

SPORTS & OUTDOORS

in the Western Mountains of Maine



All-star Dylan Tisor accepts the prestigious Bruce Howard Award from his head coach, Mark Lopez, at the fall sports award night held at Mt. Abram High School last Thursday. (David Hart photo)

Soccer athletes shine at Awards Banquet

By David Hart
Irregular Staff

SALEM — Mt Abram sports officials held their annual fall sports award banquet last Thursday, Nov. 12.

Coaches, parents, the athletic trainer, the boosters club, clock officials, fans and the players themselves were recognized among many others.

This year's specific athletes were honored along with hearing some recognition of last year's sports programs.

One of the greatest awards of an evening had to do with an announcement from Athletic Director Jeff Pillsbury who said that Mt. Abram received the Mountain Valley Conference overall sportsmanship award for all sports throughout the 2008 season.

This award is determined by a rating pool from the conference coaches of all high school sports. "I'd like to commend all of you folks. That's quite an honor," Pillsbury said. "This is something that you need to credit your coaches, your athletes, your fans and the parents... This is a great honor for Mt. Abram High School."

This award along with recognition of the 2008 boys' soccer team which also received the Dave Cox Sportsmanship Award after the season was over, was applauded by the fans and parents in the room. The 2008 boys' soccer team was recognized by the south central Maine board of officials as exemplifying outstanding sportsmanship.

The gathering in the school cafeteria was separated by the boys' and girls' squads to announce team participation awards.

In local award recognition senior Ian Daly was hon-

ored and accepted the Art Porter Award. This award is given to those who possess the character of loving and show a true dedication to the game.

Art Potter was MTA's first soccer coach and a long term team leader for nearly 30 years. "This award is for the love of the game and those who really enjoy the sport and played hard throughout every game and practice," MTA coach Mark Lopez said.

Jim Barker was announced as the team Offensive Most Valuable Player of the year. Barker scored seven goals and recorded seven assists during the regular season and was a strong force up front and in the middle.

Joey Lampron won the Coaches Award for his hard work, good attitude and positive contributions to the team, Lopez said.

On the girls' end, head coach Marc Keller announced that Emma Twitchell was deserving of the Most Underrated Player Award.

Katie Buschmann was the team high scorer with 17 goals on the season and was deserving of the Best Offensive Player Award.

There was no question at all that the Field General Award needed to go to defenseman Kylie Rolbiecki, Keller said.

Jillian Withee was named by Keller that evening as deserving the Most Versatile Player Award.

The final team award went out to Emily Luce, who Keller said was deserving of the Coaches Award.

Earlier in the event, Pillsbury announced the Mountain Valley Conference Academic All-stars. These are varsity sports participants who also possessed a

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Landowners' generosity recognized

AUGUSTA — The Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife and the Maine Snowmobile Association recently honored private, municipal and corporate landowners for their generosity in opening up their land to outdoor enthusiasts.

Fourteen individuals or entities received recognition at the annual Landowner Relations Awards Banquet on Tuesday, Oct. 20 in Augusta, which was sponsored by IF&W and hosted by MSA. Among them was Rangeley Lakes Heritage Trust of Oquossoc, nominated by the Rangeley Region Guides and Sportsmen's Association.

"More than 90 percent of Maine's land is privately owned, and the generosity of landowners to allow access to hunters, anglers, snowmobilers and ATV riders, as well as other enthusiasts, is something to be applauded," said Commissioner Roland "Danny" Martin of the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife. "We remind outdoor recreationalists to always ask first before going onto someone's land. It's the right thing to do."

The IF&W Landowner Relations Program seeks to maintain and build on Maine's unique heritage of public access to private land for recreation and sport use, and works to ensure that the relationship between private landowners and the public is one of respect and good judgment.

"Public access to private property is a privilege and not a right," said Col. Joel Wilkinson of the Maine Warden Service. "Without the support and generosity of private landowners, the majority of outdoor users would not have places to enjoy a whole host of outdoor activities."

More than 500 nomination forms were distributed to various user groups, such as ATV, snowmobile, and fish and game clubs, and the nominations were reviewed by an awards committee that included representatives from the Maine Warden Service, the Maine Snowmobile Association, Maine ATV, and the state's Landowner Relations Director.

To date, the IF&W Landowner Relations Program has recognized more than 80 landowners for their outstanding efforts in allowing their land to be used for public recreation.



Undefeated Bobcats

Stratton's 2009 JV basketball team celebrates their undefeated season on Thursday, Nov. 12 after their game in Kingfield. Pictured with Coach Millie Howard are (back, left to right) Nick Theriault, Jake Theriault, Spencer Currier, Henry Kearing, Jon Theriault, (front) Kaine Rolbiecki and Mason Strunk. Missing are Ethan Wilson and Coach Jamie Howard. (Sarah Strunk photo)