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Subject: Much to be proud of...
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Today in the Eagle Tribune we see pictured on page 1 Meredith Budds. As we approach graduations we see many in this region completing their high school years with honors and the like.



It is wonderful to see local business leaders like Charlie Daher of Commonwealth Motors feature the best. Charlie for years has always supported our area youth and we are most grateful. Here he is joined by the Boston Marathon Race Director Dave McGillivray in recognizing **Meredith Budds**.

The story below tells her story the best. We all need to join in and be proud of so many that sit before you. In the classrooms and on the fields you are all a part of the success and dreams of many...

We all congratulate Meredith...simply put a great young lady...

Thank you,
Jim Scully

Copied from the Eagle Tribune...

Haverhill's Meredith Budds

named region's top student-athlete

By Michael Muldoon

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HAVERTHILL — Meredith Budds scholar, athlete, leader, volunteer and auto mechanic. Auto mechanic? Yes, the Haverhill High senior added auto mechanic to her long and distinguished resume by supplying jumper cables to a classmate in need Wednesday morning.

Budds does seemingly do it all, which underscore why she was honored last night as the winner of the second annual Eagle-Tribune Student-Athlete of the Year award.

Nineteen elite student-athletes

Continued from Page 1 were honored as the best from their schools during the banquet at Michael's Function Hall. The event was sponsored by Charlie Daher and Commonwealth Motors.

Budds was selected over a tremendous group that included numerous scholarship athletes,

three-sport captains, class officers and 1,400-plus SAT students.

Budds will begin her collegiate academics on a pre-med track at St. Anselm College, where she has earned a lacrosse scholarship.

“This definitely means a lot,” said Budds, a threesport captain (lacrosse twice, soccer, indoor track). “It’s the best way to cap off my high school career.”

Budds, who is Haverhill’s class secretary, is a subscriber to “it takes a village.” And it seemed as if half of Haverhill was there to support her. The official count was 17 in the Budds party.

And there was plenty to celebrate.

“My mom, Darlene, set it up,” said Budds, who is ranked 27th in a class of 357. “This means a lot with everybody I love here.”

Picking the top scholarathlete from approximately 7,000 area high school athletes is no easy task. It’s like saying who’s a better athlete Tom Brady, LeBron James, Sidney Crosby, Mike Trout or Usain Bolt?

Budds was always on the short list and won over the selection committee (e) Merrimack hockey coach Mark Dennehy, Whirlaway Sports Center’s Dave Kazanjian, Northern Essex Director of Public Relations Ernie Greenslade, Eagle-Tribune sports editor Bill Burt and assistant sports editor Mike

Muldoon) in her recent interview at the newspaper.

Asked if she considered other area schools, she said yes but Haverhill was the place for her and it was the best decision she could have made.

With a pre-med major, Budds was asked if being an orthopedic surgeon was a dream or a likelihood, she responded with just the right amount of confidence that, yes, she was going to make it happen.

Budds said last night, "I did a project for a program on ACL tears. I talked to so many doctors and our trainer Dave Warwick."

That cemented her goal to become an orthopedic surgeon. Mom, by the way is a nurse practitioner.

Dad, Ben Budds, is practical, too. He got Meredith the jumper cables that she was all too happy to lend Wednesday to a student in distress she didn't even know.

Haverhill High lacrosse coach Christina Lynch raved about Budds after the banquet.

She said, "She's the ideal athlete on the field and off the field. She's there for the coaches and she's there for her teammates. She's a coach's dream."

Budds is in good, no, make that great, company. Last year's winner was Eric Duffy of North Andover, the national high school pole vault champion at the New Balance Nationals in Greensboro, North Carolina. He's now competing at Harvard.