

ALAH Knights Celebrate Spring Sports at Annual Athletic Awards Night

The Arthur Lovington Atwood Hammond Knights held their Spring Athletic Awards night on Thursday, June 1 at Atwood Hammond Grade School. District Athletic Director Nathan Seal began the program with these words, "Good Evening, and welcome to the spring sports awards night. Tonight provides us the opportunity to look back on all of the accomplishments of our baseball, bass fishing, softball, boys track, and girls track programs during this past season. I would like to start this evening with a quote from an Olympic athlete and WWII veteran who survived 47 days at sea and 2 years in Prisoner of War Camps during WWII. His story was documented in the 2014 motion picture Unbroken. Louis Zamperini stated - "That's one thing you learn in sports. You don't give up; you fight to the finish." As we finish our 22-23 athletic year at ALAH, I am very proud of our spring sports student-athletes and coaches for how they finished their seasons. All four of our spring sports that are in the LPC finished in the top 3 in the conference standing with our boys' track, softball, and baseball teams winning conference titles. This marked the third consecutive conference championship for boys track, the fourth consecutive conference championship for softball and the first conference baseball championship in ALAH school history. If we take a little deeper look at each of the spring seasons, we will find that the boys track team won the conference championship on the very last event of the

meet and specifically the very last 100 meters of the conference track meet. Our baseball team had to win 3 games in the final week of the regular season to secure the championship. Our girls track team set many PR's at the sectional meet at Okaw Valley. Our softball team once again finished with 20+ wins and had some very exciting finishes to their games this season including a 4-run 7th inning to come back and beat Oakwood and scoring 4 runs in the top of the 7th inning to force extra innings at Villa Grove and eventually winning the game in the 8th inning which proved to be the key victory for securing the conference championship. Our Bass Fishing Team finished the season by successfully hosting their first ever ICAST event on Lake Decatur. Tonight as we are honoring all of the accomplishments of our spring student-athletes, we are also finishing the 22-23 athletic season. The 22-23 on the whole was a successful one, one that was rich with participation, victories, championships (6 of the 11 LPC athletic championships), and individual recognitions for our student-athletes. All our teams had some highs and some lows during their respective seasons but more importantly our student-athletes had many positive experiences and memories that they will carry with them the rest of their lives. Congratulations to all of the coaches, parents, and student-athletes on a successful spring season and a successful 22-23 season. A special congratulations to

our senior student-athletes. You finished your high school careers as one of the most successful classes in school history. You leave a tradition of championships and big shoes to fill and an example of hard work, determination, and how

to finish your senior year on a high note. You have raised the bar and I am confident that our underclassmen will continue to build our Knight tradition.

Before we recognize our student-athletes, I would like

to offer some special thanks to people who have helped with the success of our athletic programs during the spring season . . .

First, to the parents. Thank you for all of the support you provide to our student-athletes, (enduring the spring weather) and supporting our athletes at games both at home and away, working at home events, washing uniforms, and

all the other countless things you do. - you are vital to the success of our programs.

Thank you to all of the coaches - Thank you for your energy, passion, and commitment to our student-athletes. No season could be successful, let alone possible, without tremendous support and leadership from our coaches.

Thanks to Miller Bus Trans- See Sports Awards on page 5



Each coach of a spring sport was charged with selecting an athlete for the Knight Award. The criteria for each was set by the coaches. Here Senior Wyatt Hilligoss accepts the Knight Award for baseball. Congratulating Wyatt is Knights baseball Assistant Coach Brad McGill.



Karaline Vanausdoll, freshman softball player accepts the softball Knight Award from ALAH Athletic Director Nathan Seal last Thursday at the annual spring Athletic Awards Night.



ALAH Bass Fishing coach Bradley Rexroad presents sophomore Riley Robinson the Bass Fishing Knight Award at the Spring Sports Athletic Awards night held at Atwood Hammond Grade School on June 1.



ALAH junior Landon Waldrop received the Knight Award for boys track from Head Coach Matt Thomas. The annual spring Athletic Awards night was Thursday, June 1.



Knights baseball awards went to Will Hilligoss, left, for Defensive Player of the Year and MVP to Clay Seal last week at the spring sports awards night. Not pictured: Dalton Vanausdoll who was the Offensive Player of the Year.



ALAH A.D. Nathan Seal presents retiring Cross Country and Track Coach Lyle Dorjahn with a plaque at the Athletic Awards night last week. The plaque was in appreciation for his energy, passion and love for our student athletes. Lyle then gave a heartfelt and emotional thank you to all in attendance.



Bass Fishing Coach Bradley Rexroad on behalf of all the Knight coaches including fall and winter coaches presents ALAH Athletic Director Nathan Seal with a plaque. The plaque was to show appreciation for all his hard work in keeping every sport going throughout the year.



Thirty-one junior and senior Knight athletes met the criteria set by the Illinois High School Association for the Scholastic Achievement Award. The award was earned by athletes throughout the school year. A complete list is in the Athletics Awards night article elsewhere in the paper. Pictured here are those that were present for the picture. From left to right: Parker Dick, Jacob Adcock, Chaley Condill, Kailee Otto, Alisha Frederick, Madison Schweighart, Logan Beckmier and Clay Seal.