NIGHT OF CHAMPIONS

THE TENTH ANNUAL

JUNE 11TH

ESPN ((ITHACA))

2023

Presented by:

GUTHRIE

VISIONS FEDERAL CREDIT UNION

WELCOME TO ESPN ITHACA'S NIGHT OF CHAMPIONS

Tonight's event celebrates local high school athleticism, coaching leadership, and tremendous accomplishments during the 2022-23 school year. ESPN Ithaca is proud to honor over 65 local scholar students and head coaches this evening.

EVENT PROGRAM

Welcome and Introduction of Honored Guests
Master of Ceremonies - Nick Karski
Operations Manager & Host of ESPN Ithaca's Between the Lines, Weekdays 5-6pm

Sponsor and Staff Recognition
Todd Mallinson
President, Vizella Media/ESPN Ithaca

Dinner
Cavatappi Primavera Pasta tossed with Julienne Vegetables and Sun-Dried Tomato Pesto (GF).
Breast of Chicken Piccata
Grilled Top Sirloin Grilled Top Sirloin Steak with Rosemary Demi Glaze.

(All entrees are served with a salad of mixed field greens, warm rolls, butter, green beans, parsley-buttered baby reds, and Tuxedo Cake.)

Presentation of Fall, Winter & Spring Sports Awards
by Ryan Gineo, ESPN Ithaca Play-by-Play Announcer/Reporter

Athletic Director Appreciation Award
Greg Gavich, Odessa-Montour

Senior Leadership Award
Katrina Ricca, Watkins Glen
Zach Taylor, Newfield

Featured Speaker
Mick McDaniel
Director of Athletics, Tompkins Cortland Community College

Coach of the Year for a Girls Sport
Andy Kalet, Union Springs Girls Basketball
Guthrie spokesperson is Dr. Robert Corey, Orthopedic Surgery Specialist

Coach of the Year for a Boys Sport
Joe Manning, Groton Football
Guthrie spokesperson is Dr. Robert Corey, Orthopedic Surgery Specialist

Female Athlete of the Year
Hannah Nolan, Odessa-Montour - Soccer, Basketball, Outdoor Track & Field
Visions spokesperson is Timothy Strong, Director of Branding & Public Relations

Male Athlete of the Year
Brandon Vanacore, Southern Cayuga - Soccer, Basketball & Golf
Visions spokesperson is Timothy Strong, Director of Branding & Public Relations

Closing Remarks
Nick Karski

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Special Thanks

Thank you to all the Athletic Directors for their support and assistance in the nomination and selection process for this event.

Holly Carling
Candor Indians

Todd Kwiatkowski
Dryden Purple Lions

Mark Triolo
Groton Indians

Samantha Little
Ithaca Little Red

Katie Crandall
Lansing Bobcats

Todd James
Marathon Olympians

Todd Mulvaney
Moravia Blue Devils

Scott Wandell
Newark Valley Cardinals

Jeff Augustine
Newfield Trojans

Greg Gavich
Odessa-Montour Indians

Caitlin Wasielewski
Southern Cayuga Chiefs

Beth Ebel-Ruocco
Spencer-Van Etten Panthers

Tiffany Beam
Trumansburg Blue Raiders

Todd Salls
Union Springs Wolves

Rod Weeden
Watkins Glen Senecas

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ESPN 107.1 ((ITHACA)) 1160 HIGH SCHOOL PLAY BY PLAY

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High School Sports Photo Gallery - photos.ESPNIthaca.com

Featured Speaker

Mick McDaniel

Director of Athletics, Tompkins Cortland Community College

Mick McDaniel has degrees in Education from SUNY Cortland and Park & Recreation Administration from SUNY Delhi. He has been the Director of Athletics & Recreation at Tompkins Cortland Community College since 2000.

At "TC3", Mick has been a part of significant campus and programming growth. In 2007, the College opened the doors to a 25-million-dollar athletics facility that has hosted numerous Conference, Regional, State, and National Championships over the years. Under his leadership, TC3 has greatly expanded student offerings adding intercollegiate teams in baseball, men's lacrosse and cross country. Mick has been honored with multiple coach of the year awards while leading several teams, including men's basketball, golf, men's lacrosse, and men's and women's soccer. His teams have won multiple championships, and he has coached national champions, All-Americans, and countless winners of individual honors.

