

**ATHLETES NAME:** Ezra Martin

**SCHOOL:** Union Academy

**CLASSIFICATION:** 1A

**SPORTS:** Basketball, Football, Indoor Track and Field and Track and Field (Men's Volleyball)

**NOMINATOR:** Ashley Grant

**NOMINATOR EMAIL:** agrant519@gmail.com

**NOMINATOR SCHOOL:** Union Academy

**NOMINATOR POSITION:** Track & Field Coach

**ATHLETES QUALIFICATIONS:**

**Men's Football:** Captain and 1st Team All-Conference; Led the team in most receiving yards per game averaging over 70 yards per game.

**Men's Basketball:** Captain and All Conference; Lead the team in points, blocks, steals, rebounds, and field goal percentage. Averaged 14 points a game, 12 rebounds, 2.5 assists, 1.5 steals and 1.5 blocks per game.

**Men's Indoor Track:** All Conference, 1A/2A State Champion in Triple Jump, Runner Up in Long Jump, 4th place medal in High Jump – helped lead team in points to an all-time school best team finish in 2nd place for 1A/2A

**Men's Outdoor Track:** 2022 State Champion in Long Jump, Runner up in Triple Jump, Currently number 1 1A for Triple and leads team in points every meet. Also voted Captain of the 2023 Outdoor Team.

**Men's Volleyball:** 2 year leading in kills

**REFERENCE NAMES (LETTERS ATTACHED AND PICTURE):** Michael Wayne O'Neill and Robert Washington

To Whom It May Concern:

It is with great pleasure that I write this letter of recommendation for Ezra Martin, a remarkable student-athlete whom I have had the honor of coaching in the long, triple and high jump events at the high school level.

I cannot express enough how impressed I am with Ezra's outstanding performance in this sport. Their commitment, hard work, and attention to detail have all contributed to their impressive results, including 2022 Outdoor 1A State Champion in Long Jump and Runner up in Triple Jump, 2023 1A/2A State Champion in Triple Jump and runner up in Long Jump. These top finishes helped lead our team to be Overall Team Runner Up in both the 2022 Outdoor season as well as the 2023 Indoor season. As his coach, I have had the privilege of witnessing his dedication and passion firsthand, and I can confidently say that Ezra has the potential to excel in any given opportunity. He is by far one of the most naturally talented athletes I have come across in my 13 years of coaching and add to that his drive and determination and the sky is the limit with him.

Beyond Ezra's athletic abilities, I have also been impressed by his character, leadership, and academic performance. He is not only a role model to his fellow track and field teammates but also to his football and basketball teammates as well. Ezra displays self-control, kindness and respect to myself and his peers. It is evident that Ezra possesses the qualities that make him stand out from the rest - determination, perseverance, and a strong work ethic along with just being an incredible person.

I believe that Ezra is deserving of the title of NCHSAA Athlete of the Year due to his tremendous success in 4 Varsity Sports as well as his genuinely good character. I know if you were to meet Ezra, you would see for yourself what a fine, upstanding young man he is. I am confident that he will make the most of this opportunity and achieve great success in his future endeavors and would represent the NCHSAA well. He plans to go on to play at the collegiate level and his potential is limitless. I am honored to have been his coach throughout his high school journey.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any further questions. Thank you for considering Ezra for this amazing opportunity.

Sincerely,



Ashley Grant  
Union Academy Track & Field Coach  
[agrant519@gmail.com](mailto:agrant519@gmail.com)

April 24, 2023

To Whom It May Concern:

It is my pleasure to recommend senior Ezra Martin for consideration as the NCHSAA Male Athlete of the Year.

I have known Ezra for approximately six years and feel that he would be a stellar representative of this award. When first meeting Ezra, you are immediately struck by his intelligence, witty sense of humor, character, and confidence in what he is saying. He is especially dedicated and passionate in his interests and activities, which have included to focus on being a leader, student, and an athlete, while standing firm in his beliefs and the character that embodies who he, making him a valued and productive citizen even at such a young age.

I taught Ezra as a student and has been his mentor and athletic director at Union Academy. I have consistently been impressed with his work ethic and creative approach to problem solving. Ezra has had a successful high school career academically, while balancing his time as a three sport varsity athlete and a rostered member of the club men's volleyball program at Union Academy. Ezra has also contributed over 100 hours of community service during his high school career. This demanding schedule will prepare Ezra for many successes in his post secondary education as well as in his life and career after.

Some of Ezra's athletic achievements for the 2023-24 academic year include:

**Track**

- 1A/2A NCHSAA Indoor Track Triple Jump Champion
- 2nd place - 1A/2A NCHSAA Indoor Track Long Jump
  - 1A/2A NCHSAA Outdoor Track Long Jump Champion (2021-22)
- 4th place - 1A/2A NCHSAA Indoor Track High Jump

**Basketball**

- YVC 1A/2A All Conference Selection (Basketball)
- Lead the team in points, rebounds, steals, block & field goal percentage
- Averaged 14 PPG, 12.4 RPG, 1.5 BPG
- Led Union County, conference and 1A classification in rebounds/game, ranked 9th in NCHSAA
- Top 10 in Union County and Top 5 in conference for points/game; Top 3 in Union County in blocks/game

**Football**

- YVC 1A/2A All Conference Selection (Football) - 1st year playing
- Led YVC 1A/2A conference in receiving yards, ranked 11th in NCHSAA

In conclusion, I believe that it would be difficult to find a more deserving student athlete to represent the NCHSAA. I enthusiastically recommend Ezra Martin for your consideration of this award. If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

*Michelle E. Phifer*

Michelle Phifer, MPh, CiC, CAA  
Athletic Director/Certified High School Science Teacher/First Responder  
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