alden	290.12*
	Air Rifle	Kiersten Mucha	Lancaster	290.12

* Section 6 Record

Individual Winners - Shields are awarded to the following:

Prone	1st	Jessica Mogavero	Clarence	100.10
	2nd	Alex Hangen	Lancaster	99.07
	3rd	Jessica Clark	Lancaster	99.06
	4th	Austin Orłowski	Kenmore	99.05
	4th	Karlie Hake	Alden	99.05

Offhand	1st	Sarah Golas	Alden	97.03
	2nd	Maggie Arnold	Alden	95.04
	3rd	Kiersten Mucha	Lancaster	95.03
	4th	Miranda Koch	Alden	94.03

Air Rifle	1st	Kiersten Mucha	Lancaster	290.12
	2nd	Maggie Arnold	Alden	283.10
	3rd	Amanda Aldrow	Orchard Park	280.09
	4th	Megan Gabbey	Alden	278.07

Kneeling	1st	Sarah Golas	Alden	98.04
	3rd	Holly Kaiser	Kenmore	97.06
	3rd	Frank Lewinski	Alden	97.06
	4th	Jessica Magavero	Clarence	97.05
	4th	Josh Pfennig	Clarence	97.05
	4th	Miranda Koch	Alden	97.05
	4th	Eric Koeth	Lancaster	97.05

Aggregate	1st	Sarah Golas	Alden	290.12
	2nd	Kiersten Mucha	Lancaster	289.12
	3rd	Holly Kaiser	Kenmore	287.13
	4th	Mason Kowalski	Lancaster	287.11

Scores have been ranked according to their aggregate score (Total Score). Ties have been broken and standings are official.

Sectional Champions

Wrestling

Falconer/Cassadaga Valley - Class C



Williamsville South - Class A



Pioneer - Class B & Dual Meet Division II Champions



Niagara Wheatfield - Dual Meet Division I Champions



NYSAAA Chapter 6

Scholarship Essay Winners

Grace Ferguson (Kenmore West) & Sam Franz (East Aurora)

In accordance with National Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association's (NIAAA) purpose to promote, facilitate and increase the knowledge and understanding of the vital role of interscholastic athletics in the educational system, this scholarship program fosters and recognizes the partnership between the NIAAA and secondary education. The scholarships recognize the distinguished scholastic, leadership, and sportsmanship attributes of high school student-athletes, and the importance of high school athletics in each student's life.



Pictured left to right: Section VI President-Elect Adam Stoltman, East Aurora Principal Bill Roberts, Sam Franz, and East Aurora Athletic Director and NYSAAA Chapter 6 Awards Chairman Matt Librock



Pictured left to right: Section VI President-Elect Adam Stoltman, NYSAAA Chapter 6 Awards Chairman Matt Librock, Mrs. Ferguson, Grace Ferguson, and Ken-Ton Athletic Director Brett Banker

New York State

Athletic Administrators Association 2017 Chapter VI Award Winners

R. William Wende Jr. - Community Service Award



Bill was the first-round selection of Reinhardt and Marilyn Wende of Clarence in the 1956 maternity ward at the now long gone Millard Fillmore Hospital at Gates Circle. He attended Clarence Senior High School where he was an immediate bench warmer in football and a half-way decent sprint/ middle distance runner and high jumper. He went on to St. Bonaventure University and helped develop the Club de Hockey program and majored in intramurals. Wende graduated Magna Cum barely with a Bachelor's Degree in Accounting.

An introvert by nature, Wende lives with his guardian angel Mary in Lancaster and is most proud of his two sons, Kurt (Will North 2006) and Jake (Frontier 2011). He works at a large international financial institution in Finance and manages third party risk and business continuity.

Section6Runs was born out of a father's devotion to his son's running career at Williamsville North where the team's success was chronicled from the first meet to the State Cross Country Championships in Queensbury, NY in 2006.

With a new-found availability on Saturdays, Wende decided to expand the coverage to include all of Section VI Cross Country and Track and Field while also keeping tabs on his youngest son's running antics at Frontier. It also helped to justify the purchase of camera equipment to a suspicious wife.

