

Northeast Running Club

2024
Scholarship
Recipients

Julia Maynard - Mentor High School

Coach: Bill Dennison

Julia received the GCXC scholarship.

4.096 GPA; National Arts Honor Society; regional gold key in the Scholastics art contest; National Society of The Daughters of the American Revolution Essay Contest Winner; 4-year varsity letter winner in XC; Participated in Indoor Track for 4 years; Participated in Varsity Fastpitch for 3 years; Participated in Outdoor Track her senior year; Team captain for all sports; Memorable experience working through the Memory Project and creating portraits of young children living in orphanages...the portraits were given to the children along with a donation to the orphanage; Julia has volunteered and participated in many NERC and local road races with her longest being Olde Girdled Grit Half Marathon.

“Without all of the hard training and long run days, I would have never gained my perseverance, work-ethic, and drive.”

Julia will be attending the Muskingum University where she will run XC and track while majoring in Nursing.



Rae Kowalic- Chardon High School

Coach: Julie Cole

Rae received the NERC Scholarship.

3.83 GPA; National Honor Society (officer); Honors Diploma; 3x Academic All Ohio for XC; 4x WRC All-Conference and scholar athlete award in XC and track; State Qualifier in XC in 2023; State Qualifier and 2nd place finish for the 3200m during the 2024 track season running a 10:37; 4x Academic All Ohio in track; 4x state track qualifier; WRC champion in the 1600 and 3200; Chardon High School record holder in the 3200m

"I also have found the value in making friends with outside teams because that is where I have met some of the best people. It was amazing to see opposing teams coming together to cheer for one another, which I believe does not happen in other sports."

Rae will be attending Southern Illinois University where she will be running XC and track and majoring in Business.



Ada Sabo - Mentor High School

Coach: Bill Dennison

Ada received the NERC Scholarship.

4.163 GPA; AP Scholar with distinction; Summa Cum Laude; National Honors Society; 2x Academic All Ohio in both XC and track; 3x OHSAA State qualifier in XC; 4x OHSAA Regional XC qualifier; 3x all GCC conference award; OHSAA State qualifier in 1600 and 2x's in 4x800; 3x OHSAA Regional qualifier in the 4x800 and 1600; 2x OHSAA Regional qualifier in the 3200; Mentor school record holder in the 4x1600 and DMR; Northern Ohio Half Marathon PR 1:29:10.

One thing I have learned is that growth is not just measured in how much faster you have gotten. I have seen myself grow much stronger and be able to compete in multiple events with a positive attitude and confidence. Running has taught me to be strong physically and mentally, and to be brave even when things seem tough.

Ada will be attending Indiana State University where she run XC and track while majoring in Nursing.



Matthew Dienes - West Geauga High School

Coach: John Boylan

Matthew received the NERC scholarship.

3.2 GPA; Honor Roll student; Key Club member at WGHS; Finished 6th at OHSAA D2 State XC meet with a time of 15:26 (2023); Finished 26 overall at OHSAA D2 State XC meet in 2022 and also qualified as a team; Qualifies as a team for OHSAA State meet in 2021 and placed 76 overall individually; 2x All Ohio in XC; 2nd place finish at OHSAA D2 State track meet in the 4x800 (2023); Qualified for OHSAA D2 State track meet in 2024 in the 1600 finishing 7th with a 4:20 (PR).

"The immense amounts of dedication my running career has taken is nothing like I've ever experienced before. After learning the potential of hard work, my grades strongly improved. I started taking the time outside of class to study and complete every assignment I was given, no excuses."

Matthew will be attending John Carroll University where he will run XC and track.



Grace Dubsky- Geneva High School

Coach: Emily Long

Grace received the NERC scholarship.

4.385 GPA; Salutatorian ranking 2nd in graduating class; AP Scholar; Participation in NHS, the Interact Club at GHS, and Ashtabula County Youth Leadership have provided numerous volunteer opportunities throughout the community; 4x individual OHSAA regional qualifier for XC; 4x top 5 finisher at the All-county meet in XC; 1st and 2nd team CVC all 4 seasons of XC; 3x Qualifier for the Indoor state track meet in the 4x800 and 3200; Conference champion in the 3200; 2x Regional qualifier in the 4x800; Qualified for regionals in the 3200.

“Competing was never a positive experience for me, filling me with so much anxiety that the sport was no longer enjoyable and my performances would be hindered as well. But with repetition and exposure comes improvement, and now I can say that I love to run practices and competitions alike. No matter how I perform, I am grateful to be there and am able to truly enjoy the process. I have realized that at the end of the day, I am doing this because it makes me feel strong and fulfilled, running is a blessing.”

Grace will be attending Trine University where she will be running XC and track and majoring in Chemical Engineering.

