

NEWS

Iowa High School Athletic Association
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Aaron Wernimont Featured on 2014 Sportsmanship-Character Poster

Aaron Wernimont, a 2004 graduate of Pocahontas Area High School is the featured Iowan on the IHSAA's 2013-14 Sportsmanship-Character Poster, now in its 18th year and 22nd poster.

Sadly, Wernimont died in March 13, 2012 from unexpected causes, but his 26-year life and values are reflective of this year's theme, "Every Moment Counts!" Literally an All-American Boy, Wernimont was a high achieving student in the classroom and the athletic arena. It followed him through his collegiate days and was a guidepost in his adult life when it ended short of becoming an optometrist.

His wife Kahri spoke of his strong belief in God at the funeral, afraid that if she did not, it would be overlooked. That belief, which the couple shared in their brief married life, was the root of his leadership and aspirations.

Alan Beste, Assistant Executive Director at the IHSAA, heads up the poster production program. Of the countless athletes available, an individual who strongly models the two cornerstones of the 108-year old organization – sportsmanship and citizenship is chosen to represent those core values.

Of Wernimont's selection Beste remarked, "Although his life ended way too early, we believe Aaron's story provides inspiration and encouragement to today's students."

Wernimont had a stellar prep career at Pocahontas Area High School engaging in school sports and activities while maintaining a solid academic profile. He was a four time State Meet qualifier in wrestling winning a state title in 2003 while also adding a runner-up, third place and fourth place finish. He won 156 of 164 matches. He was also a starter in football, lettered in track and was a two year member of the National Honor society while being named Academic All-State in 2004.

At the collegiate level he earned an appointment to the U.S. Military Academy but his heart was in the Midwest and he returned to finish his undergraduate work at Wartburg College in Waverly. With the Knights he became a three-time NCAA All-American and a two-time undefeated national champion, winning 80 straight matches.

The IHSAA poster produced with the assistance of the IHSAA's title sponsor, the Iowa Farm Bureau, is mailed to each high school, junior high school and elementary school in Iowa.

Previous Iowa students who have been featured on IHSAA posters follow.

2012 - Casey Blake, Indianola

2011 - Harrison Barnes, Ames

2010 - Dallas Clark, Twin River Valley

2009 - LoLo Jones, Des Moines Roosevelt

2008 - Zach Johnson, Cedar Rapids Regis

2007 - Adam Haluska, Carroll

2006 - Jeff Clement, Marshalltown

2005 - Chad Hennings, Benton Community

2004 - Coach Ed Thomas, Aplington-Parkersburg

2003 - Nick Collision, Iowa Falls; Kyle Korver, Pella; Kirk Henrich, Sioux City West

2003 - Bruce Nelson, Emmetsburg

2002 - Nick Ackerman, Colfax-Mingo

2001 - Eric Juergens, Maquoketa

2000 - Kurt Warner, Cedar Rapids Regis

1999 - General John Lorber, Orange City

1999 - Tim Dwight, Iowa City, City

1998 - Ryan Bowen, Fort Madison

1998 - Tavian Banks, Bettendorf; Tim Dwight, Iowa City, City; Matt Sherman, Saint Ansgar

1997 - Adam Timmerman, Cherokee

1996 - Casey Wiegmann, Aplington-Parkersburg

1995 - Fred Hoiberg, Ames