The site continued and grew from 2006 and wound up being the defacto site to find schedules, results, photos, media articles, student-athlete profiles, and general fun facts about Section VI cross country and track & field. The site would not have been successful without the support of West Seneca West Coaches Emilio Mancino and Pete Szymanski who both seized the opportunity to put the 2006-2007 Indoor Track & Field schedule and results on Section6Runs. Other coaches jumped onto the support bandwagon and urged their student-athletes to visit the site to view the content. The site also became a recruiting tool for many local college programs.

A favorite accomplishment was the start of an Outdoor Track & Field tradition, the Final Senior Lap. This was not an event for geriatrics but for graduating high school seniors to take one last lap around the track with their teammates and peers from other schools. It never fails to bring tears to the eyes of the kids, parents and yes, coaches as well.

In the early part of 2016, Wende decided, after ten years, it was time to retire the site and be mentioned in the same breath as Kobe Bryant, Michael Phelps and Usain Bolt. So, after more than 255,000 photos, 431 meets, over 15,250 miles traveled, 4 cameras, 2 new knees, and zero complaints from Mrs. Section6Runs, the site is a memory.

Now what?

Leah Canestaro - Kenmore-Town of Tonawanda Union Free School District Judith A. Martens Award for Excellence



Leah has been employed by the Ken-Ton School District since 2001. The Amherst resident and Sweet Home product began her professional career with Kenmore in the Administration Building. She followed that position up with stints at Kenmore Middle School and Kenmore East High School. At Kenmore East, Leah served as administrative assistant to Mr. Jim Dunnigan, Assistant Principal.

In 2010, Leah accepted the administrative assistant position in the Department of Health Services, Physical Education, Recreation & Athletics with Brett Banker. The position itself is very challenging with multiple high schools, assisting 45 health/physical education teachers, 25 school nurses and upwards of 52 varsity programs, 90 teams and 141 coaches.

Leah has brought her own professionalism, ethics and sense of service to the office. She has revised procedures, processes and done so with a personal interest in technology. She contributes ideas for improvements and has jumped into projects that weren't necessarily an expectation; two Athletic Halls of Fame, a Hall of Fame Golf outing involving business partners and alums and much, much more.

Leah lives in Amherst with her husband Christopher. She has two young adults; William (22) and Amanda (20). The students, parents, teachers, nurses, support staff, coaches and competing schools all appreciate Leah for her high-quality work and contributions.

The Ken-Ton Schools are proud to honor Leah Canestaro as the Judith A. Martens Secretary of the Year in Section VI.

New York State

Athletic Administrators Association 2017 Chapter VI Award Winners

Steve Penhollow - Distinguished Service Award



Steve has worked for Falconer Central Schools for the past 28 years. He has served in many different positions, including teacher, coach, athletic director, principal, and has been the superintendent for the past seven years.

Falconer High School

Varsity Wrestling Coach: 1989-2007

Assistant Football Coach: 1995-2007

Athletic Director: 2005-2007

Chautauqua Cattaraugus Athletic Association (CCAA)

Division I Boys Representative: 2004-2006

Principal Representative: 2006-2010

Superintendent Representative: 2010 to present

Section 6 Athletic Council

Division I Boys Representative: 2004-2006

Principal Representative: 2006-2010

Superintendent Representative: 2010 to present

Section 6 Finance Committee

CCAA Representative: 2007-2011

Chairman: 2012 to present

Tom Sarkovics - Athletic Administrator of the Year



Tom Sarkovics ("Sark") has been a part of Starpoint High School since 1970. His journey began as a Health teacher after his graduation from Brockport State. He has coached 81 sports teams including Football, Basketball, Baseball, and Field Hockey and also held numerous positions as an extra-curricular advisor.

In 2004, Sark retired from his teaching and coaching positions and assumed the position of athletic director. He is the face of Starpoint Athletics.

Sark was the driving force to bring the District from the Niagara/Orleans league to the ECIC. Sark realized the importance of building a program and immediately began to work with the Board of Education to add modified programs to all sports and in implementing new sports programs of Boys Volleyball and Bowling at Starpoint. Supporting coaches and student/athletes comes easily to Sark. He is very visible and a positive role model for all.

