



NORTHEAST-10 CONFERENCE

16 Belmont Street – South Easton, MA 02375 - Phone: 508.230.9844 – Fax: 508.230.9845

Choosing the Athlete of the Week

DEADLINE – The first and foremost important thing when selecting Athletes of the Week is setting a deadline for nominations. A deadline assures that all nominations are in by a certain time so that the conference office can sort them and categorize them without guessing if more nominations will arrive. If you know you may not make the deadline it's always a good idea to drop the conference office a quick email.

NOMINATIONS - When making nominations make sure to include all the information that is requested by the conference including name, class, position and hometown. When filling out this week's accomplishments be sure to not to sell the student-athlete short while at the same time not going overboard with information. Remember, the conference office could receive between 20-30 nominations depending on the sport and the categories within the sport.

*Example Nomination: **David Wright, New York Mets** (So., 3B, Norfolk, Va.) - Wright helped lead the Mets to a 5-1 week, while hitting .583 (14-24) with three homeruns, two doubles and 10 RBI. Also scored eight runs, while stealing four bases. In a doubleheader sweep versus the Phillies, went 6-for-8 at the plate with a homerun and five RBI. In the 10-4 win over the Braves, drove in three runs while recording two doubles.*

Player Rankings – Some conferences will have an honor roll or additional honoree section to go along with the major weekly honors like Player of the Week and Freshman of the Week. These nominations are those student-athletes that are not quite Player of the Week status but definitely deserve some print time. The ranking of nominations helps the conference office select student-athletes from particular schools.

Example involving two players from the same team.

Student-Athlete 'A' averaged 13.5 points, 7.7 rebounds and 5.5 assists per game, game winning basket at buzzer. Rank 2

Student-Athlete 'B' averaged 16.0 points, 6.5 rebounds and 2.5 assists per game. Rank 3

Although both worthy to be selected to the honor roll, with limited space (not everyone can make the list) the ranking helps the conference office in making those final decisions when it comes to players from the same team.

Criteria Conference Office Looks For – Your job is officially over once you click the submit button on the nomination form. The rest is in the hands of the conference office. Below are criteria the conference office looks for when selecting athletes of the week.

1. **The Big Picture** – Once all the nominations are separated and categorized into their respective sections the first thing to look for is which nominees stand out the most. In the sport of men's lacrosse is there a nominee that scored 10 plus goals in a week or a softball pitcher that recorded an ERA under 1.00? It's important for the conference office to know the 'norm' statistically for each particular sport. Do any of the other nominees measure up to those that were picked out of the group at first glance?
2. **Consistency** – It may not always be crystal clear who the Athlete of the Week is going to be on the first look through. The next important piece to look at is how consistent the student-athlete was during the week. Did they have one big game and two mediocre games or was their play consistent throughout the week. It may take some time but box scores are a huge tool when selecting weekly awards. They are easily accessible to the conference office and should be used.
3. **Team Success** – Another aspect the conference office looks at when selecting weekly awards is the success of the student-athletes team. Though it doesn't hold much weight in the decision making, when trying to decide between two or more athletes it's a good method to use when eliminating choices.
4. **Strength of Opponent** – Still stuck on who to select? Another elimination method is opponent's strength. Did the nominee score all their goals versus weaker opponents or did they score all their goals against top-ranked teams? This is another method used when trying to select between two or more nominees.
5. **Head-to-Head** – By now, there should be only two choices left for Athletes of the Week honors. Using what each student-athlete did against each other head-to-head could help decipher between the two.
6. **Co-Athletes of the Week:** If all options are exhausted and can't help in selecting the Athletes of the Week it probably means both nominees are deserving of being named Athletes of the Week.

Things to Remember: Mistakes do happen. As easy as it would be to say they don't, they do. Sometimes there could be a slight oversight on the conference end or a difference in opinion between the SID and conference office. The best solution is explaining your case to the conference office and allow the conference to explain the process taken in the selection. Still not agreeing? It may be safe to agree to disagree.