

Rotary

Club of Front Royal



Bret Hrbek, President

NEWS RELEASE

*Rotary Club of Front Royal Recognizes Brandon Ahlemann
as Male Student-Athlete of the Year and Aaliyah Chunn
as Female Student-Athlete of the Year*

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Front Royal – The Rotary Club of Front Royal is proud to present the seventh class of honorees for its Student-Athlete of the Year Awards. Brandon Ahlemann was awarded the 2020 John K. Marlow Student-Athlete Award, and Aaliyah Chunn was awarded the 2020 Heidi Noel Moore Student-Athlete Award.

In 2013, the Rotary Club of Front Royal created the Student-Athlete of the Year Awards. The award and its criteria were adopted by the Board of Directors of the Club to recognize the top individual male athlete and female athlete from Warren County High School and Skyline High School.

Recipients of the award shall have demonstrated a commitment to excellence in athletics in individual or team sports, made a lasting contribution to their school and the Front Royal-Warren County community, and meet the following criteria:

- Shall have earned a letter in a varsity sport at either Warren County High School or Skyline High School;
- Shall have excelled in athletics;
- Shall have excelled in academics; and
- Must have demonstrated high ethical standards.

The awards are named in honor of two individuals who exemplify the phrase “student-athlete”.

The top female athlete award is named for Heidi Moore. Heidi was a member of the Warren County High School Class of 1999. She held school records in six individual track and field events. Heidi also claimed the Northwestern District triple jump record, was a 12-time all-Northwestern District selection, seven-time all-Region II pick, and a five-time all-state honoree. She was named the school's Most Outstanding Girls Track & Field Performer for three straight years (1997-1999) and twice served as captain of the track team. Heidi was also named the AFLAC Most Outstanding Athlete in 1999, the Elks Student of the Year in 1999, and was the school's prom queen that year. Heidi attended James Madison University, where she earned both undergraduate and Master's (Communication Sciences and Disorders) degrees. Heidi passed away in October 2009 after a lengthy and courageous battle with cancer.

The top male athlete is named for John Marlow. John Marlow was a member of the Warren County High School (WCHS) Class of 1957 and a member of the undefeated 1956 football team. At one point he held the WCHS basketball career total points record and was a basketball team captain. He was a track and field district champion in the discus and went on to earn three letters in football and track and field at the University of Virginia. After college he moved back to his hometown to head Marlow Motors. He was elected to the Warren County Board of Supervisors in 1968 and served as Chairman of the Board from 1974 to 1978. He also served as Mayor of the Town of Front Royal from 1982 to 1990.

Our female award winner Aaliyah Chunn has been an outstanding student and athlete during her tenure at Skyline High School. Aaliyah will graduate with a cumulative GPA of 3.20 and a Class Rank of 86th out of 213. While at Skyline, Aaliyah has received recognition for Academic Excellence and has been involved in numerous extracurricular activities.

Aaliyah has participated in the Students Helping Students Mentoring Program, Kiwanis Pancake Day, the Front Royal Cardinals, and as a basketball camp counselor.

Aaliyah has excelled in athletics during her career at Skyline including being a two-year starter on the Varsity volleyball team as well as participating in varsity outdoor track and field in grades 9th-12th and varsity indoor track and field in grades 11th and 12th. She served as volleyball team captain her senior year. In volleyball she earned 1st Team All-Northwest District, 1st Team All-Region, 1st Team All-State, Region 3B Player of the Year, and the Northern Virginia Daily Player of the Year her senior season.

In Track and Field she received a number of accolades including:

Outdoor

- All-District High Jump (9th, 10th, 11th)
- All-District Triple Jump (9th, 10th, 11th)
- All-Region High Jump (9th, 10th, 11th)
- All-State High Jump – 4th Place (10th) 5th Place (11th)
- 1st Team All Area (9th, 10th, 11th)
- Outdoor Track and Field Female MVP (12th)

Indoor

- All-District High Jump (11th, 12th)
- All-District Long Jump (11th, 12th)
- All-District Triple Jump (11th, 12th)
- All-Region High Jump (11th, 12th)
- All-State High Jump – 5th Place (11th)
- Holds the current County and Skyline high jump record of 5'2"

This young lady is a truly well-rounded and internally driven individual and exemplifies what Heidi stood for in her life. Aaliyah has set an example by always striving to do her best, helping her teammates, and working hard to achieve her goals.

