

## Athletic Awards

### 1. Varsity Letter Award

- The Varsity letter Award is presented to athletes at the varsity level who have reached athletic criteria that has been set forth by the Conemaugh Township Area School District. Athletes must meet the earned time criteria that is set forth for each varsity sport. Those who earn a varsity letter are awarded with a Certificate and a sport specific athletic pin at the awards ceremony that is held at the end of each school year.
- Playing time criteria for varsity athletics:
  - **Baseball, Rifle\*, Softball, Volleyball and Wrestling Letter Winner Criteria:**
    - **Criteria 1:** A participating athlete (regardless of grade level in the Varsity sport) must earn game participation in ½ of the available scheduled games in the season.
    - **Criteria 2:** A Senior who participates in the given sport at the Varsity level for:
      - 4 years (began varsity eligibility as a freshman) who does not meet criteria 1 in any year of participation will receive a letter upon completion of their 4<sup>th</sup> (senior) year.
      - 3 years (began varsity eligibility as a sophomore) who does not meet criteria 1 in any year of participation will receive a letter upon completion of their 3<sup>rd</sup> (senior) year.
    - **Criteria 3:** It will be the coach's discretion for a Senior who:
      - Participates in the program, but does not meet the requirements under criteria 1 or 2.
      - Participates in the program, but receives a long-term or season-ending injury that prevents him/her from meeting the requirements in criteria 1 or 2.
    - **Criteria 4:** It will be the coach's discretion for an underclassmen (freshman, sophomore, or junior) who:
      - Participates in the program, but receives a long-term or season-ending injury that prevents him/her from meeting the requirements in criteria 1.
    - **\*Additional Rifle Criteria:** In addition to the aforementioned criteria, a participating rifle letter winner should earn a minimum shooting score of 200 in at least one varsity competition.
  - **Basketball, Football and Soccer Letter Winner Criteria:**
    - **Criteria 1:** A participating athlete (regardless of grade level in the Varsity sport) must earn game participation in ½ of the available periods (quarters or halves) in the season plus 1 additional period.
    - **Criteria 2:** A Senior who participates in the given sport at the Varsity level for:
      - 4 years (began varsity eligibility as a freshman) who does not meet criteria 1 in any year of participation will receive a letter upon completion of their 4<sup>th</sup> (senior) year.
      - 3 years (began varsity eligibility as a sophomore) who does not meet criteria 1 in any year of participation will receive a letter upon completion of their 3<sup>rd</sup> (senior) year.
    - **Criteria 3:** It will be the coach's discretion for a Senior who:
      - Participates in the program, but does not meet the requirements under criteria 1 or 2.
      - Participates in the program, but receives a long-term or season-ending injury that prevents him/her from meeting the requirements in criteria 1 or 2.
    - **Criteria 4:** It will be the coach's discretion for an underclassmen (freshmen, sophomore, or junior) who:
      - Participates in the program, but receives a long-term or season-ending injury that prevents him/her from meeting the requirements in criteria 1.
  - **Cheerleading Letter Winner Criteria:**
    - **Criteria 1:** A participating member must participate in all scheduled fall sport contests for the season.  
– AND -
    - **Criteria 2:** A participating member must participate in all scheduled winter sport contests to which the coach assigns them for the season.
    - **Criteria 3:** It will be the coach's discretion for:
      - A participant who does not meet criteria 1 and 2 due to a long-term or season ending injury.

