



## Senior Eric Patton Receives 2011 Michael DeLucia Sportmanship Award

On Monday, December 19, senior Eric Patton received the 2011 Michael DeLucia Sportsmanship Award, presented annually for forty years to a senior Catholic school football player in greater Wilmington who has exemplified outstanding performance, attitude and character on and off the field. The Viking linebacker-running back was named Defensive Player of the Year for the second consecutive season by the Delaware Interscholastic Football Coaches Association, and he was the only player this year to be named First Team All-State on both offense and defense. Eric was also named First Team All-Catholic on both offense and defense. He rushed for 1,348 yards and 16 touchdowns in only eight games and was responsible for 94 tackles.



Principal Shirley Bounds lauded Eric, “for his outstanding plays and accomplishments on the football field and for maintaining a Benedictine modesty and dignity of work that kept the Viking family together on the field and off.”

The award was presented by Tom DeLucia at a Monday morning assembly in the Benedictine Performing Arts Center. Also in attendance was Patricia Dorris DeLucia ‘55, Tom’s wife and Michael’s mother. The award was founded in 1972 in memory of Michael shortly after he died of meningitis at the age of 18 months. The sport of football was chosen because Michael’s birthday was during football season in November.

In 38 years, 57 players have won the award. Ten of the recipients have been SEHS students:

1978 - Joe Papili	1989 - Shawn Mitchell	1991 - Chad Fedorkowicz
1993 - Sean Davenport	1994 - Rich Conway	1999 - Matt Swarter
2000 - Jeff Fletcher	2002 - Ryan Stearrett	2007 - Sonny Durham
	2011 - Eric Patton	

Recipients are selected annually by an anonymous committee which reviews nominations submitted by coaches.