

QuEd up for Education

People and programs impacting our QCSD community

On field of play, QCHS athletes prove true sports

By Gary Weckselblatt

Six Quakertown Community High School sports teams have won the Sportsmanship Award in a vote of Suburban One League American Conference coaches for the 2017-18 season.

Lacrosse, co-ed golf and the boys teams in bowling, cross country, soccer and volleyball were the QCHS teams selected for the honor.

"It says a lot about the character of our coaches and our student athletes," said Sylvia Kalazs, the high school's athletic director. "It's about being competitive, but also respectful and sportsmanlike. I think that has to be modeled by the coaches for the kids to do it. I'm really proud of our coaches. You've got to be a good sport, whether you win or lose."

Dr. Bill Harner, the district's superintendent, said the large number of teams to achieve the important award is "indicative of the quality of students and community we have here in Quakertown. I'm extremely proud of our athletes and of our coaches, who instill good sportsmanship."

It's the fourth time in seven years that Quakertown will be recognized by the Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic Association for having teams win the award. The high school has achieved the honor every other year since 2011-12.

"This shows that character is something very important to us," said boys volleyball coach Andy Snyder. "Our athletes have the capability to win humbly and to lose graciously. They realize there's something bigger than just winning. It's about how you treat your opponent, how you conduct yourself."

"I try not to preach about it, but to demonstrate it. Ultimately, it's their own decision. I try to guide them the right way."

The high school golf team has won the award two years in a row with different team members both years.



Quakertown Community High School's boys volleyball team, above, and lacrosse team were among six QCHS teams to win the Suburban One League Sportsmanship Award in 2017-18.

"We set the bar pretty high. We expect it," golf coach Nick Hood said. "We don't let the other team dictate how we act. We do that ourselves."

Hood said his golfers don't root against the opposition. "We don't like that mindset he said," he said. "Our kids shake hands with the other coaches and the other players. A good shot is a good shot, so it's okay to say 'nice shot' to the other team. To win that, it's the most proud I can be of my team."

Allen Hunsicker, coach of the bowling team, said it meant a lot to win the award in the team's first year of competition.

"They weren't only concerned with themselves," he said. "They were working to get better at the sport, but at the same time encouraging the other team and showing them respect."

Hood, who helped chaperone the senior trip, said the students' behavior transcends sports. After a bus ride back to the airport, Hood looked on as said thank you to the bus driver as they exited the vehicle.

The driver told Hood, "You have some nice kids." Hood responded, "Yes, thank you." The bus driver quickly shot back, "No, really, you have some nice kids."

"They're choosing to be that way," Hood said. "I think that's a community thing."

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