- **Track and Field Letter Winner Criteria:**
  - **Criteria 1:** A participating member must be present and participate in all scheduled meets for the season. – **AND** -
  - **Criteria 2:** A participating member must participate in ALL events that the coach assigns him/her to do. – **AND** -
  - **Criteria 3:** A participating member must earn a minimum of 10 points for the season.
  - **Criteria 4:** It will be the coach's discretion for a Senior who:
    - Participates in the program, but does not meet the requirements under criteria 1, 2 and 3.
    - Participates in the program, but receives a long-term or season-ending injury that prevents him/her from meeting the requirements in criteria 1, 2 and 3.
  - **Criteria 5:** It will be the coach's discretion for an underclassmen who:
    - Does not meet criteria 1, 2, and 3 due to a long-term or season ending injury.
- **Golf Letter Winner Criteria:**
  - **Criteria 1:** A participating member who achieves status as one of the top 6 competing CT golfers at any point in the season – OR – A participating member who competes in ½ of the scheduled Varsity competitions in the season – OR – A participating member who earns the right to participate in the WestPAC or District 5 Championships.
  - **Criteria 2:** A participating Senior member who has been a team member for all four years of eligibility and does not meet the established requirements in criteria 1.
  - **Criteria 3:** : It will be the coach's discretion for a Senior who:
    - Participates in the program, but does not meet the requirements under criteria 1 or 2.
    - Participates in the program, but receives a long-term or season-ending injury that prevents him/her from meeting the requirements in criteria 1 or 2.
  - **Criteria 4:** It will be the coach's discretion for an underclassmen who:
    - Does not meet criteria 1 or 2 due to a long-term or season ending injury.
- If an athlete does not complete the season due to quitting or being removed from a team, he/she will not receive a varsity letter.
- An athlete is able to sign up for a letterman jacket upon successfully earning his/her second varsity letter. The letters earned can be two letters in the same sport or two letters total in two different sports. Letter jacket fittings are held annually at the school in the months of October or November. Information is made available 2 weeks in advance to the fittings. A deposit must be made at the time of the fitting. Complete payment is made upon arrival of the jackets.

## **2. All Conference Recognition**

- All Conference Selections are based upon each sports coaching staff. The number of team members selected on an annual basis is dependent upon the success of the team and upon the teams conference placing. The representative number of selected athletes has been predetermined by WestPAC Conference officials. All Conference selections receive a certificate and a sport specific patch.
  - **Baseball:**
    - League Champion receives 4 selections
    - League Runner-up receives 3 selections
    - All others receive 2 selections
  - **Basketball:**
    - League Champion receives 3 selections
    - League Runner-up receives 2 selections
    - All others receive 2 selections
  - **Football:**
    - League Champion receives 4 selections
    - League Runner-up receives 3 selections
    - All others receive 2 selections

- **Golf:**
  - Any team participant who finishes in the top 5 place winners at the Conference Match receives an automatic selection
  - Any team that does not place any participants in the top 5 at the Conference Match receives 1 selection.
- **Rifle:**
  - League Champion receives 3 selections
  - League Runner-up receives 2 selections
  - All others receive 1 selection
- **Soccer:**
  - League Champion receives 6 selections
  - League Runner-up receives 4 selections
  - All others receive 2 selections
- **Softball:**
  - League Champion receives 4 selections
  - League Runner-up receives 3 selections
  - All others receive 2 selections
- **Track and Field:**
  - Any team participant who earns a first place finish at the Conference Championship earns a selection
  - Any team that does not place any participants in first at the Conference Championship receives 1 selection
- **Volleyball:**
  - League Champion receives 3 selections
  - League Runner-up receives 2 selections
  - All others receive 1 selection
- **Wrestling:**
  - Any team participant who earns a first place finish at the Conference Championship earns a selection
  - Any team that does not place any participants in first at the Conference Championship receives 1 selection

### **3. Brian Thomas Scholarship**

- The Brian Thomas Scholarship was started by the Thomas family and the Conemaugh Township Baseball community in memory of Brian Thomas. Mr. Thomas was extremely involved with the Conemaugh Township Baseball program and with the Little League of Conemaugh Township prior to leaving us before his time. Annually, this scholarship is provided to a Varsity Baseball player. All candidates must submit an essay that describes how the sport of baseball has affected their life. The essay is judged by a committee and the committee selects the successful candidate.