Among other duties, Sark heads up the committee for the Athletic Wall of Fame and ceremony, organizes alumni games for football, basketball, baseball, and holds special promotional nights for students. Sark also implemented honoring student/athletes with a male and female athlete of the week throughout the various sports seasons. He has also displayed pictures of players and former championships trophies and plaques in the athletic wing. Sark was instrumental securing volunteers to build baseball and field hockey dugouts on the campus and involved on a project to honor Dave Borner (Killed in the fatal 3047 plane crash) to construct dugouts for the soccer field and later a solar scoreboard. Recently, Sark oversaw the project of new track and turf field along with lights for the football field and coordinated fundraising for a new multi-sport video scoreboard.

On November 29, 2009, Sark was honored by M&T Bank and the Buffalo Bills with the Touchdown for Teacher's Finalist Award. Sark received the prestigious Western New York High School Sports Gordon J. Bukaty Award in 2007 for dedication and service to youth and high school athletics. The varsity baseball field was named in his honor in 2004. Sark was honored in 1995 by the American Baseball Coaches Association for "A Quarter Century Leadership & Devotion to Baseball".

"Sark's many experiences as a player and coach have enabled him to provide Starpoint students, coaches, and alumni with the tools necessary to be successful. He has truly made many positive differences in the lives of student/athletes. Starpoint is a better place because of Sark!" said High School Principal, Gil Licata.

Sark and his wife Liz, are the proud parents of two daughters, Jill (Mike) Giglio, and Kate (Brian) Gabriel, and three grandchildren, Teegan, Griffin, and Nolan.

Section VI All-WNY Scholar Athletes Winter 2016-2017

Section VI selected the winners of the All-WNY Scholar Athlete Award for the 2016-2017 winter sports season. Of the 504 nominations; there were 25 repeat winners, 123 winners, and 356 honorable mentions. *indicates repeat winner

Alden

Rifle Maggie Arnold

Amherst

Girls Basketball Claire Wanzer*
Boys Indoor Track Cameron Carver
Girls Indoor Track Stephanie Forbes
Boys Bowling Kyle Glenn
Cheerleading Siena Reynolds

Barker

Wrestling Brent Bachman*
Boys Swimming & Diving Matthew Pestinger*
Girls Basketball Emily Annable
Boys Basketball Jacob Arnold
Girls Swimming & Diving Christiana Carestia

Chautauqua Lake

Girls Basketball Brittany Fardink
Girls Basketball Taylor Phelps

Cheektowaga

Wrestling Eric Bartnik

Clarence

Girls Basketball Lauren Cullinan*
Boys Basketball Austin Knorz*
Boys Ice Hockey Brett Naylor*
Girls Indoor Track Mallory Prelewicz*
Girls Indoor Track Julia Darlak
Girls Basketball Alessandra DiGiulio
Girls Basketball Alexis Heximer
Wrestling Sean Kloss
Rifle Jessica Mogavero
Cheerleading Sydney Riedel
Girls Ice Hockey Stephanie Toole

Depew

Boys Indoor Track Colin Benzin
Girls Indoor Track Samantha Spinella

Dunkirk

Girls Bowling Adrianna Pencek
Boys Swimming & Diving Joshua Saye

East Aurora

Girls Basketball Brooke Hutton
Girls Basketball Allison Kasprzyk
Boys Swimming & Diving Christophe Koenig

Eden

Wrestling Sawyer Overhoff

Falconer

Boys Indoor Track Mathew Eskeli
Girls Basketball Amber Micek

Forestville

Boys Basketball Trent Hartloff

Fredonia

Boys Swimming & Diving Matthew Zevenbergen

Frontier

Girls Indoor Track Hannah Kennedy*
Boys Basketball William Anderson
Cheerleading Danielle Faltisko
Girls Indoor Track Sarah Fiorello
Boys Ice Hockey Ryan Hughes
Girls Ice Hockey Meghan Roche
Girls Basketball Amanda Zablonksi

Hamburg

Girls Indoor Track Meghan Doyle
Boys Indoor Track Nicholas Rusczyk
Cheerleading Paige Thurnherr

Holland

Girls Basketball Rebecca Clemons
Boys Bowling Chance Kelly
Girls Bowling Jessica Perry
Girls Indoor Track Julia Rak

