ENGLISH TRANSCRIPT

Opening: Athletics Logo

Carl Sorrentino, Athletic Director: Hello Students, Staff, Families, Administrators, IT Staff, Administrative Assistants, Interpreters and the Lexington community.

What a year! Before we start, my name is Carl Sorrentino and I am the current Athletic Director of Lexington School for the Deaf. GO BLUE JAYS!

Thank you for your time watching the sports awards. Thank you. We had a great year, unfortunately cut short, regardless, still a wonderful year. Tonight, we will have our virtual sports awards. Fun!

The coaches sent me videos and I had to edit the videos. Coaches had the option to edit their own videos and share their experiences with their teams. The video is interesting. Thank you for watching.

Before we start, I’d love to maintain the tradition of us thinking we’re in the auditorium. I wanted to remind everyone of the fire safety drill. Leave at the nearest exit! Every year, that’s always the opening statement before the Athletic Awards Ceremony and we wanted to keep that.

Enjoy! The transcripts are above the video. Please click on either link for English or Spanish transcripts.

VARSITY SOCCER:

Hello! Introducing Sergio and Gabriel. Gabriel is the head coach of soccer and Sergio is the assistant coach.

Gabriel: Wow, we definitely had a large number of team participants and very young! We had a great year and are looking forward to next year.

Sergio: Indeed, a very young team! We had a lot of returning players, but still very young. We had to work with them to help learn and grow the soccer team.

Gabriel agrees and emphasizes the youthfulness of the team.

Seniors: Two - Tayqwan Richardson, Defense, and Jason Vargas, soccer player. We will miss them!
Gabriel: Overall record- 6 Wins - 8 Losses and 1 Draw. We participated in the Metro League in the past and this year, we played in a tougher league, Private Schools Athletic Association which is made up of seven schools.

Sergio: In the league, each game was very competitive. We didn’t have any easy games this year.

ESDAA Soccer: We placed third place in the tournament. First game, we defeated Marie Philip, then we lost to Western Pennsylvania. Next day, we had a very tough game against Ohio and faced American School for the Deaf (Connecticut) for third and fourth place and we defeated American for third place.

Sergio: Yes, the weekend was exhausting. We really worked hard in the tournament and during the weekend, we stayed at the hotel, nevertheless it was successful!

Gabriel: New York School for the Deaf, Fanwood, hosted the tournament and it was very successful. Definitely a great experience and exposure for our young team.

Sergio: Rookie of the Year: This player played for the soccer program for the first time. He was very new to the team. We instantly noticed his willingness to participate, learn and contribute to the team.

Gabriel: This player is young and has a strong background in soccer. This is his first year on the team and his name is Alex. Congratulations!

Sergio: Most Hard Working Player, what does it mean?

Gabriel: It means that the player shows commitment, doesn’t miss practices and always commits to the team. His participation in the lifting room is very strong.

Sergio: We had to move around the players on the field. We placed this player at mid-field and he was the engine for our team!

Gabriel: His motivation improved so much from last year! His name is Christian and congratulations!

Most Improved Player: This player has had a significant improvement from last year. He had the inner understanding of the game and how it is played. We wanted to recognize this player.

Gabriel: We also wanted to recognize that the player is willing to play any position. He played forward, defense and goalie and is an all-around player. Speed is his most important skill and he is very fast around the field. Who? Heriberto! Congratulations!

Sergio: Most Valuable Player. What is its purpose?
Gabriel: The award means we shall recognize the player’s hard work, willingness to participate on the team and have exceptional skills.

Sergio: Emphasizing, very skilled.

Gabriel: This player has a powerful leg and kicks the ball well. He absolutely plays hard on the field. He is everywhere and embraces the challenges on the playing field.

Sergio: His position is center defense. He constantly saves the team by kicking the balls out and is an extraordinary defender.

Gabriel: Who? Tayqwan! Congratulations!

Sergio: We both wanted to say something briefly.

Gabriel: This year is finished. As for the next 2020-2021 season, we’re very excited to work with you again! We are looking forward to it.

Sergio: I’d like to discuss the awards. To the four of you who received awards, congratulations. However, with full understanding, each one of you greatly contributed to the success of the soccer program. You all made this very interesting! We had a very strong collaboration and please, give yourselves a pat on the back!

Gabriel: We can’t forget and we would like to thank the managers for their help! The players, managers, coaches and the Athletic Director really made a great team together.

Gabriel and Sergio wave farewell!

**VARSITY VOLLEYBALL:**

Carl: I am here on the behalf of the volleyball team.