### **4. U.S. Army Scholar Athlete Award**

- “Outstanding scholar, Fine athlete. This winning combination – excellence in both academics and athletics – is a goal many aspire to, but only a few achieve. Since 1981, the Army Reserve has presented the National Scholar/Athlete Award to selected students at more than 12,000 schools annually. We continue this tradition because student accomplishment deserves recognition, and we know how difficult it is to excel both academically and physically.” This award is presented to a senior who has demonstrated outstanding achievement in a varsity sport while maintaining at least a B average.

### **5. U.S. Navy Outstanding Athlete Award**

- This award recognizes high school varsity-level athletes who demonstrate honor, courage, commitment, and are positive role models within their peer group. Award recipients are not necessarily the top athletes, but instead are those who are the most inspirational or demonstrate these values both on and off the athletic field.

## **6. Leonard LaPorta Scholarship**

- This scholarship has been an annual award that has been presented to the senior football player who holds the highest grade point average. It has been sponsored by the LaPorta family, whose son (Leonard LaPorta, Jr.) tragically lost his life in a car accident. The recipient of this award receives a scholarship of \$100.00 and their name is placed on a common plaque in the High School that displays each recipient's name who received the award throughout the years.

## **7. Boys and Girls Soccer Highest GPA Award**

- This award is sponsored by the Conemaugh Township Soccer Booster Organization. The award winners (one male and one female) are based upon the participating senior members of the boys and girls soccer teams who have earned the highest GPA at the time of the awards ceremony.

## **8. James Spory Wrestling Award**

- This award was initiated in 1982 in honor of Coach Jim Spory. The annual award is presented to a senior wrestling team member who illustrates the best sportsmanship throughout his athletic career. The recipient's name is placed on a common community plaque that is housed at the High School.

## **9. Varsity C Plaques**

- This award is presented to all graduating athletes who have earned two or more varsity letters in PIAA sanctioned sports while attending Conemaugh Township High School. Each award winner receives a plaque that indicates the sports that the athlete has earned a letter and the year to which the letter was earned.

## **10. Athletic Council Awards**

- Annually, the Athletic Council Awards are provided to one male and one female athlete at Conemaugh Township. The award represents the male and female athletes who have expressed the most athletic ability in his and her sport or sports. Athletes are nominated by administration, guidance counselors, physical education teachers and head coaches of each varsity sport at Conemaugh Township. Once nominations have been made, the voting panel of all head coaches, physical education teachers, guidance counselors and administration vote on the nominees to select the winner. The winner of this award receives a personal plaque and his and her names are placed on a community plaque that is displayed within the school.

## **11. Eddie Award**

- The Eddie Award is considered to be Conemaugh Township's most prestigious Athletic Award. This award began being presented in 1961 through the efforts of the Athletic Boosters and Mr. Don O'Connor (a former Social Studies Educator, Athletic Director, Football Coach and Wrestling Coach at Conemaugh Township High School). The award was dedicated to Mr. O'Connor's twin brother, Ed O'Connor, a former Conemaugh Township Elementary teacher and football coach, and Ed Maslanka, a former standout athlete in football, basketball, and baseball. Both individuals tragically passed before their times – Ed O'Connor passed in a car accident and Ed Maslanka passed in a mining accident. The award as presented today represents these two individuals and all that they had accomplished and stood for as coaches and athletes. The criteria that have stood for the winner of this award are:
  - The athlete must have earned a letter in at least two sports.
  - The athlete must have at least a 3.0 grade point average.
  - The athlete must have demonstrated the following qualities:
    - Citizenship.
    - Leadership.
    - Character.
    - Athletic Ability.
- Athletes are nominated by administration, guidance counselors, physical education teachers and head coaches of each varsity sport at Conemaugh Township. Once nominations have been made, the voting panel of all head coaches, physical education teachers, guidance counselors and administration vote on the nominees to select the winner. The winner of this award receives a personal plaque and his and her names are placed on a community plaque that is displayed within the school.