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Dibilio, Doell winners at Via banquet

Nazareth star adds another honor to his collection

By [Keith Groller](#), OF THE MORNING CALL

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Not only will Chuck Dibilio forever be regarded as one of the most talented athletes in Nazareth High and Lehigh Valley sports history, but the Princeton-bound senior will also go down as one of the smartest.

On March 6, Dibilio was saluted as the National Football Foundation Lehigh Valley Chapter's scholar-athlete.

On Wednesday night at Freedom, he was selected as the \$2,000 Via All-Star boys basketball scholarship winner.

Dibilio received a scholarship along with girls recipient Hannah Doell of Southern Lehigh during the Via banquet that celebrated the just completed high school basketball season.

The dinner serves as a prelude to "Super Saturday" at Northampton Community College where four all-star games will officially close the 2010-11 season beginning at 10:30 a.m. and continuing throughout the day.

The Via boys senior all-star team was revealed and included Dibilio, Allen's Jalen Cannon, Pocono Mountain West's Tynell Fortune, Pocono Mountain East's Lamont Tillery and player of the year Darrun Hilliard of Liberty.

The Via girls senior all-star squad featured Northampton's Kara Bonenberger, Lehigh's Jordyn Homyak, Northern Lehigh's Sonya Josephson, Saucon Valley's Danielle Van Buren and player of the year Erika Livermore of Nazareth.

In addition, former Notre Dame, Freedom and Central Catholic boys basketball coach and current Service Electric TV2 analyst Rich Baksa and former Liberty High and Davidson College standout Charlie Marcon were inducted into the Lehigh Valley Basketball Hall of Fame.

DeSales University coach Scott Coval, a member of the Hall of Fame, delivered a wonderfully touching tribute to fellow Hall of Fame member Al Senavitis, who died last November and appropriately saluted Senavitis' legacy of dedication to Special Olympics.

Former Navy and NFL football star Napoleon McCallum was the keynote speaker and talked about how the difference between being extraordinary and ordinary is the extra effort one can give to anything in life.

And perhaps no one in area athletics gives more of an extra effort to everything he does than Dibilio.

"It's kind of cool to get both this and the scholar-athlete award in football," Dibilio said. "Princeton is not a scholarship school. It's not like I am getting a free education there, so this will definitely help out. I am surprised, although Coach [Joe] Arndt gave me a few hints. But I thought he might have been just messin' with me."


Dibilio did very little messin' around in a basketball career that saw him score 1,375 points which is third best in school

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history behind only his father, Chuck, who scored 1,408 points, and Mike Boyer who tallied 1,812.

He will major in economics and finance at Princeton where he will be play only football.

"I love basketball and it's going to be different not to be playing anymore," Dibilio said. "But it has been a lot of fun."

Doell is unsure where she will attend college, but wherever she goes, she figures to do well.

"I was surprised to win this because a lot of my friends at other schools are really, really good," Doell said. "I've lettered in five sports during my high school career — tennis, cross country, soccer and volleyball being the other ones. I think I will finish with at least 12 varsity letters."

She is one of those young people who is not happy unless she's busy.

"It's a tough balance playing sports and getting your class work done," Doell said. "But it's worth it."

•In his acceptance speech, Marcon paid tribute to Senavitis and another local legend who died last year, longtime Salisbury High principal and basketball official Mario Donnangelo.

"I remember driving around in a golf cart with Mario at the U.S. Women's Open at Saucon Valley and if there were 25,000 people there, 20,000 of them knew Mario," Marcon said. "He could have run for political office and won, I have no doubt about that."

Marcon was a winner at both Liberty and Davidson.

He helped the Hurricanes win the East Penn League and District 11 titles in 1961 and he was the EPL's most outstanding player and a second-team all-state selection as a senior.

At Davidson, he played for legendary coach Lefty Driesell in a program that was ranked among the top-10 in the nation in back-to-back seasons. He was considered by some as the best sixth man in the South and was named to the Southern Conference All-Academic team in 1965.

•Baksa should have felt right at home at Freedom where he coached for 15 seasons and won the 1976 District 11 3A title. It remains the only championship the Patriots have ever won in boys basketball.

But Baksa had his greatest success from 1990-95 at Central Catholic where he became one of just four coaches in District 11 tournament history to win four consecutive titles.

In 23 seasons, Baksa posted 299 wins.

"I've learned in my teaching and coaching careers that you're only as good as the people that surround you," Baksa said. "I have was blessed with dedicated players, loyal coaches and supportive administrators."

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