

LOCAL NEWS

Scholarship honors late Glenbard West graduate

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GLEN ELLYN – Throughout his 16-month battle with brain cancer, 2011 Glenbard West High School graduate Andrew Garwood stayed positive.

“It speaks volumes of what kind of human he was,” said Glenbard West football coach Chad Hetlet, who coached Garwood in the school’s football program.

Garwood died in January 2016 at the age of 22 after being diagnosed in fall 2014. To carry on his legacy, the first scholarship in the name of the Andrew Garwood STRONG Foundation recently was presented at Glenbard West’s annual football banquet.

“Probably one of the most important things is how he fought against his brain cancer,” said his mother, Terri Garwood.

Glenbard West graduating senior Yanni Pappas, a linebacker, was presented with the \$5,000 scholarship by Garwood’s parents, Steve and Terri Garwood. Hetlet and his staff selected Pappas to receive the award.

It was Hetlet’s idea to start the scholarship.

“My intent was to continue Andrew’s legacy, so my players and future players understood how special he was,” Hetlet said.

Pappas said he was surprised and honored when he learned he would receive the scholarship.

“I found out right at our banquet,” he said. “I couldn’t be any more thankful for what the Garwoods and Glenbard West football has done. It’s such a great award, and he was a great kid.”

Injuries cut Pappas’ season short after he broke his right wrist last fall in a game against Lyons Township High School. Earlier in the year, he had broken his left wrist while playing for Glenbard West’s baseball team.

He is hoping the injuries will not cause any permanent damage.

“Fingers crossed,” he said.

Pappas juggles sports with his studies and other activities. He is an honor student and involved in Target Success, a Big Brother/Big Sister program where freshmen are matched with juniors and seniors who act as positive peers.

“It was cool just to get to know them and kind of adjust from middle school to high school,” Pappas said.

He also was part of the Mawi Learning leadership group and works at his family’s restaurant, Shanahan’s Food & Spirits in Woodridge.

Pappas has not made up his mind where he will go to college.

“I’m not 100-percent sure yet,” he said. “I still have a few colleges on my mind.”

Steve Garwood said Pappas exhibits traits and qualities similar to his son, including leadership and high integrity, as well as being a team player and always having a smile on his face. He said Pappas is a fitting recipient.

“When we presented him the award, he was thrilled and honored,” he said. “He was such a gracious young man.”