

# GREENESPORTS.NET

WAYNESBURG, Pa. – If someone was to look up the term student-athlete in the dictionary, it wouldn't be a surprise to see a picture of Waynesburg Central High School senior Luca Augustine. For all that he has accomplished this school year, despite the unique challenges caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, Augustine was named Greenesports.net Student-Athlete of the Year.

The award comes with a \$1,000 scholarship.

“I feel really proud. All of my hard work that I've put in in elementary school, middle school and high school it just all came to a point in this season. It was the perfect season, honestly,” Augustine said. “Everything just clicked this year.”

Augustine completed a fantastic high school career on the mats this year by winning his first PIAA AAA state title at 172 pounds. It capped his third trip to the Giant Center in Hershey, Pennsylvania, and marked his second trip to the podium after finishing sixth as a junior. He was one of three individual champions for the Raiders, who cruised to team titles in both this year's individual tournament and team tournament.

“We are all extremely honored. It was like the dream team. Everything just clicked this year,” Augustine said. “I wasn't expecting it coming up through junior high and even into my freshman year. It all just worked out and I know everyone is very proud.”

Augustine suffered just one loss this year when he dropped a 5-3 decision to Trey Kibe of Mifflin County in the 172-pound finals of this year's PIAA West AAA Super Regional. He avenged the loss by downing Kibe 3-2 in the 172-pound state championship bout.

After helping guide the Raiders to a heaping portion of state gold, Augustine was invited to and competed in the prestigious Pittsburgh Wrestling Classic. The Raider standout not only suited up for Team Pennsylvania in the main match of the day, but defeated 18<sup>th</sup>-ranked Dillon Walker of Ohio by 5-3 decision (SV).

“When you think of a kid like Luca Augustine, you think of a kid who knows exactly what it means to be a member of a wrestling team. He's had to be bounced around from different weights early on so he could compete and you saw how he matured over time and he always persevered and strived to be better,” said Greenesports.net co-founder and announcer Lanfer Simpson. “I'm certain that Luca, with that drive, will succeed in the future.”

After checking off almost every major accomplishment a wrestler can accomplish as a high school competitor, Augustine is looking forward to a whole new set of challenges at the

University of Pittsburgh, where he plans to compete for head coach Keith Gavin and another former WCHS state champion, assistant coach Drew Headlee.

“I’d say I’m most looking forward to the new practice partners. It’s a big opportunity to improve my wrestling,” Augustine said. “There will be so many experienced guys in the room. It’s going to be awesome.”

A regular on the highest honor roll at Waynesburg Central, Augustine plans on studying either Bio-Chemistry or Biology with the goal of attending medical school.

“For our student-athlete of the year, we obviously want to honor the academic side and the athletic side and Luca is the perfect recipient for this award,” said Greenesports.net co-founder, operations manager and announcer Jason Tennant. “You take a sport like wrestling and the dedication it takes to get to the state champion level and also carry a perfect GPA, while taking college-level courses through high school, it’s all very impressive. Congratulations to Luca and we certainly wish him the best in everything he does in the future.”