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Crowley, Kenwood, Larson, Cabral highlight honorees at RIIAAA awards banquet on April 11

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WARWICK – Cumberland High athletic director Marty Crowley and former cross country/track and field head coach Tom Kenwood and the Lincoln High athletic department will be among the honorees at the RIIAAA (Rhode Island Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association) awards banquet on Thursday, April 11, at the Crowne Plaza Hotel.

This year's event will also honor Davies Tech head coach football Henry Cabral as the Male Coach of the Year and Lincoln High volleyball team Lindsay Larson as the Female Coach of the Year.

Crowley is in his third year as the Clippers' A.D. and oversees 26 athletic programs at the high school and 18 middle school programs at McCourt and North Cumberland Middle Schools. Under his guidance, the Clippers have won multiple division titles, and this past year, they captured state titles in baseball, girls' soccer, and girls' cross country.

Crowley is only one of the few head coaches in the state's history to win championships as a head coach in three different sports. During the 2002-03 season, he was the head coach of the Burrillville High girls' basketball team that won the Division III championship, and at Cumberland, he was the head coach of the 2011 softball team and last year's girls' cross country team that won state titles.

He has also received the honor of Coach of the Year seven times, most recently last fall.

Kenwood completed 43 years of coaching and 37 years of teaching at Cumberland High in 2017, but continues to volunteer at CHS. Between gymnastics, indoor track, outdoor track, and cross country, his teams had won over 600 meets and 40 division titles. His teams have also won Class A titles in track and cross country.

His gymnastics squad won the state title in 1984 after three straight second-place finishes, and in 1978, his indoor track team also won the state title. Tom took over as cross-country coach for Harry Gederman in 1995 after coaching cross country at CCRI for 10 years, and that team went on to win three Class A titles, as well as the state championship in 2004.

Kenwood also served on Cumberland's Parks and Recreation Commission for 25 years and runs youth track meets in the summer for town residents. He also organized the Cumberlandfest 5K for 27 years and the Arnold Mills Fourth of July four-mile race for 45 years.

A former standout volleyball player at Coventry High, Larson became an assistant coach for Lincoln's boys' and girls' volleyball team in 2018. Coaching alongside her friend and head coach Kyle Medeiros, the girls' team finished as Division II runners-up and the boys' team ended up as Division III runners-up.

In 2019, she took over as head coach of the girls' program, and three years later, the head coach of the boys' team. In 2022, the boys' team won the Division III regular-season title with an undefeated record, and last season, Lincoln moved up to D-II and shook off a 1-6 start to win the championship.

Cabral, who has also served as a physical education and health teacher at Davies since 1999, started the Patriots' football program in 2019, and after going winless in its first year, the program steadily improved over the next four years, reaching the playoffs in three of them. Last season was the Patriots' best, as they went undefeated during the regular season and reached the Division IV Super Bowl.

Lincoln High, meanwhile, received the RIIAAA George Nasuti School of the Year. Under the direction of athletic director Greg O'Connor and assistant athletic director Madison Flaxington, Lincoln supports 36 athletic programs throughout the school year.

Lincoln's teams and athletes saw a great deal of success during the 2022-23 scholastic year, especially in track and field, field hockey, boys' basketball, swimming, wrestling, and boys' volleyball, as well as captured the RIIL's Spirit Challenge and Peanut Butter Challenge state championships.

As far as community involvement and service, the Lions' student-athletes were instrumental in High Five Fridays, an elementary school Walk-a-Thon, and the Breast Cancer Awareness & ITP Awareness Games.

North Providence High senior Ben Borkman is also one of the two NIAAA Scholar-Athletes. The quarterback of the Cougars' Division IV championship football team, Borkman is a two-time All-Division selection who also earned All-Academic honors and plays for the high school's golf team.

Off the field, Borkman is a National Honor Society member who is also involved in VAASA (Varsity Athletes Against Substance Abuse), DECA (Distribution Education Clubs of America), and TSA (Technology Society of America).

The other award winners are:

- Sister Charlene Tedeschi Distinguished Service Award: Cranston High School West Alumni Association.
- RIIAAA Administrator of the Year: Jason Menard, Providence Schools, Director of Operations.
- RIAAA Media Award recipient: Ian Steele, WLNE ABC6 news reporter.
- RIIAAA Hall of Fame Inductees: Edward 'Ted' Quigley, La Salle Academy; Anthony 'Tony' M. Rainone, Central Falls High.
- NIAAA State Award of Merit recipient: James 'Jamey' Veletino, Westerly High.
- NIAAA Scholar-Athlete: Talia Petit, Cranston West High.

The public is invited to attend the awards banquet, which will begin with an event social from 5:45 to 6:45 p.m. and continued with dinner and awards at 7 p.m. Ticket reservations must be made by Tuesday, April 2. Contact Beth Penkala at riiaaa2017@gmail.com if you are interested in attending.