Hutch Tech

Boys Indoor Track Blake Huck

Iroquois

Girls Ice Hockey Brianna Keppner
Boys Swimming & Diving Dylan Kulbacki

Jamestown

Girls Basketball Mackenzie Swanson

Kenmore West

Boys Ice Hockey Adam Pray

Lancaster

Girls Basketball Kelly Fellner*
Boys Ice Hockey Connor Carrow
Girls Indoor Track Katelyn Cefali
Boys Indoor Track Nicholas Doering
Boys Basketball Timothy Molik
Cheerleading Ashley Plotnicki
Wrestling Samuel Young

Leonardo DaVinci

Girls Bowling Emily Fitzpatrick

Section VI All-WNY Scholar Athletes

Winter 2016-2017

Lockport

Girls Basketball Kathryn Krchniak*
Cheerleading Emma Kahlke

Medina

Boys Swimming & Diving Kristian Snyder*
Girls Basketball Molley Gross

Newfane

Girls Basketball Caitlin Chunco*

Niagara Falls

Boys Ice Hockey Herman Bambrah*
Girls Indoor Track Allison Hubert*
Boys Ice Hockey Max Asklar
Boys Indoor Track Eli Robideau
Boys Basketball Devin Sanders
Boys Basketball Tyler Sanders

North Tonawanda

Boys Basketball Rory Farkas
Boys Swimming & Diving Michael Orłowski

Olean

Wrestling Jordan McLaughlin*

Orchard Park

Boys Indoor Track Joseph Even*
Girls Basketball Kristen Zabłonski*
Cheerleading Bridget Morseon
Boys Indoor Track Michael Totaro
Girls Bowling Brianna Williams

Pine Valley

Boys Basketball Dylan Chase
Girls Basketball Zoe Nelson

Portville

Boys Basketball Ronald Lott III*

Roy-Hart

Girls Basketball Ava Bligh*

Salamanca

Girls Bowling Tiffany Nary

Starpoint

Girls Basketball Katherine Anatasi
Girls Basketball Willow Lunn
Wrestling Nicholas McCartney

Sweet Home

Girls Indoor Track Lindsey Hornung*
Girls Indoor Track Samantha Peterman*
Boys Swimming & Diving Mackenzie Bluman
Girls Indoor Track Lauren Neudorf
Boys Indoor Track Christopher Nowak
Boys Ice Hockey Nathan Stawasz

Tonawanda

Girls Basketball Ashley Adams
Cheerleading Lauren Stryker

West Seneca East

Boys Ice Hockey Gunnar Galuszka
Wrestling Michael Miller
Cheerleading Grace Vogel

West Seneca West

Girls Indoor Track Ashley Dibble
Girls Basketball Claire Purdy
Girls Indoor Track Casandra Siwy

Williamsville East

Cheerleading Madeleine Bartz
Boys Indoor Track Dylan Birzon
Girls Indoor Track Eva Erickson
Boys Basketball Andrew Kleinmann
Boys Swimming & Diving Xingyang Li
Boys Swimming & Diving Aniruddha Nrusimha
Boys Ice Hockey Michael Steffan
Boys Bowling Brandon Szubinski

Williamsville North

Girls Basketball Erin Lippa
Girls Basketball Renee Shapiro
Girls Indoor Track Mikayla Shute

Williamsville South

Boys Indoor Track Zachary Gewurz*
Boys Indoor Track Harrison Higgins*
Girls Indoor Track Maya Wolcott*
Girls Indoor Track Katrina Fritzingler
Cheerleading Sarah Johnson
Boys Indoor Track Jin Lee
Boys Swimming & Diving Anthony Mariniello
Boys Ice Hockey Michael Woods

Wilson

Boys Basketball Jonah Miller
Girls Basketball Alexandra Seeley

Dedication

Mark Ward

Cattaraugus-Allegany BOCES Superintendents' Representative Ellicottville Central School District Superintendent



Mark J. Ward is a lifelong resident of Great Valley, N.Y. where he graduated from the Ellicottville High School in 1971. He went on to attend St. Bonaventure University, where he earned a Bachelor's Degree in History in 1975, Master of Science Degree in Education in 1980 and an Advanced Certificate in Educational Administration in 1985. In 1975, he came back to Ellicottville as a history teacher.