Mick has held several offices on the regional and national level, including currently serving as the Chairman of the Board for the National Junior Athletic Association (NJCAA). Locally, Mick serves as the President of the Cortland Regional Sports Council. This group has brought over five million dollars in Sports Tourism revenue to the area in the past year alone.

Serving the community and area youth is a passion of Mick's, having created and been the director of Panthers Summer Sports Camps for 27 years and continued work with local and NY State athletics associations that come to campus each year for championship events.

Mick is married to his wife of 25 years, MaryBeth, and they have three sons Sean, Andrew, and Brendan. Mick and MaryBeth are incredibly proud that all three are graduates of TC3, student-athletes, and have moved on to four-year institutions.

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Fall Sports Awards Winners

Boys Cross Country Coach: **Kyle Holmes & Kim White,** Spencer-Van Etten/Candor

Boys Cross Country Athlete: **Trent Thibault**, Lansing

Girls Cross Country Coach: **Kyle Holmes & Kim White,** Spencer-Van Etten/Candor

Girls Cross Country Athlete: **Tsadia Bercuvitz**, Ithaca

Field Hockey Coach: **Karen Funk,** Marathon

Field Hockey Athlete: **Sandy Vaughn,** Newark Valley

Football Coach: **Joe Manning,** Groton

Football Athlete: **Chandler Wright,** Trumansburg

Boys Soccer Coach: **Colton Gregg,** Southern Cayuga

Boys Soccer Athlete: **Jacob Banks,** Spencer-Van Etten/Candor

Girls Soccer Coach: **Scott Morse,** Watkins Glen

Girls Soccer Athlete: **Skye Honrath,** Watkins Glen

Girls Swimming Coach: **Jason Westervelt,** Watkins Glen/Odessa-Montour

Girls Swimming Athlete: **Faye Mooney,** Watkins Glen/Odessa-Montour

Volleyball Coach: **Nicole Lamie,** Lansing

Volleyball Athlete: **Kayla Palmer,** Lansing

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Winter Sports Awards Winners

Boys Basketball Coach: **Todd Mulvaney**, Moravia

Boys Basketball Athlete: **Jalen Hardison**, Newfield

Girls Basketball Coach: **Andy Kalet**, Union Springs

Girls Basketball Athlete: **Kailey Kalet,** Union Springs

Boys Bowling Coach: **Ryan Nelson,** Spencer-Van Etten/Candor

Boys Bowling Athlete: **John Fiacco,** Newark Valley

Girls Bowling Coach: **Marianne Viscardi,** Union Springs

Girls Bowling Athlete: **Colleen Jump,** Union Springs

Cheerleading Coach: **Katie Brindisi,** Newark Valley

Cheerleading Athlete: **Hannah Hayes,** Newark Valley

Boys Hockey Coach: **Paul Zarach,** Ithaca

Boys Hockey Athlete: **Stephen Yang,** Ithaca

Boys Indoor Track & Field Coach: **Chris McClure,** Ithaca

Boys Indoor Track & Field Athlete: **Moss Dengler,** Ithaca

Girls Indoor Track & Field Coach: **Matt Scheffler,** Lansing

Girls Indoor Track & Field Athlete: **Carlea Davis,** Dryden

Boys Swimming Coach: **Jason Westervelt,** Watkins Glen/Odessa-Montour

Boys Swimming Athlete: **Liam Smith,** Watkins Glen/Odessa-Montour

Wrestling Coach: **Bill Lindsley,** Watkins Glen/Odessa-Montour

Wrestling Athlete: **Donovan Mitchell,** Groton

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Spring Sports Awards Winners

