

Watauga Athletics Announces 2008-2009 Trailblazer Award Winner

Written by Daniel Clark
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Courtesy: Watauga Media Relations (Daniel Clark)

Watauga Pioneer senior Baine Martin has been voted the winner of the 2008-2009 Trailblazer award, given annually to the most outstanding male student-athlete.

The award is given not only for their accomplishments on the playing field but also for academic achievements, character and sportsmanship. The award was presented Friday May 29th at the school wide senior award ceremony.

Martin earned seven varsity letters, four all-conference honors and one honorable mention during his time as a Pioneer. He starred as a three-sport athlete his senior season, playing football, basketball and baseball and excelling at all of them. He joined the varsity ranks with the football team his sophomore season and didn't disappoint. In his varsity debut he caught five passes for 62 yards in Watauga's 35-9 win over West Caldwell. In the playoffs that season, Martin would come up with one of the biggest catches of the season when he hauled his first career touchdown, a 52-yard strike to cut #1 AC Reynolds lead to five at 21-16 just before halftime. Watauga would go on to win that game 25-24 and advance to the Western Finals. His sophomore year he would also join his brothers Tanner and Caleb on the baseball diamond.

His junior season on the gridiron brought on an increased role in the offense and saw him lead the team in receiving with 18 catches for 514 yards and six touchdowns. Also gaining some time at tailback for injured leader Eric Breitenstein, he rushed for a respectable 227 yards on 36 carries and two more touchdowns. Defensively he finished fifth in total tackles with 78 and led the team with four interceptions. Thus leading to his first all-league award.

Martin's would excel that same season on the baseball diamond as well. Anchoring center field for Coach Pete Hardee's squad, he hit .310 with 14 RBI and had the team's longest hitting streak at eight games. That team would go on to finish as the Northwestern 4A tournament's runner up and went to the State Sweet 16 round and Martin would earn his second all-conference title.

His senior year turned out to be the most productive of his career. In football he once again led Watauga in receiving with a school record 798 yards on 48 catches and five touchdowns. He added a team leader in rushing as well to his repertoire by rushing 122 times for 576 yards and four touchdowns. Defensively he had 50 tackles and five interceptions leading to his third all Northwestern 4A designation.

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Martin's senior season also brought on a new challenge with him deciding to play varsity basketball for Coach Rob Sanders. Starting at point guard, he led Watauga to a third place finish in the Northwestern 4A by averaging 6.9 points and 3.5 assists per game. He was named honorable mention all-NW4A for his efforts. The illustrious career of Martin would come to an end with his senior baseball campaign where he garnered all-league honors as the Pioneer's center fielder and leadoff hitter. He tied for third on the time in hitting with a .333 average and ironically tied with his freshman brother David. He clubbed three homeruns, none more important than his leadoff blast in Watauga's win at South Caldwell.

After graduation this Saturday, Martin plans to walk on and play football next season for three-time National Champion Appalachian State.