



## **Sports Awards 2019-2020**

### **Message from Mr. Douglas**

*This school year has definitely presented challenges that no one could have anticipated. I am saddened that we cannot get together as we traditionally do for our end of the year sports banquet. Despite these challenges and unique circumstances, it is important that we recognize all of our athletes for their contributions to Willsboro Athletics. There was ample team success, individual accolades achieved, and valuable life lessons learned along the way throughout this year.*

*We especially thank our Senior Class for their contributions to Willsboro Athletics over their entire career. We are sorry that many of your careers were cut off abruptly due to the circumstances. However, this moment will not define your time as a Warrior. We will look back on all of the positive, outstanding moments and be proud of all of your accomplishments.*

*Thank you to the following individuals/groups who support and make athletics possible at WCS:*

*Mr. Gardner and the Board of Education, Mr. Sucharzewski and the transportation/custodial staff, Coaches, Parents, Brandy Pierce, Cathy Alden, Jennifer Leibeck and the Booster Club, School Nurse Karen Crowningshield, Referees, Scorekeepers, Announcers, and Chaperones.*

*Individual awards will be sent home in the near future. This will include participation certificates, senior awards, and individual varsity coach's awards. We will also be sending home the mandatory paperwork that must be completed and returned to school in order to participate in athletics next school year.*

*Balancing school work with the time commitment of participating in sports can be very challenging. I would like to congratulate the following varsity teams for achieving scholar athlete status (Team Average 90+):*

***Girls Varsity Soccer, Boys Varsity Soccer, Varsity Rifle, Girls Varsity Basketball***  
*Thank you for showing that you can be both committed in the classroom AND to your team.*

*A lot has changed in the world recently, but I know the following remains true: Willsboro Warriors are strong, resilient, prideful, respectful, and great teammates. Those characteristics will continue to help you immensely throughout your sports careers and throughout everyday life.*

*Thank you all for your commitment to Willsboro Athletics!*

*Mr. Douglas*

## **Modified Girls Soccer**

*Message from Coach Justin Drinkwine*

*We had a great season this year. The girls put in a tremendous amount of effort and it was my pleasure to work with them. I hope they had just as much fun this year as I did. I wish the best for the 9<sup>th</sup> graders that are moving up to varsity next year. I would like to thank all the parents and community members that supported us throughout the year. Also, a huge thank you to the Willsboro Booster Club for everything they did for the fall athletes this year.*

## **Modified Boys Soccer**

*Message from Coach Terry Cross*

*I would like to thank the parents and family members for coming to the games. Thank the team for sticking with it all season. It was a hard season only having 11 players and sometimes less but they never gave up. Every game was close. Hope you're outside working on your foot skills and kicking the ball around. Good luck to you guys going to varsity next season and hope to see the rest of you in August.*

*Thanks Coach Cross*

## **Varsity Girls Soccer**

*Message from Coach Chris Ford*

*It's hard to believe it's been six and a half months since the season ended. So much has happened since then but it also seems like yesterday.*

*I'd like to thank Peyton Leerkes for being our team manager and sometimes score keeper. I also want to thank and recognize Coach Arnold. He played a huge part in our success by helping to organize our practices, offering advice and working with Abby in goal all season long. His knowledge, insight and support played a huge role in making the season as fun as it was.*

*During the first week of practice we talked about a list of goals for the team and at the top of the list was for the team to earn the New York State Team Scholar Athlete award, and we did that with a GPA over 90. That's something that should make all of you proud.*

*We finished second in Division III with an overall record of 12-5. It was the girls' team's first winning record in over a decade. For the first time in a number of years we hosted and won a home playoff game.*

*When you think about how young we were as a team and how much you improved and how hard you worked, I hope that you realize we can get even better and I hope you are looking*

forward to this coming season. I knew we were in for something different when one of them asked me why they are called the Lady Warriors when they don't wear dresses on the field. It's a good question. What I always asked was that you play hard, play with a purpose and play for each other. I could give examples about each of you, from throughout the season, about how you made this a great year. Each of you provided us with memories we won't forget.

Emma and Gabby were moved up late in the year and played well while contributing some minutes and gained valuable experience for the season ahead.

Tekla was our only eighth grader, but she played a valuable part in our success by playing multiple positions. I would pick on her for being inquisitive, but she always asked great questions while being extremely coachable.

