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MASSACHUSETTS INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION, INC.

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Pioneer Valley Regional Student Receives MIAA Student-Athlete of the Month Award

NORTHFIELD – Chris Chaffin, a senior at Pioneer Valley Regional School, has been selected by the Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association (MIAA) as the "Student-Athlete of the Month" for December 2008.

A senior captain on the Pioneer Valley Regional School football team, Chris was voted "Most Valuable Player" by his teammates and has been an All-League selection for the past two years. In addition to his accomplishments on the football field, Chris is a year round athlete and a captain on the Pioneer Valley Regional indoor and outdoor track teams. Academically, Chris has earned a 3.52 GPA and is a leader of the school Peer Mediation group. He serves as the school representative on the Regional Student Advisory Council and recently developed a survey about teacher motivation that he presented to the school faculty. Chris is described by Pioneer Valley administrators as "one of the hardest working year-round athletes in our school's history. He is humble, dedicated, hard-working, respectful, caring and ambitious. Chris is an excellent student, the kind of student teachers always hope to have in class."

The MIAA launched the "Student-Athlete of the Month" award program as a method of recognizing and honoring students who set a positive example of leadership through academics and athletics in their communities. Through this program, school principals, athletic directors, wellness coordinators, coaches, teachers, guidance counselors, and student ambassadors may nominate individuals who excel in the classroom, during competition, and as good citizens in the community. One male and one female student-athlete from MIAA member schools are selected as recipients of this award each month. Each recipient is sent a congratulatory letter and certificate from the MIAA Student Services Staff. In addition, recipients are also noted for their achievement on the MIAA web site (<http://www.miaa.net/student-athlete-of-the-month.htm>) and in the "Building the Future" MIAA Student Services Newsletter.

For more information about the MIAA "Student-Athlete of the Month" Program, please contact Peter Smith at 508-541-7997.