Mark has worn many "hats" during his 37 year administrative career. He served as the Ellicottville Central School

Athletic Director (1980-1998) and Principal (1985-2000); Section VI Football Federation Member (1980-2000); Athletic Council Member (1995-2006); President of Section VI (1996-98); Athletic Council CA BOCES Representative (2006-2017); NYSPHSAA Central Committee Principal and Superintendent Representative (1995-2006); NYSPHSAA Officer (2006-2014); Mark became only the second person from WNY to ever serve as President of the NYSPHSAA (2010-2012); Salamanca City Central School Superintendent (2004-2008); Olean City School Superintendent (2004-2008); Ellicottville Central School Superintendent (2008-2017).

Over the years Mark has played an instrumental role in many Section VI initiatives. As a member of the Football Committee he assisted in the development and implementation of the playoff format and tie-breaking system. The officials fingerprint requirement was implemented during his role as the Section VI SAVE legislation Compliance Chairman becoming the first Section in the State to implement fingerprinting. During his service as a Section VI Finance Committee member, membership dues were reduced by establishing budgetary parameters for accumulated reserves. He also promoted and advocated for the transition to a full-time Executive Director serving on the Committee that recommended Timm Slade!

During his 33+ year career at Ellicottville Central School, he coached football, basketball, baseball and track. During his time in Ellicottville, he was part of a variety of improvements and firsts! The District added lighting to the football field, built a cinder track, added outdoor scoreboards and a watering system for the athletic fields, added new soccer, softball and baseball fields and saw the completion of a new Press Box and Concession stand. The District recently completed a \$12,000,000 capital project that included a new multi-purpose gym, Fitness Room, new locker rooms. Five years ago Ellicottville became the first Section VI school to ever offer skiing and we are proud to say

that the Girls Team won the State Championship in 2017! Ellicottville recently formed their first ever Girls Golf team playing a full schedule during the 2017 season.

One of his most successful projects has been the combining of sports programs. The first is the merger of the Franklinville and Ellicottville football programs, which has been extremely well received by the players, parents and community members. The merger has resulted in three straight trips to New Era Field to compete for a Section VI Championship. Mark has provided leadership for the initiative to combine all sports with West Valley Central School. The schools are in their second year of a very successful "sports marriage" that has had a positive impact for students.

As NYSPHSAA President, Mark was presented with a number of financial, structural, and organizational challenges. Through his leadership, new policies and procedures were established to guarantee transparency and ensure the long term future of the organization. As President, he also served as Chairman for the national search for a new Executive Director. In 2012, the "Committee of Eleven" recommended Robert Zayas to this post and he was approved unanimously by the Association.

While Mark has received a variety of honors and awards over the years his membership in the Cattaraugus County Hall of Fame (2005), Section VI Hall of Fame (2016) and most recently the NYSPHSAA Hall of Fame (July 2017) reflect the impact and involvement others have seen in his contributions to athletics.

Throughout his lengthy career as an educator, Mark's dedication and commitment to education and athletics expanded to lead others to succeed personally and professionally. His leadership inspired many students to become teachers, teachers to become coaches, teams to seek success, and many athletes to further their athletic experiences beyond high school. And yet, while athletics and student-athletes have been one his largest focuses, community involvement has been a hallmark of his life. While his list of civic interests is rather long, the one that has meant the most is his 47 years with the Great Valley Volunteer Fire Company. Serving as Chief, fifteen years in a row and currently as an Assistant Chief; his involvement has almost been a way of life. Another large part of his time is centered on his involvement with the Holy Name of Mary RC Church where he serves as a Eucharistic Minister, usher, choir member and past president of the Parish Council. Other interests include: long time involvement with politics serving as a Cattaraugus County Legislator (2008-2011), two years as Minority Leader, Democratic Committeeman, Trustee for Jamestown Community College since 2005, Board of Directors member for CCSE Federal Credit Union in Ellicottville/Salamanca and member of the Ancient Order of Hibernians.