Kyla, Lexi, Cleo and Abby all moved up as freshman and without them we wouldn't have had the team we had. Kyla helped solidify the back by being Kira 2.0. Lexi was underrated while playing one of the most physically challenging positions on the field. Cleo also played that position, and she may not realize it but she's tougher than she looks. Abby started every game in goal, having not played soccer the previous season which isn't easy and she was constantly improving.

Bella was also a freshman but had some varsity experience and it showed. She was as solid as could be where she played and provided a quiet but confident sense of calm in the middle of the field. As she continues to improve and get older, I believe she'll start to get the recognition and responsibility she deserves.

Playing varsity at a younger age is not easy. Younger players typically go through a stretch where they will struggle and each of you was no exception. The practices, games and the season are longer. The competition is faster and bigger. For some of you the struggle was a few days and for others a few weeks. It's easier to quit and walk away but each of you fought through the struggle, you kept getting up and you kept trying regardless of how frustrating it could be and at the end of the season you were playing your best soccer. Each of you should plan on having a larger part to play with higher expectations on next year's team.

Kaili and Arianna were two of our three sophomores. Teams need to have players that can be moved around. Arianna was one of those players that had to play multiple positions because of her versatility and because as coaches we trusted her to do whatever job she was given, and she was rewarded by the area coaches by being named a second team Division III all-star. Kaili kept the mood light at practice but also provided solid defense every game and occasionally showed a flash of offense that I hope to see more of next season.

Desiree was our only junior and if any player demonstrated the motto of getting better as the season progressed it was her. She used her speed to be relentless on the field. From August to October she steadily got better and by the end of the season was playing very well. Her contribution to the team can't be measured by stats alone and next year as a senior the team will be counting on her to provide that senior presence.

Maggie and Angelina were both seniors that contributed in their own way. Maggie came to almost every practice and game and when she couldn't be there would let me know ahead of time, even though she couldn't play because of an injury. She was always positive and believed in everyone. I told her privately and I'll say it again, I will always respect her dedication when she could have just walked away.

*Every successful team needs role players who not only accept but understand what that role is and strive to be the best at it they can be. Angelina never got discouraged and set a great example by accepting her role on the team and continuing to improve week after week.*

*Jenna, to whom much is given, much is expected. You were voted our Captain and you were our Most Valuable Player. She led Section 7 in both goals and assists and set a school scoring record with 47 goals and 105 points. She was twice named New York State's Player of the Week by the United Soccer Coaches Association and MaxPreps and was unanimously selected as a first team Division III all-star. Her passion for the team and the sport showed every day whether it was the extra time practicing alone or tie dying shirts in the dark in the backyard for a teammate. As you move into the second half of your varsity career remember, the player you become is the player you decide to be.*

*On the first day of practice I said that reliability was the most important ability I looked for in an athlete. Kira, Lilly and Sam... all three of you showed up, worked hard and tried to get better every day. You were unselfish and set a great example. Your senior leadership was invaluable. A team as young as ours needed senior leadership to be successful. Whether it was drill work during practice, the trip to the Wild Center, tie dying shirts, telling me ahead of time you'd be late or miss practice, going to the Plattsburgh State soccer game or helping out with whatever I asked, you were there for your teammates and took the responsibility of being a leader seriously. The three of you were the heart, soul, and backbone of the team and will be hard to replace because of that leadership you provided.*

*Grit is the ability to move forward and overcome obstacles while challenging yourself and not giving up. Kira was a second team, Division III all-star and is getting the Award for Leadership and Tenacity. Kira, you were always fearless and tenacious on the field, you never backed down from a challenge and your desire to be on the field was second to none. These are traits that every player should possess to be the best that they can be.*

*Lilly, commitment determines what a person wants to do but character determines what they will do. You were a great teammate and deserve the Award for Leadership and Character. Your caring, respect and trustworthiness demonstrated your character every day. They are qualities that every player should strive to emulate and what those qualities meant to the team shouldn't be underestimated.*

*Humble leaders attract and inspire others through their actions. Sam, you were a first team Division III all-star. You were also quiet but always did whatever was asked or required to make the team better. Your willingness to play wherever and help your younger teammates as they adjusted to varsity didn't go unnoticed. Humility is the core ingredient that every leader should possess and strive for. Because of who you are and what you meant to the team I'm recognizing you with the Award for Leadership and Humility.*

