

GREENESPORTS.NET

MAPLETOWN - For the fourth-straight year, Greenesports.net proudly presented its annual Student-Athlete of the Year award to a senior Greene County student-athlete who exemplifies excellence both competitively and academically. To make the presentation of a plaque and \$1,000 check, representatives from the website made the trip to Southeastern Greene County, which is the home to a record-setting athlete and exemplary academic achiever.

After four outstanding seasons on the gridiron and in the classroom, Dylan Rush has certainly left an indelible legacy on the history of Mapletown High School. It's hard to believe that it almost didn't happen, or if it did, it could have been at a different school in a different county.

Prior to beginning his high school athletic and academic pursuits, Rush matriculated in the Albert Gallatin School District. His move to Mapletown set the stage for four years that seemed to bring nothing but success for him and the Maples.

Rush was a driving force behind a four-year stretch that saw the Black and Gold qualify for the WPIAL playoffs in 2014 and 2016. Prior to those postseason excursions, the Maples last qualified for the District 7 tournament in 2005.

Rush's football resume is simply too large and impressive to recount everything on it. Among the biggest highlights are becoming a member of the exclusive WPIAL 4,000-yard rushing club, setting the WPIAL single-game rushing record (524 yards) and setting Mapletown records for all-time rushing yards (5,762 yards), points scored in a career (516) and points scored in a single game (54).

"It's been an amazing four years. When I came to Mapletown, I never thought any of this would have happened," Rush said. "I could have never imagined the level of success our teams have had. It's been amazing playing with the guys that I have."

Greenesports.net co-founder and announcer Lanfer Simpson, himself a 4,000-yard rusher at Waynesburg Central High School, truly appreciated watching Rush build his legacy as an all-time Greene County great.

"It's really been a lot of fun watch Dylan mature from a freshman through his senior season," Simpson said. "He did a great job of making Mapletown known through all of the effort that he put in on the football field and the baseball diamond."

Speaking of baseball, Rush's springtime accomplishments are often overshadowed by his dominance while carrying the football. He has received all-section and all-district laurels for his efforts and has ranked among the leaders in the WPIAL and the state in batting average, stolen bases and on-base percentage as a junior and senior.

Rush also shined in the classroom over his four years at Mapletown. He currently carries a 4.33 GPA with a senior course load that includes AP calculus, AP statistics and AP biology.

Not surprisingly, Rush will graduate as a four-time Mapletown Scholar-Athlete Award winner and has received a multitude of scholarships from organizations like the United States Army, the Lions Club, the WPIAL and the Tri-County Athletic Directors Association (Tri-CADA).

Jason Tennant, Greenesports.net's co-founder, operations manager and member of the announcing crew, pointed to Rush's unwavering dedication to success in the classroom as what gave him the edge over multiple deserving Greene County seniors this year.

"This year in the county, there were numerous athletes, including Dylan, who had extraordinary athletic achievements. From the start, we have made academics a big factor in to who receives this award. Dylan's academics sets him apart," Tennant said. "With the combination of athletic and academic achievements, Dylan was the perfect choice for this year's award."

So just how did he do it all at such a high level for four years?

"It's all about time management and knowing how much of my time to put into my studies and how much time to train, so that I can perform at a high level athletically," Rush said. "My parents have done an amazing job of helping me grow up and figure out how much time to put into each."

It may surprise some to know that despite etching his name in so many record books in the state of Pennsylvania, Rush's college goals do not include football at this time. He plans on attending California University of Pennsylvania in the fall to study secondary education and try out for the Vulcan baseball team.