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## MASSACHUSETTS INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION, INC.

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#### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### Everett Student Receives MIAA Student-Athlete of the Month Award

EVERETT – Ralph Faia, a senior at Everett High School, has been selected by the Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association (MIAA) as the "Student-Athlete of the Month" for February 2009.

A member of the Everett High School football and ice hockey teams, Ralph Faia has enjoyed an outstanding athletic career. A strong leader, Ralph served as captain of the Everett football team this past fall, as well as captain of the ice hockey team for the past two seasons. He was named a Greater Boston League All-Star in football and ice hockey as well. This past season, Ralph was also voted by the ice hockey coaches in the Greater Boston League to receive the Boston Bruins Ice Hockey Sportsmanship Award.

Academically, Ralph is a high honor student with a 3.58 GPA. He has been named Everett High School student of the month in the subject of math several times. In addition to his academic and athletic success, Ralph spends time as the President of the Italy Club, participates in the Grade 8 shadow program, is a peer mediator, plays the guitar and piano at school concerts, and reads to students at the local elementary schools. Everett High School Principal Louis Baldi says, "Ralph Faia is the prototype of what I consider a student-athlete to be. He displays the ideals of a well rounded student, academically and athletically. He is the epitome of what I envision as a student-athlete at Everett High School."

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.