*Going into the season I think it's safe to say we didn't know what to expect. We finished the season with 11 players in grades 8-10 and when you are that young, as a coach, you wonder how they will respond to adversity as well as higher expectations. Girls, all season I learned from you and in the last two games I learned a lot about you. I saw a team of players that wanted to succeed and wanted to be pushed. I saw a group of girls that persevered and wouldn't give up. Not only do you not wear dresses on the field but time and again you proved that you are every bit as tough as any group of boys. That resiliency and desire will carry over to next season, but also to other parts of your life.*

*We will still be young next year with only one senior and three juniors, but we'll be more experienced and your biggest obstacle to continued improvement and achieving more of our*

*team goals... is you, not your opponents. As a group of individuals you have to decide what you want to accomplish as a team. If you put in the work the results will come. All of you worked hard to improve every day and you should have ended the season with that inner desire for more this fall. My hope is that you can look back at last season and say that you learned, that you got better, that it was a positive experience and most importantly, that you had fun. If you can say those four things then we had a successful season. Thank you for making this one of the best and most enjoyable seasons of coaching I've experienced.*

## **Varsity Boys Soccer**

*Message from Coach Andrew Lee*

*2019 Varsity Boys Soccer Team*

*Regan Arnold Jared Ball Everett Cassavaugh Robby Drollette*

*Jaycob Gough Justin Joslyn Hunter King Trenton King*

*Jacob Lawrence Ethan Leibeck Stephen Leibeck Nicholas Reithel*

*Bryant Rowe Brady Sweatt*

*The team would like to thank the following people that helped make the 2019 season possible:*

*The Transportation, the Maintenance, and the Athletic Department*

*Carson Leibeck and Wyatt Palmer for being ball boy*

*Martha Joslyn and Carrie Pierson for keeping the team score book*

*Thank you to all the parents and fans that came to the games and supported us.*

*Highlights of the Season:*

*Our Overall Record was 8-7-1. Our League Record was 4-5-1. This was our best League Record since the 2011 season. We only lost 3 games by more than 2 goals: Seton 5-0; Lake Placid 3-0; and Schroon Lake 5-0. We ended up beating each of those teams later in the season. For the season we scored 23 goals for a 1.4 goals per game average and we allowed 26 goals for a 1.6 goals per game average. Our Defense allowed the least amount of goals since the 2011 season.*

*Player Awards:*

*Most Improved Player: Bryant Rowe*

*Bryant Rowe took a big step forward for our team this past season. In only his second year of playing organized soccer Bryant took on a leadership role by being chosen captain by his teammates. His skills and knowledge of the game grew greatly since his first season last year, but it is his enthusiasm, toughness, pride, and passion for his teammates and team that really shined through this year.*

*Coach's Award: Jared Ball*

*Jared Ball is a player who does everything possible to make the team better. He doesn't hesitate, nor complain during difficult times. Jared's quickness and skills are the first things people see but his leadership and communication ability to his coaches and teammates are true traits that help make him a special person/player.*

*Co-MVP Award: Regan Arnold and Stephen Leibeck*

*Regan Arnold had a career high 5 shutouts this season. His communication, determination and work ethic as the goalie was a key reason why the team had its*



*best goals allowed per game average since the 2011 season. Regan's knowledge of the game and leadership skills during practices and games are traits that help make Regan a great Warrior.*

*Stephen Leibeck led the team in goals (12) and assists (5). Stephen's drive, passion, work ethic, knack for being around the ball, quick first touch, understanding of when to make a run to the goal or to come back to the ball made him a handful for the other team's defense. His leadership and communication during practices and games help make Stephen a great Warrior.*

*League All-Stars and Team Awards:  
Regan Arnold – 1st Team All-Star  
Stephen Leibeck – 1st Team All-Star  
Jared Ball – 2nd Team All-Star  
Ray Holmes Co-Sportsmanship Award winner  
Scholar-Athlete Team Award winner*

## **Modified Boys Basketball**

*Message from Coach Terry Cross*

*I would like to thank the parents and family members for coming to the games. Thank the team for a good season. It was hard some days only having 5 or 6 players but the kids played hard. As a team we came a long way everyone knew the role they had to play. Hope your outside working on your shooting and dribbling skills. You guys moving up next year good luck.  
Thanks Coach Cross*

