



## **ABINGTON WINS SPORTSMANSHIP AWARD**

Abington High School has been named the winner of the South Shore League Clark Chatterton Sportsmanship Award for the 2019-20 school year. Each year the South Shore league recognizes one school as the overall Sportsmanship winner. Coaches of each varsity sport select the top programs based on sportsmanship using a rubric to guide them at the conclusion of each season. The results from each individual sport are then tallied to declare an overall winner.

For the third consecutive year Abington High School is the SSL overall sportsmanship winner. “We are extremely proud to be recognized by the South Shore League as this year’s sportsmanship winner. Our student athletes, coaches and community consistently place an emphasis on sportsmanship and this award validates these efforts. To be recognized with this award, while also winning on the field, including two state championships, demonstrates that our athletic program can win at the highest level on, and off the field,” Athletic Director Peter Serino.

Principal Teresa Sullivan said “I couldn’t be more proud of our sportsmanship award! Sportsmanship speaks to the true character of our student-athletes. Winning is nice but victory without integrity is a shallow pursuit!” Assistant Principal Laura Louko continued “Our athletes continue year after year to demonstrate strong character and show themselves to be admirable people both on and off the field.”

The Abington High School athletic program is built on 5 pillars, teamwork, toughness, character, service, and pride. The coaches and students at Abington have embraced the pillars to create a culture of success athletically and socially. AHS soccer coach Kate Casey noted “Sportsmanship is one of the most important pieces of athletics. I am proud to be a part of such as strong athletic program that puts an emphasis on sportsmanship. At Abington, sportsmanship is always a top priority with our all student-athletes and coaches in every interaction we have within our sports and in the larger athletic community.” Ice Hockey Coach Bryan Woodford, “Sportsmanship is the ability of the athlete, and team, to see beyond the game and remain respectful to all of their opponents in the heat of the competition. This is very important to the fabric of our athletic programs culture and is something the student athletes of Abington High School have done very well with over the years.”

The students have embraced the culture and passed it on to the underclassmen. The leadership of members of the Class of 2020, three-time SSL sportsmanship winners, has built a foundation that challenges all students to act with sportsmanship and pride in their program. Class of 2021 Isabella O’Connell (Soccer, Basketball, Track) shared “At Abington High School the culture that each of our coaches makes for the sports environment is part of what makes the sport so fun. Having a competitive yet friendly environment with not only your team, but with the opponent makes the game enjoyable and winning the sportsmanship award speaks for all of the teams that go beyond just playing the game to win.”

Isabella’s sister Gracie O’Connell (Soccer, Basketball, Track) continued “Sportsmanship is something that reflects each player far beyond the playing fields. Being a part of a team and winning is great, but how well we get along with our teammates and coaches are memories we’ll never forget. We learn so much from being a part of a competitive environment such as working as a team, being held accountable and how to respect everyone.”