



Congratulations to our 2017-18 Sportsman of the Month winners:

APRIL 2018: LADY JAYS NURTURE YOUNG GIRL'S SOUL

The St. Edmund School softball team has been wearing armbands, ribbons, and giving their time and talent in support of an inspirational 8 year old named Gracie. Gracie is ailed with an inoperable brain tumor known as DIPG. She recently threw out the first pitch for the teams' season opener. Despite the tumor, Gracie manages to attend Lady Jays' softball games to show her support, and in return, these loving blue birds show her love by allowing her to throw a ball, swing a bat or just run the bases before or after a game. Off the field they send prayers and thoughts, and they also allow her to spend the day with them just to see her smile. Sharing the knowledge of DIPG to help save her life, along with other young children with the brain tumors and life threatening situations is a just one way that these young ladies are instilling hope in one courageous young lady. The LHSAA, WVLA and Gold Star Trophies would like to congratulate The St. Edmund Lady Jays' Softball team for their commitment and compassion to sportsmanship.

MARCH 2018: REVIVING THE VIRTUES OF GIVING

The Central High School Lady Wildcats' Softball team made headlines when the more that 20 ball players made the decision, that it was better to give than to receive. Here's how the story went. After a cancelled softball scrimmage the team travelled to a local Chick-fil-A restaurant to have lunch. One of the young ladies spotted a homeless man who looked like he could use a break, or at least a meal. With the \$5.00 remaining, the young lady asked the man if she could buy him something to eat. This then led to a trickle-down effect of giving, that in the end totaled tenfold. The Lady Wildcats' random act of kindness and giving should be one we all learn to practice. The LHSAA, WVLA and Gold Star Trophies would like to congratulate The Central High Wildcats' Softball team for their commitment and compassion to sportsmanship.

FEBRUARY 2018: A CHANCE TO DANCE

If you think you can't learn about jazz, tap, ballet and hip hop because you've got a frame or a wheelchair, then think again! The Dutchtown Dance Team may vie for National Titles on a regular basis, but the way they love to make a difference is far from the big stage. "It's more than just being a GG, or dance," said sponsor, Glenda Pavageau. "It's about being part of your community and making memories." Head coach Joy Turner and the team connect with their community by offering instruction to special needs kids at one of their summer camps. "It just warms my heart. I have a soft spot for those kids," said Turner. I don't want to leave them out and I want them to participate whenever they can. "The LHSAA, WVLA and Gold Star Trophies would like to congratulate The Dutchtown Griffin Girls' Dance team for their commitment and compassion to sportsmanship.

DECEMBER 2017: WHEN TRAGEDY "SPIKES" A TEAM

No coach game plans for the unexpected death of a student-athlete. There's no playbook that can make the loss easier. For University High, nearly four months after the death of sophomore volleyball player, Brionna Ross, winters' arrival brings about a glimmer of hope to move beyond the woes of reality. In the midst of Ross' death, the resilient Cubs have been able to serve on, playing every match dig for dig, spike for spike and ace for ace. Even though the rotation did not include number 12, the Lady Cubs held strong, "Doing It All for Bri!" Her kind spirit and bright smile resonating within the hearts of each player. Despite not having a game plan for deaths' opponent, the team, coaching staff and community dedicated their efforts to figuring this one out along the way. The U-High Volleyball team was also recently honored by the Capital City Board of Volleyball Officials. The LHSAA, WVLA and Gold Star Trophies would like to congratulate The University High Lady Cubs' Volleyball team for their commitment and compassion to sportsmanship.

NOVEMBER 2017: HOMECOMING KING, CROWNS FRIEND

"Play It Forward" winners earn recognition for their sportsmanship on the field, but our November winner garnered attention for what he did during football season, off the field. Terrence Gray, a senior defensive end at Ellender High School, decided his Homecoming King crown should go to one of his fellow students with cerebral palsy. Gray crowned Tate Billiot simply because, "I just wanted to do something meaningful and special." It was an unselfish act of kindness. A star football player giving his homecoming crown to an unsuspecting friend. Terrence Gray was elated when he was crowned Homecoming King on Saturday, October 21, 2017. Without thinking, the unexpected happened. He decided to share his blessing with sophomore Tate Billiot. Terrence and some of his teammates lifted Tate's wheelchair on the stage and adorned him with the crown and sash. "To see the smile on his face, it's wonderful," Gray said. "He deserved to be a king too..." Tate's glowing smile is an inspiration for students at Ellender High School. Homecoming Queen, Jaylin Poe, stated, "Terrence Gray's gesture brought everyone to tears." The LHSAA, WVLA and Gold Star Trophies would like to congratulate Terrence Gray for his commitment to sportsmanship.

OCTOBER 2017: CHARITY LEADS TO PERFECTION

Sometimes its the smallest gestures that can mean the most. That seems to be the attitude by the Hannan Hawks...after the whistle, at least. The motto of Archbishop Hannan High School is "Charity Leads to Perfection." Senior quarterback Chris Rabensteiner lived these words in a recent Hawk football game, offering a hand to help up an opponent after a play. This picture is only a snapshot that speaks a true testament of this young man's character. On an off the field Rabensteiner exhibits good will throughout his daily walk. "This picture is who this young man is. You can ask anyone who knows him," states Athletic Director, Joseph Hines. "You truly captured who Chris is as a young man. Thank you for honoring our school, our football program, and most importantly Chris," says Head Football Coach Scott Wattigny. The LHSAA, WVLA and Gold Star Trophies would like to congratulate Chris Rabensteiner for his commitment to sportsmanship.