

**For Immediate Release**  
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### **Billerica Student Earns First Place in MIAA Sportsmanship Essay Contest**

(Franklin) - Ryan Flaherty, a junior at Billerica Memorial High School, has won first place in the Fourth Annual Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association Sportsmanship Essay Contest. Mr. Flaherty will present his essay to approximately 600 administrators, coaches and high school captains at the 11th Annual MIAA/MSSADA Sportsmanship Summit to be held November 19, 2004 at the Wyndham Hotel in Westborough.

In honor of his achievement, Flaherty will receive \$500 and a recognition plaque. Mark Ferry of St. Joseph Central High School earned second place in the contest while Amanda Jenkins of Chatham High School earned third place in the competition.

The MIAA has published a collection of finalist and honorable mention essays in an anthology entitled "Sportsmanship: A Game Plan for Life - Volume IV" which will be unveiled at the Summit and distributed to each school in the state. The theme of this year's contest was "The Role of the Media in Promoting Sportsmanship." This annual essay contest originated as a way to help students think about sportsmanship, ethics and integrity and how these values can be better demonstrated in all areas of athletic competition.

In addition to the presentation of the essay contest awards at the Sportsmanship Summit, the MIAA will also make its annual presentation of district sportsmanship awards. Speakers and highlights for the event include Ed Berliner, CN8, The Comcast Network; Bob Ryan, Dan Shaughnessy, and Bob Holmes, The Boston Globe; Dan Ventura, Boston Herald; Mike Reiss, MetroWest Daily News; Steve Burton and Alice Cook, WBZ-TV4; and David Stead, president of the National Federation of State High School Associations.

*You are cordially invited to send a reporter to the Summit. If you would like more information, contact Nathan Bonneau or Peter Smith at 508-541-7997.*

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