Aaliyah notes, “Skyline High School has given me opportunities that I never thought possible, and I will be forever grateful for the best 5 years they had to offer me.”

According to her Athletic Director Bill Cupp, “Aaliyah has been an accomplished athlete for Skyline since her freshman year. The success she has obtained in two sports shows a glimpse into her athletic ability, and her athletic future at Shenandoah University will showcase her work ethic and dedication. Likewise, her quick smile and friendly nature make her a great person to get to know and be around.”

After graduation, Aaliyah will attend Shenandoah University where she is planning to major in Kinesiology with the ultimate goal of teaching and coaching. She plans to play volleyball and participate in track and field at Shenandoah.

Our top male award winner, Brandon Ahlemann, has been an outstanding student and athlete during his tenure at Skyline High School as well. Brandon has completed 28 college credits earned through Lord Fairfax Community College in dual enrollment while at Skyline and will graduate with a cumulative GPA of 3.8 and a Class Rank of 25th out of 213. Outside the classroom, Brandon has served as a volunteer wrestling youth camp instructor in grades 9th – 12th, on the Homecoming

hall and prom decorating committees, helped take care of the property at Restoration Fellowship Church, and has helped working concession stands at Skyline.

Brandon has also excelled in athletics. He is a four year letter winner in wrestling for the Hawks, serving as team captain his junior and senior years. During his illustrious wrestling career Brandon received the following accolades:

- All-District (9th, 10th, 11th, 12th)
- All-Region (9th, 10th, 11th, 12th)
- All-State (9th, 10th, 11th, 12th)
- Two-time District Champion (10th, 11th)
- Two-time Regional Champion (10th, 11th)
- All-Area Team (9th, 10th, 11th, 12th)
- Completed his varsity wrestling career with a record of 172-35
- Set the Skyline High School All-time pin record
- Set the individual pin record in a single season for all area teams
- Placed 2nd at the Virginia Wrestling Association Freestyle States (11th)
- Represented team Virginia at Fargo Nationals in Fargo, North Dakota (11th)

Brandon notes, “Although wrestling is a large part of my life, I did not let it take priority over my academics. Without the teachers who pushed me to be the best in the classroom every day, I would not have had the chance to have the success I achieved in my athletic career.”

According to his Athletic Director Bill Cupp, “When I speak to coaches about Brandon they always begin the conversation with hardworking, quiet, unassuming, dedicated, and end with he is a great student-athlete and person. His wrestling records and accomplishments speak for themselves, but his true nature is someone that is dedicated to his family, his sport, and his team. Liberty University is getting a student-athlete they will be most proud to have on their campus.”

Brandon will be attending Liberty University this fall and plans to major in Computer Science while also enrolling in the Army ROTC program and continuing his wrestling career. Brandon is a dedicated and committed student and athlete who worked hard to achieve, and exemplifies what John Marlow stands for in his life.

Awards Committee Chairman Doug Stanley thanked both Heidi Moore’s family and John Marlow for the honor and privilege to have this award to carry their names in the coming years. In addition to a plaque, the honorees received an award of \$300.

In 2013, the Club announced the creation of a scholarship fund for the awards through the Community Foundation of the Northern Shenandoah Valley. Mr. Stanley added that this is an excellent way for individuals and businesses to recognize the contributions of John Marlow and Heidi Moore. He indicated that Club members and families of the award namesakes have raised over \$25,000 to-date. The fund will generate scholarships for future recipients. Anyone wishing to make a donation should contact Doug Stanley at (540) 622-4848 or the Community Foundation of the Northern Shenandoah Valley at www.cfnsv.org.

John Marlow, Brandon Ahlemann, and Doug Stanley

Doug Stanley, Aaliyah Chunn, and John Moore (Heidi's Dad)

Brandon Ahlemann and Aaliyah Chunn

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