## **Modified Girls Basketball**

*Message from Coach Molly Rascoe*

*Coaching young ladies is definitely an experience I will never forget. From random dancing while doing layups, the constant Tik Toks that made my classroom famous, to the constant talk about life as a seventh and eighth graders. Through all their craziness, I wouldn't trade it for anything. Throughout the basketball season, we all grew to be better at basketball as a player, coach and a leader. From the beginning to the end of the season, these ladies proved to be better basketball players, their fundamentals improved but also the way they played basketball improved. They all became smarter on the court, knowing their plays and being able to step up in times when we needed them. All though our record didn't show it, but watching the girls play from their first home game against Tupper Lake to our last game at Crown Point proves otherwise, that these girls know how to play basketball. I am definitely proud of these girls and how they overcame obstacles throughout the season and was able to come out stronger. I want to thank my team, our families, Jared Joslyn, and my assistant Deputy Kaycee Kolodzey. Although Kaycee, wasn't there as much as we wanted her to be there, she definitely proved to be a valuable member of the team who taught all of us a lot about basketball. Somehow these girls turned an Eagle into a Warrior.*

## **Varsity Boys Basketball**

### *Message from Coach Jim Spring*

*Many could say this was a rebuilding year for the boys varsity basketball team this year. After losing seven players from last year's team and only returning three there were some ups and downs throughout the season. We finished with a 14 - 9 record over all. As the coach I was very pleased with how all the players responded throughout the year. Everyone came to practices with great attitudes and worked very hard to become better ball players. In doing this they made each other better. This was really apparent late in the season when we made a run in the sectionals. In the first round. We were able to avenge a tough loss in last year's sectional championship game by defeating Wells. In the second round we were able to defeat Crown Pt. after losing to them in a close game. Onto the finals where we suffered a tough one point loss to Schroon Lake. Earlier in the year Schroon Lake defeated us by 10 points in Willsboro and 30 in Schroon Lake. The players' hard work and commitment allowed them to compete with a very good team. None of this year's success would not have happened without everyone's hard work and commitment to the team and each other.*

*Jared Ball is the one and only senior on the team. Jared always brought a positive attitude and great work ethic to practice and games. Jared had a great season this year averaging 6.04 PPG and 5.1 R/G. He was a big part in our success against Crown Pt. in the sectional semi final game making two huge free throws with only seconds remaining to give us a one point victory. He was a pleasure to coach and will be greatly missed. Good luck in the future with everything. Individual awards:*

*Rookie of the year goes to Brenon Farney. Brenon Averaged 8.72 PPG, was second on the team with 27 assists and averaged 3.7 R/G. I believe Brenon will have a big impact on the team next team.*

*Most Improved goes to Hunter King. Hunter really stepped up his game as the season went on. His playing time increased as the season progressed and he became a integral part of the team.*

*CO-MVPS Stephen Leibeck and Regan Arnold. Stephen averaged 7 PPG, He also averaged 5.2 R/G, 4.1 S/G and 3.2 A/G the last three lead the team. Stephen always played his hardest when he was on the court. He was usually matched up against the other team's best player. He always looked forward to the challenge.*

*Regan led the team in scoring with 13.9 PPG. He also grabbed 82 rebounds and had 26 assists. Regan usually drew the other team's best defender so at times it was difficult to score. He did a good job getting his teammates involved in the game. Both players will be a big part of the team's success next year.*

*Other awards:*

*Regan Arnold and Brenon Farney were selected to the first team all stars in our division. Jared Ball was honorable mention.*

## **Varsity Girls Basketball**

*Message from Coach Nick Arnold*

The members of the girls' varsity basketball team are Abby Bruno, Mallory Arnold, Bella Harrison, Kyla Crowningshield, Sierra Bronson, Kaili Bourdeau, Jenna Ford, Kelsey Reynolds, Maggie Frechette, and Samantha Harrison. Before I get into a quick overview of the season, there are a few people I would like to thank. First, Justin Drinkwine for being my assistant coach, Carrie Pierson and Lilly Nolette for keeping my scorebook, and most importantly, all of my players for all the hard work, dedication, toughness, and commitment to improving that they showed throughout the season.

