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WAYNESBURG, Pa. (May 17) – When it comes to excellence on the cross country course and the track, few athletes in the WPIAL can match the success of Waynesburg Central High School senior Ben Bumgarner. That excellence, combined with a sterling academic reputation, made him the perfect candidate to receive the third annual \$1,000 Greenesports.net Student Athlete of the Year Scholarship.

Bumgarner was selected from a pool of seniors attending the five Greene County high schools who had been named Greenesports.net's McCracken Pharmacy Athlete of the Week at least once during the school year. The Raider standout is the first student-athlete to receive the scholarship while competing in sports that are not regularly covered by Greenesports.net.

“It's important to us to recognize all of the Greene County high school sports, not just the ones we are able to broadcast,” said Greenesports.net co-founder Jason Tennant. “It's nice to be able to award this to Ben, whose accomplishments speak for themselves. I am very proud to award this scholarship to Ben Bumgarner.”

Bumgarner has done it all as a distance competitor for the Raiders. He has earned a combined eight letters in cross country and track & field.

During the fall months, Bumgarner led the Raider cross country team to section titles in each of the past three seasons. Along with claiming a slew of individual race titles, the soon-to-be graduate is a two-time WPIAL medalist and a two-time PIAA state medalist. Bumgarner capped his high school cross country career by winning the 2016 PIAA AA state title. After taking the gold, he was honored as a Pennsylvania first-team all-state honoree for all classifications.

As impressive as his cross country accomplishments are, Bumgarner's track resume' is an even lengthier one. He earned three WPIAL medals in outdoor track and is a two-time PIAA outdoor championship qualifier. Some of his other highlights include being named the 2016 Washington-Greene County Coaches Invitational Track MVP and placing eighth in the 3,000 meters at the prestigious Penn Relays.

Moving to his indoor accomplishments, Ben was a two-time PIAA state qualifier and a state medalist. Bumgarner also placed 11<sup>th</sup> at the New Balance Indoor Track National Championships in the 5,000 meters.

Moving to his academic accolades, Ben boasts a 3.81 cumulative grade point average and will attend Penn State University to major in physics. He is a member of the National Honors Society and Physics Club.

“I'm just really thrilled to be able to give back to kids like Ben, who excel not only in their sports, but also in the classroom” said Greenesports.net co-founder Lanfer Simpson. “I just wish him all the best at Penn State and I'm sure he'll excel in any avenue he takes.”

Somehow, despite balancing all of his responsibilities to his teammates and his studies, Bumgarner also found time to spend four years as a member of the WCHS band. Not surprisingly, he was lauded as a four-time All-County band honoree.

“I've been really lucky to be healthy for four years and have really supportive coaches and great teammates for four years,” Bumgarner said. “I do have some athletic scholarship money coming from Penn State, but this scholarship will be great to help my family offset some of the costs. I'm really looking forward to get up there. I really liked the guys on the team and that was the main reason I chose to compete there.”