Baseball Coach: **Scott Voorhees,** Trumansburg

Baseball Athlete: **Zack Sperger,** Lansing

Boys Golf Coach: **Todd Salls,** Union Springs

Boys Golf Athlete: **JT Thomforde,** Ithaca

Girls Golf Coach: **Nicole Ramos,** Spencer-Van Etten/Candor

Girls Golf Athlete: **Hailey Baughan,** Lansing

Boys Lacrosse Coach: **Clayton Fickenscher**, Ithaca

Boys Lacrosse Athlete: **Greg Gorsky**, Ithaca

Girls Lacrosse Coach: **Kaitlyn Hoffay,** Ithaca

Girls Lacrosse Athlete: **Julia Blakeslee,** Ithaca

Boys Outdoor Track & Field Coaches: **Skip Strobel,** Odessa-Montour

Boys Outdoor Track & Field Athlete: **Moss Dengler,** Ithaca

Girls Outdoor Track & Field Coach: **Burton Brewster,** Odessa-Montour

Girls Outdoor Track & Field Athlete: **Tori Brewster,** Odessa-Montour

Softball Coach: **Harold Van Horn,** Southern Cayuga

Softball Athlete: **Kahlen Cornell,** Dryden

Boys Tennis Coach: **Shane Taylor,** Ithaca

Boys Tennis Athlete: **David Riccio,** Ithaca

Girls Tennis Coach: **Shane Taylor,** Ithaca

Girls Tennis Athlete: **Fiona Glenn-Keough,** Ithaca

Girls Flag Football Coach: **Ray Hage,** Ithaca

Girls Flag Football Athlete: **Ainslie Reimer,** Ithaca

Unified Athlete Coach: **Jodi Maddren,** Ithaca

Unified Athlete: **Oche Onah,** Ithaca

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Female Senior Leadership Award

Katrina Ricca, Watkins Glen

Katrina Ricca is a three-sport athlete at Watkins Glen who has demonstrated great leadership during her time with the Senecas. Ricca was one of only two seniors on the girls soccer team, and she led by example as a key defender to help such a young squad win the program's first-ever IAC and Section IV titles.

Ricca is also one of four seniors on the tennis team that went 8-1 during the regular season. She teamed up with her brother Max in doubles. Elsewhere, Ricca is part of the trap-shooting team and holds many important roles throughout the school, including Senior Class president, Ski Club vice president, and Wellness Club treasurer. Academically, Ricca is ranked #1 in her class with a 4.1 GPA and is a member of the National Society of High School Honors. She will be attending Nebraska University to study forensic science. We congratulate Watkins Glen's Katrina Ricca, our Female Senior Leadership Award Winner.

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Male Senior Leadership Award

Zach Taylor, Newfield

Zach Taylor is a three-sport athlete at Newfield who has exuded leadership qualities during his time with the Trojans. Taylor was the captain of the boys soccer team. He has made a lasting mark, being on the varsity team for five years and is the all-time leading scorer in program history.

This season, he was named the IAC South Small Division Co-MVP. The senior was also a captain of the boys basketball team and played a key part in last season's state championship. This season, Taylor helped the Trojans win another IAC South Small Division title and was named an IAC All-Star. In the spring, Taylor was part of the track and field team, competing in multiple events and making state qualifiers last year. Academically, Taylor is ranked first in his class with a 99.82 GPA and is a member of the National Honor Society. He will be attending SUNY Cortland for a degree in education and wants to come back to Newfield to teach math or science. We congratulate Newfield's Zach Taylor, our Male Senior Leadership Award Winner.

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Coach of the Year in a Girls Sport

Andy Kalet, Union Springs

The IAC continues to produce dominant girls basketball teams, and that carried into this season with Union Springs, led by head coach Andy Kalet. In his fifth season at the helm, the Wolves had by far their greatest season in program history.

After winning another IAC Small School Championship, they went on to win their first-ever Section IV title and made it all the way to the New York State Class C Final Four. Along the ride, the Wolves were consistently one of the best teams both in the section and in New York, being ranked number one in the state in Class C throughout the year. At the end of it all, Union Springs finished 25-1, had five players named as IAC All-Stars and a further three to the All-State team. For his outstanding efforts guiding the program to unprecedented levels of prosperity, Kalet was named the Section IV Class C Girls Basketball Coach of the Year. It is our greatest honor to recognize ESPN Ithaca's Coach of the Year in a Girls Sport, Andy Kalet.

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Coach of the Year in a Boys Sport

Joe Manning, Groton

As the 8-man football scene continues to grow throughout the state, Groton at the pinnacle of the sport, all under the direction of Joe Manning. In his fourth year as head coach, Manning helped build an unstoppable force on both sides of the ball.

A high-flying offense that averaged a staggering 45 points per game was balanced out by a suffocating defense that only allowed 13 points per game. Groton tore its way through the 8-man scene, going a perfect 10-0 against Section IV teams en route to the program's first sectional title since 2009. They then made it all the way to the state's first-ever 8-man regional championship, where their unforgettable season would end at 11-1 with four players being named to the NYSSWA 8-man All-State team. It is our greatest honor to recognize ESPN Ithaca's Coach of the Year in a Boys Sport, Joe Manning.

