



## ALTOONA AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

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May 9, 2019

### AAHS STUDENT ATHLETES TO CONTINUE POST-SECONDARY ATHLETICS

The Altoona Area School District recognized 11 Altoona Area High School student athletes who will continue their athletic pursuits at the Division I, Division II and Division III Intercollegiate level at a ceremony held in the Altoona Area High School's William P. Kimmel Board Room on Wednesday, May 8 beginning at 9:00 AM

**Nate Simmers**, will attend Bloomsburg University. Simmers wrestled 13 years in the Altoona Area Wrestling Program. He has wrestled at 220 pounds or 285 pounds for the past two seasons. Simmers is a two time District 6 Champion at 285 pounds. He is also a two time PIAA State Qualifier and three time Regional Qualifier. He won 98 matches throughout his high school career. "Nathan is a very quick, strong and athletic 285 pound wrestler. His ability to put wrestlers on their back and finish with the pin has ranked him among the best that Altoona has ever produced," said Coach Joel Gilbert.

**Olivia Hudson**, a four year member of the Lady Lions basketball team, played the guard position for the Lady Lions. She will continue her education and playing career at California University of Pennsylvania under the direction of Coach Jess Storm. Hudson was an Altoona Mirror Athlete of the week (February 2019), Honorable Mention Mid Penn Girls All Star and Altoona Mirror All Star. She won the team Comeback Player of the Year and team Sportsmanship Award and was an Altoona Mirror All Star First team as a junior. "A physical guard who likes to attack the basket, she averaged 11 points per game this season and will be a welcome addition to the Vulcan team," said Head Coach Miriam Colledge "Her aggressive and up-tempo style should make for a smooth transition at the next level."

**Nate Cherry**, a three year member of the Mt. Lions basketball team who played combo guard will continue his career at Slippery Rock University under the guidance of Ian Grady. Nate was voted third team All Altoona Mirror this season and Honorable mention as a junior. Nate was also voted Most Improved by his teammates and coaches his junior season. "We are very excited for Nate and his family as he takes the next step in his playing career," said Head Coach Doug West. "Nate's dedication, work ethic, and desire to be a great teammate will help him along during this journey and we wish him the best."

**Alyson Schobel**, a four year member of the Lady Lions cross country team will continue her career at Bloomsburg University. As a member of the AAHS cross country team, Alyson has been a two-time Altoona Mirror Cross Country All-Star Honorable Mention (2017 & 2018). She was also the Big A Booster Club Lady Harrier Award recipient. “Aly is a remarkable example of progression and development,” said Head Coach Tabitha Quinn. “She worked hard in her training to devote four years of running year-round. Each season she hit her milestones and reset her goals with the fantastic support of her teammates.”

**Kierra Moist**, a four year member of the Lady Lions softball team who played in the outfield, will continue her career at Penn State Altoona. Kierra has a career .250 batting average with 20 stolen bases and a .250 on base percentage. “Kierra’s love for softball is undeniable. Her work ethic has made her one of the best outfielders to play at Altoona,” said Coach John Benson. “She’s a player any coach would be grateful to have.”

**Michael Folcarelli**, a four year member of the Mt. Lions track and field team will continue his career at Shippensburg University. Michael has won over 15 javelin competitions in the last two years. He’s the defending District 6 javelin champion, Penn Relays Qualifier (2019) and USATF (U18) National Championship Qualifier. “Michael has a passion to be great at the javelin. He has worked very hard these last four years to be one of the best throwers in Pennsylvania, and has done just that,” said Head Coach Mike Adams. “I am very proud of what he has accomplished.”

**Christina Brunette**, a three year member of the Lady Lions swim team, will continue her career as a rower at Robert Morris University. Christina swam the 100, 200 and 500 Freestyle. She qualified for Districts in the 100 and 200 Freestyle. She was a three year letterman and Captain. She won the 2017-2018 Coaches Award and the 2018-2019 Most Dedicated award. “Christina is a very coachable athlete. Dedicated, hardworking and will try anything. She never missed practice and did really well in distance events,” said Head Coach Nanette Cummings. “She was an asset to our team.”

**Owen Kravitz**, a four year member of the Mt. Lions baseball team will continue his playing career at Chatham University. Owen batted .287 as a junior and currently has three doubles and a homerun. He’s a two year letter winner and Honorable Mention Altoona Mirror (2018). “Owen is a fine young man who will represent Altoona well at the next level,” said Head Coach Tom Smith. “He’s a solid multi-sport athlete who does extremely well in the classroom.”

**Ian Yon**, a four year member of the Mt. Lions baseball team will continue his playing career at the Pennsylvania College of Technology. Ian batted .390 with 3 homeruns as a junior and is currently batting .295 with four doubles, two homeruns and 13 RBIs. Ian also has 3-1 record as a pitcher with a 1.83 ERA. He's a three year letter winner and First Team Altoona Mirror and Central Penn All Star as a junior. "Ian is a player who has contributed to varsity for three years as a pitcher. He has really been a force for us the past two years as a hitter. He brings a powerful bat to our lineup," said Head Coach Tom Smith. "Ian will do well at the next level because he loves the game of baseball and has the talent to do well."

**Adam Sinisi**, a four year member of the Mt. Lions baseball program will continue his playing career at La Roche College. Sinisi is currently batting .326 with seven doubles and seven RBIs. Sinisi is two year letter winner. "Adam is currently enjoying a fine senior season. We have used him as a third baseman and he has given us quality innings as a relief pitcher," said Head Coach Tom Smith. "Adam is another player who really enjoys being on the field and playing ball."

**Kahrae Fortson**, a three year member of the Mt. Lions football team will continue his career at Thiel College. Kahrae played offensive and defensive line for the Mt. Lions. He is a two year letter winner and helped the 2018 team rush for nearly 2,000 yards. He was also second team offensive line in the Mid Penn Conference. "Kahrae had an outstanding senior season. He battled through some adversity and worked extremely hard to put himself in position to be successful," said former Head Coach Nick Felus. "I am extremely proud of his accomplishments and excited to see him compete at the next level."