Mark resides in Great Valley, NY with his wife Barbara. He has a son, Justin, and a daughter, Vanessa.

Meet the Athletic Director

John Grzymala, Royalton-Hartland Central School District, Niagara Orleans League



Years of Administrative Service: 2
Education: Bachelor of Science Degree in Physical Education and Health Education, Canisius College, 2006
Masters of Athletic Administration/Sports Studies, Canisius College, 2010
Family: Danielle, wife
We are expecting our first child this April 2017 - April 23rd is her due date. We are having a girl -Madelynn

Marie Grzymala -super excited! We currently reside in the Town of Lockport.

Favorite Food: Homemade Breaded Pork Chops

Favorite Movie: Field of Dreams

Hobbies: I love baseball and still play MUNY League Baseball in WNY. I also love attending athletic/sporting events (high school, college, and professional teams). I look forward to spend lots of quality time with my new daughter and of course time with my family and friends.

Why/How did you choose athletics/education? When I was a junior in high school, my physical education teacher and basketball Coach Sam Sebastian (West Seneca East HS) had a huge impact on my life as a teacher and coach, which guided me towards a career in Physical Education. I always had a strong passion for athletics growing up - playing baseball and basketball in high school and baseball in college. I love coaching as well and have coached collegiate baseball, The WNY Empire State Baseball Team, varsity, JV, and modified athletics.

I would like to thank Doug Ames, Dave Carson, and Brad Halgash -Athletic Directors in Section VI who have helped me grow professionally in my development as an athletic director for the Roy-Hart CSD.

Brad Halgash, Lewiston-Porter Central School District, Niagara Frontier League



Years of Administrative Service: 8 years
Education: Bachelor of Science in Physical Education, Canisius College
Masters in Administration and Supervision, Niagara University
Family: Laurie (Wife of 16 years), Son: Nathan (12yrs. old), Daughter: Quinn (8yrs. old)
Favorite Food: Pizza or anything parmesan

Favorite Movie: A Bronx Tale

Hobbies: Coaching, playing guitar, and hanging out with my family.

Why/How did you choose athletics/education? I have been involved in sports my whole life. I enjoy the aspect of working with coaches and students that have the same passion to compete as I do. Leading/helping people to accomplish their goals and learn the concepts of why we have athletics in education is also enjoyable to me.

Matt Librock, East Aurora, Erie County Interscholastic Conference



Years of Administrative Service: 4
Education: BSED from SUNY Cortland
MSED from The College at Brockport
SBL and SDL achieved through Canisius College
Family: Kathryn, wife. Children: Aubrey, Brayden, and Joshua.
Favorite Food: Chicken Parmesan

Favorite Movie: Shawshank Redemption

Hobbies: I participate in year round recreational sport leagues (soccer, football, softball), hunt in the fall, and grow my own garden each summer.

Why/How did you choose athletics/education? Athletics have been a part of my life for as long as I can remember. I went to SUNY Cortland for Physical Education and Health and was a student-athlete while there. Upon obtaining my first teaching job, I began to coach at the high school level. The blend of teaching and coaching helped me to find the desire to work with athletes and other coaches whenever possible. That combination slowly shifted my role as an educator into a role as an athletic administrator. Since then, I have been motivated by the enhancements in high school athletics that I have been able to contribute to at the school, section, and state level.

2016-2017 Winter Additional Champions

State Champions

Alpine Skiing

Ellicottville

Sectional Champions

Wrestling

Clarence, Class AA

Randolph, Class D

Girls Basketball

Frewsburg, Class C

Boys Bowling

Frewsburg, Class D

Section VI Executive Committee

President

Al Gens, Dunkirk

President-Elect

Adam Stoltman, Alden

Superintendents Rep*

Jeff Rabey, Ph.D., Depew

Principals Rep*

Jim Spanbauer, Niagara Falls

Girls Sports Rep*

Marisa Fallacaro, Eden

Boys Sports Rep*

Jim Graczyk, Pioneer

Past President

Brett Banker, Ken-Ton

Executive Director

Timm Slade

Treasurer

Don Scholla

Section VI Office Staff

Administrative Assistant

Pauline Turski

Administrative Assistant

Beth Fadeley

*Central Committee Representatives to the State Association