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Female Scholar-Athlete of the Year

Hannah Nolan, Odessa-Montour

Without question, Hannah Nolan will go down as one of the greatest student-athletes in Odessa-Montour history. No matter the sport, Nolan has shattered school records left and right. Starting on the pitch, the captain was a goal scoring machine for the Grizzlies girls soccer team, holding the all-time goals record (86).

This fall was her magnum opus, scoring the most goals in a single season (26) and was a Fourth Team All-State selection. On the court, Nolan broke the girls basketball program mark for the most single-season steals (133) and career steals (305). She helped the Grizzlies win the IAC South Small Division title and was named as the division's MVP and a Fifth Team All-State selection. She also received the Elmira Basketball Officials' Sportsmanship Award for her exemplary conduct on the court. This spring, Nolan suited up for the outdoor track and field team for the first time since eighth grade, and she excelled right from the get-go. In their first meet of the season, the senior broke the school record in the triple jump. She also holds the program mark in the 400-meter hurdles and qualified for states in the pentathlon. Of her three sports, Nolan will continue her soccer career at SUNY Cortland. It is our honor to recognize Odessa-Montour's Hannah Nolan - ESPN Ithaca's Female Scholar-Athlete of the Year.

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Male Scholar-Athlete of the Year

Brandon Vanacore, Southern Cayuga

This year, Brandon Vanacore played a massive role in deep playoff runs for multiple teams at Southern Cayuga. In the fall, the senior was the starting goalkeeper and captain for the boys soccer team. He was reliable as ever in goal, keeping 11 shutouts and coming up clutch time and time again.

Most notably, Vanacore made a key save during the Section IV Class D final in the penalty kick shootout, setting the Chiefs up for their first sectional title since 2003. They would go on to make the state semifinals for the first time in program history. For his heroics all season, Vanacore was named a Fourth Team All-State Selection and ended his career with over 400 saves. On the court, Vanacore helped turn around a program that went 4-12 the previous year. With his older brother Ryan at the helm as a first-year head coach, the senior captain guided Southern Cayuga to the Section IV Class D final and finished 15-9. He also became the third player in program history to reach 1,000 career points. For the spring, Vanacore plays for the golf team, a sport that he picked up during the pandemic. Despite being fairly new to golf, Vanacore has excelled on the links, winning the 2022 IAC North Small Division MVP. It is our honor to recognize Southern Cayuga's Brandon Vanacore - ESPN Ithaca's Male Scholar-Athlete of the Year.

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As of spring 2023 ESPN Ithaca has awarded OVER $36,000 to local booster clubs in recognition for each Student-Athlete of the week.

Heidi Anderson	Moravia
Noah Banks	Candor
Hailey Baughan	Lansing
Hayley Beebe	Newark Valley
Tsadia Bercuvitz	Ithaca (2)
Charli Bennett	Southern Cayuga (2)
Julia Blakeslee	Ithaca
Tori Brewster	Odessa-Montour
Ellie Brozon	Southern Cayuga
Zach Cartmill	Ithaca
Kahlen Cornell	Dryden
Candin Creely	Newark Valley
Bryce David	Southern Cayuga
Carlea Davis	Dryden
Ryan Dean	Watkins Glen
Ally Deeley	Dryden
Paityn Delaney	Union Springs
Kailey Kalet	Union Springs (2)
Allison Kehoe	Moravia
Aidan Kelley	Moravia
Luke Landis	Moravia
Daniel Lewis	Odessa-Montour
Luke Little	Ithaca
Mia Little	Ithaca
Tyler Malnoske	Odessa-Montour
Janelle Marsh	Candor
Thalia Marquez	Watkins Glen
Donovan Mitchell	Groton
Lauren Millspaugh	Trumansburg
Jay Miles	Dryden
Faye Mooney	Watkins Glen
Kara Morse	Candor
Nik Nelson	Trumansburg
Hannah Nolan	Odessa-Montour (2)
Kayla Palmer	Lansing
Benson Patterson	Odessa-Montour
Daniel Parker	Ithaca
Kyler Proper	Moravia
Ryan Pettograsso-Houck	Lansing
David Riccio	Ithaca
Ben DeMatteo	Southern Cayuga
Moss Dengler	Ithaca
Eliza DeRito	Ithaca
Xavia Evener	Union Springs
Kody Floyd	Candor
Cha Gardener	Newark Valley
Payton Gilbert	Union Springs
Olivia Genson	Moravia
Tennessee Gooch	Lansing
Zade Gomez-Fitzsimmons	Watkins Glen
Ava Harvatine	Southern Cayuga
Jadon Heidl	Candor
Alex Holmes	Watkins Glen
Skye Honrath	Watkins Glen
Austin Hunt	Groton
Nicholas Hwang	Lansing
Kristen Johnson	Lansing
Xavier Scott	Dryden
Aidan Shufelt	Groton
Bernardo Simoes	Lansing
Caroline Smead	Union Springs
Hailee Smith	Union Springs
Melodie Sutton	Marathon
Nathan Turner	Dryden
Trent Thibault	Lansing
Brandon Vanacore	Southern Cayuga
Tyler Verrill	Trumansburg
Crosby Woods	Ithaca
Ryan Willett	Watkins, Glen
Hajo Wise	Dryden
Chandler Wright	Trumansburg
Stephen Yang	Ithaca
Addison Young	Candor (2)