With a team that was 75% underclassmen, we definitely had our ups and downs this year, but each and every one of these girls were coachable, worked hard, and drastically improved from the beginning of the year to the end. Everybody stepped up and played a big role in the success we had as a team. We finished our regular season with a record of 9 wins and 10 losses, and there were very few games that weren't extremely competitive. We went into sectionals as the sixth seed and lost a hard fought game to a very strong Boquet Valley team in the quarterfinals. We made a lot of great memories this season, but my favorite would have to be beating Johnsburg/Minerva late in the season. J/M beat us handily early on in the year, and when they came to Willsboro we weren't taking no for an answer. The girls played tough, executed very well, really came together as a group and really battled to earn a two point win against a quality opponent. Everyone stepped up in that win. Sierra and Kyla gave great minutes coming off the bench, Samantha Harrison had 8 big points in the fourth quarter including a pair of free throws to put us ahead with less than 30 seconds to go. Everyone played a part and that was easily our best team win of the year. We also had 3 league all-stars on the team this year, with Samantha Harrison, Jenna Ford and Kaili Bourdeau all earning second team honors. This group as a whole really grew up a lot over the course of a season, and since 7 of them will be returning next year, the future is very bright for this program as long as they all keep that work ethic, toughness, and perseverance that allowed them to make such large strides this year.

I have two awards to give out, and the first one is a Most Improved award. This year, I chose to look at this award not only as most improved over the course of this year, but also the improvement from last season to now. Last year, as a freshman, this player came off the bench, was timid and very much still getting acquainted with the game of basketball, but you could tell that the desire to improve and earn more responsibility on the floor was always there. She kept working and earned more playing time as the year progressed, and showed flashes of someone who could turn into a really effective and important player moving forward. Fast forward to this year, and she was given a huge amount of responsibility as a sophomore. She was my point guard and primary ball handler, initiated all of our offenses, led our team in assists and steals, constantly guarded the most dangerous player on opposing teams despite almost always giving up a lot of size, was on the bench for maybe 10 minutes total over the course of the season, and even started to get some confidence shooting the ball towards the end of the season. She asks questions, is very coachable, works extremely hard, and it has been an honor to watch her improve and blossom as a basketball player these last two years. The best part about all of it is that she has two more years to go, and I have no doubt her skills will continue to improve, and her role within the team will continue to grow. This year's most improved player is Jenna Ford.

The second and final award is the Most Valuable player award. I chose this player as MVP for many reasons. She was the captain and undoubted leader of this group on and off the floor, constantly doing the right thing and setting a phenomenal example for the younger players with her amazing work ethic. I have had the honor of coaching and building a strong relationship with this player over the past three years, and the improvement she made from 10<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> grade is amazing and a true testament to what you can accomplish when you continue to show up every



day, compete, and commit to becoming a better player. As a sophomore she came off the bench, last year she was a starter and had an increased role, and this year she was our best and most important player. She was our leading scorer, a willing passer, rebounded very well for her size, defended strongly and never took a possession off on either end of the floor. Always the toughest, as well as most physically gifted and athletic person on the floor, it was amazing to see how those traits, coupled with increasing skill and understanding of the game took her quality of play to the next level. She had many double digit scoring games, with her season high being 16. Over the course of the season the group tended to go as she did. When she was locked in and playing well, there wasn't any team that we couldn't beat. She was the heart and soul of this team and will be missed dearly by the program in the years to come, but I have no doubt that she will find success in whatever she sets out to achieve in life. It has been such a privilege for me to be her coach and play a small role in her basketball career. I can't thank her enough for all her hard work over the years. This year's Most Valuable Player is Samantha Harrison.

## **Varsity Bowling**

*Message from Coach David Lee*

*The girls played hard all year. I had the most fun with this team than any other team before. We came in 5th out of 9 teams both in the league and sectionals. High Game of the year went to Jade Phinney with a 223 highest game. Highest Series went to Emily Mitchell with a 555. Highest Average was also Emily Mitchell with a 139. Jade Phinney is the recipient of the Coach's Award. We had a lot of fun, and all of the girls improved throughout the year. I hope to have a good season next year.*

## **Rifle**

*Message from Coaches Charmaine Flynn and John Oliver*

*Our record this year was 6 wins and 8 losses with a big win over South Lewis, a very large school. Overall an improvement from last year. We placed 4th at States at West Point in all three categories, school, 3-P and offhand. Not bad for our third year of competing at States against 12 other schools. We had 2 seniors this year that will be leaving us and we had 4, 7th graders join us who all look very promising. We decided that Hunter Whalen would receive the award for most improved and Brady Sweatt would receive the award for team leader.*

## **Willsboro Central School Outstanding Senior Athlete of the Year Award:**

Samantha Harrison and Jared Ball