

## **Kelley Adversity Award Nominees**

### **2019**

#### ***Nick Hurter - Shrewsbury (11)***

Nick has suffered from severe knee issues to the point that his knees may give out just by turning his body in any direction, even while running. Nick has improved from a 45 min. 5k runner to a 29 min. runner.

#### ***Matt Andrews - King Philip RHS (12)***

Early in the XC season Matt had severe chest pains while training. Doctors' diagnosed Matt with a partially collapsed lung. Doctors prescribed two weeks of rest, when Matt resumed running the pain returned and he had rest once more. After two more weeks of rest Matt began preparing for the Hock Championships. Just before the final workout before the All State meet the pain returned for a 3<sup>rd</sup> time. Matt was immediately scheduled for surgery, thus curtailing his season.

#### ***Jake Gaumond - Wachusett (12)***

At the end of his sophomore season, Jake was in a car accident where he was a passenger. Despite wearing a seat belt Jake was jolted out of his seat and hit his head. The hospital discovered substantial swelling in the brain. Requiring immediate surgery to save his life part of Jake's skull was removed to alleviate the pressure and swelling. Jake was in a coma for several weeks and was given a 20% chance to survive.

With support from his Mom (Candy) teammates, coaches and friends Jake came out of his coma. He had to re-learn how to walk, speak and general motor co-ordination. Jake has returned to school, and resumed his running career. He is scheduled to graduate in June!

***Lucas Bittig - Medway (12)***

Lucas suffered a spontaneous collapsed lung during a class in December 2018. He was immediately rushed to the hospital where a tube was surgically implanted to help him breathe. Lucas lost 800 mil. of blood and his blood pressure was 60/30. After a few days Lucas had surgery once again as the lung was not healing properly. He returned to the team in January only to suffer a type II ankle sprain.

***Mikayla Chandler - ORR (12)***

Mikayla does not need an introduction to anyone associated with Massachusetts Track & Field. Mikayla was encouraged by her friend Josh Winsper to join the ORR winter track team as a freshman. Mikayla is a 3 sport athlete at ORR playing Field hockey and competing in indoor and outdoor track. Since that time Mikayla has been a MIAA Student Leader, a MIAA Division and All State Champion, a Paralympian as well as an All American. This past summer Mikayla was selected to represent her country in the U.S.A. in the World Youth Games in Ireland. She was a gold medal winner in the shot put and a bronze medal winner in the discus.

***Hanna Morrissette - Riverview School (Sandwich) (12)***

The Riverview School is a school especially designed for student with intellectual and physical disabilities. Riverview student athletes would train once per week at DY and compete as often as possible against all Cape teams. Finally admitted to the MIAA, Riverview was able to compete at the Division 4 level in XC where Hanna placed 47<sup>th</sup> in a time of 23:19!

***Connor Glynn - Dighton Rehoboth (12)***

A XC runner at DR Connor had his pre-season physical and it was found that his blood pressure was off the charts. He was sent to RI Children's Hospital for an evaluation. After multiple test it was found that Connor had a restricted blood flow to his kidneys. An EKG was performed showed that he had coarctation of his aorta which is a narrowing of the aorta, the large blood vessels had to work harder to pump the blood thus causing high blood pressure. Referred to Children's Hospital in Boston, Connor had surgery to widen his aorta artery. They found that his aorta was 75-80% restricted. As a result of his medical emergency Connor has helped raise \$1600.00 to be donated to the American Heart association.

***Maggie Aulson - Pentucket (12)***

Maggie a member of the Pentucket XC team was diagnosed with bone cancer in the fall of 2017. She continued to practice while undergoing chemotherapy. She had surgery in January of 2018 to remove tumors in her leg. A long physical therapy treatment helped her mobility but it took a toll on her stamina.

After a summer of limited training she returned to XC for her Senior year. She practiced as often as she could but at times became exhausted. Maggie did complete and finish four 5k races this past fall. Not to be deterred she continued with the help of her teammates to complete the season. A 2 season Captain Maggie will forever be known for her smile, courage and positive attitude!

***Meghan Waldron - Frontier Regional (12)***

Meghan has been a XC and track athlete at Frontier RHS for the past five years. Meghan suffers from PROGERIA a disease which accelerates her aging process in unimaginable ways. She is one of only 80 people in the world that have this disease. Meghan has met this disease head on and has written a book “Running on the Wind” which has been published. She speaks to groups about her running and her struggles. She is a happy and motivated in sharing story.

***Christopher Tilton - Silver Lake RHS (11)***

On Dec. 23, 2016, Christopher was competing at the RLC in one of our MSTCA Sprint Classic. Running the 300m Christopher collapsed mid-stride as he rounded the curve heading towards the finish line. The officials and trainers were called immediately and Christopher was taken to a Boston area hospital.

Christopher was diagnosed with a significant avulsion fracture of his pelvis. Surgery followed immediately and a long physical therapy program ensued. The injury was so severe that Christopher could not sleep in his bed but rather in a recliner. After a long and arduous recovery Christopher was able to

return to XC and the winter track season. Almost 3 years later Christopher competed in the Division 3 Indoor Championships placing 6<sup>th</sup> overall in the 600m.