2021-2022 Award Winners

Coach of the Year

Greg Schweiger, Newark Valley

Scholar-Athlete of the Year

Brooke Tillotson, Marathon

Scholar-Athlete of the Year

Mike Wandell, Newark Valley

Coach of the Year

Mike Nembhard, Newfield

2020-2021 Top Award Winners

Scholar-Athletes: Braelyn Hornick, Candor • Jacob Humble, Newfield
Coaches: Scott Voorhees, Trumansburg • Nicole Chafee, Watkins Glen

2019-2020 Top Award Winners

Scholar-Athletes: Diego Castellot, Marathon • Gwen Gisler, Lansing
Coaches: Chip Stewart, Marathon • Pam Quinlan, Candor

2018-2019 Top Award Winners

Scholar-Athletes: Hannah Morse, Watkins Glen • Dylan Houseknecht, Odessa-Montour
Coaches: Alicia Learn, Watkins Glen • Benji Parkes, Lansing

2017-2018 Top Award Winners

Scholar-Athletes: Nick Parkes, Lansing • Mackenzie Grube, Spencer-Van Etten
Coaches: Chris Bubble, Newfield • BJ Bliss, Ithaca

2016-2017 Top Award Winners

Scholar-Athletes: Patrick Hazlitt, Watkins Glen • Nicole Gates, Candor
Coaches: Alicia Learn, Watkins Glen • Brian Sherwood, Newark Valley

2015-2016 Top Award Winners

Scholar-Athletes: Emily Kopp, Southern Cayuga • Jared Lyon, Moravia
Coaches: Brian Trippany, Newark Valley • Todd Mulvaney, Moravia

2014-2015 Top Award Winners

Scholar-Athletes: Lauren Trumble, Ithaca • Vincent Darpino, Newark Valley
Coaches: Eric Stickel, Lansing • Jim Hodges, Union Springs

Our Requirements & Selection Process

Nominations for Outstanding Scholar-Athletes and Outstanding Coaches come from the Athletic Directors of our 15 area high schools. Winners are selected based on a nomination and voting process by the Athletic Directors with the final decision made by the ESPN Ithaca Selection Committee.

Male and Female Scholar-Athletes of the Year
Each award winner has been recognized as a top varsity performer in at least two sports, while maintaining a minimum grade average of 85 with no disciplinary issues. The scholar-athlete must be a high school senior, with strong academic and civic contributions.

Outstanding Scholar-Athletes
Each award winner has been recognized as a top varsity performer in their respective sport, while maintaining a minimum grade average of 80, with no disciplinary issues.

Outstanding Coaches and Coach of the Year
Each award winner has been recognized as a top varsity head coach for their sport for the entire season and is in good standing with their school and Section IV Athletics

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A special thank you to all of our sponsors, especially Visions Federal Credit Union and Guthrie, for supporting our vision to celebrate high school athletic excellence and to our featured speaker, Mick McDaniel, Director of Athletics at Tompkins Cortland Community College. Most importantly, we want to thank the families, coaches, teachers and administrators who have fostered our scholar-athletes success.

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