Carl: Overall record - 3 Wins and 10 Losses. However, our team was extremely young and we look forward to their progress. I want to emphasize that this team was actually wonderful and the potential is there. In PSAA, we have 1 win and 9 losses and rest of the wins and losses are against deaf schools.

Carl: Our season outlook: Deaf Awareness Volleyball tournament- Second Place and ESDAA Volleyball, third place out of 12 teams. Moving forward to the awards!

Carl: The four awards: Most improved, Most Hard Working, Rookie of the Year and Most Valuable player.
Carl: First award, Most Improved Player. From last year to this year, she made a huge leap in the volleyball program. We are impressed with her performance, motivation and her hard work! We are definitely looking forward to her progress! The award goes to Julianna V. Congratulations!

Carl: Second award, Most Hard Working Player. This player is so outspoken in Schoology, and really motivates her team. She makes sure the team stays together and she practices really hard! She always emphasizes a positive attitude in games, plays hard, works hard, and is everywhere on the court. She is a true definition of HARD WORK. The award goes to Alexandra. Congratulations!

Carl: Third award, Rookie of the year. Emphasizing the awesomeness of this player! She is currently an 8th grade student and was ready to join the varsity team. She had a big impact on the team already! My favorite story about her: we were down six and she was next to serve and she ended up winning for the team based on her serves alone. Again, she was in 8th grade! We truly look forward to her individual growth. The award goes to Jordana. Congratulations!

Carl: Fourth award, Most Valuable Player. I want everyone to understand that this is her first year on the volleyball team and she is a sophomore. She has extraordinary athleticism, strong commitment, doesn’t miss practices or games. For her first year, she blew everyone away with her skillset of leaps, backhands, hitting and serving. Her impact can’t go unnoticed! The award goes to Brianna. Congratulations!

Carl: Congratulations to all award winners! We look forward to seeing you all this fall. Let’s go Blue Jays Volleyball!

**VARSIY BOYS BASKETBALL:**

Sheldon: Before we move forward on the Boys Basketball awards, I would like to recognize our two managers, Sarker and Steve, for their hard work, commitment and helping the team’s preparation for the games. Coach Adam and I couldn’t do it without you both and thank you!

Sheldon: We have two seniors, Tayqwan and Steve.

Sheldon: Boys Basketball’s overall record is 9 Wins and 10 Losses and PSAA’s record would be 0 wins and 7 losses. In NJ Tip Off, we placed as champions! Our NJ Tip Off All-Tournament players were David and Tayqwan. We attended the Big East Classic at Fanwood and during the weekend, we were 1-1. At ESDAA, hosted by Pennsylvania School for the Deaf, we placed 2nd out of 8 teams, which is great. Our All-Stars were Jayden, Tayqwan and Adem.

Sheldon: Deaf Digest All American: Jayden
Sheldon: NDIAA Honorable Mention: Jayden
Adam: My name is Adam and I am the head coach for Boys Basketball. I wanted to take the opportunity to wish everyone well through this hard time. I also hope everyone is in good health and is staying safely at home.

Adam: This year, wow, what a ride. However, without challenges, what is growth? I want to take the time to announce the Rookie of the Year and Most Improved Player.

Adam: Rookie of the Year goes to Alex. Alex is a young man but his potential is ahead of his measure. Alex is currently in the 8th grade and was not sure about joining Varsity, as it was intimidating to him. He felt he couldn’t play at that level and we respected him. Later, he changed his mind and agreed to join. Now, look at him, he succeeded by grabbing Rookie of the Year. Congratulations!

Adam: Most Improved Player goes to Adem. I remember meeting him in his sophomore year and now he is in 11b. During his sophomore year, he had no confidence and always passed the ball. He denied his shots. Now, in 11B, he always instantly shoots from the tip off! Congratulations, boys.

Sheldon: Hello, my name is Wesley (Nickname). I am the assistant coach for the Varsity basketball team. We definitely had a great season! We participated in a new league this year, Private Schools Athletic Association, a tremendous challenge. Like Adam said, without challenges, how can we learn and improve?

Sheldon: I am pleased to announce the Most Hard Working Player. This player really works hard! This player desires to improve in each aspect of his game. He also is motivated to practice and play hard. He makes contributions to rebounding, defense and offense altogether. The award goes to David, congratulations!

Sheldon: Second award, Most Valuable Player. This award means: character, leadership, commitment, patience and respect. This person contributes greatly to both ends of the court. He has tons of commitment and always shows up to practices and games. He is considered a wonderful leader to his team. He always invests in his teammates by giving advice, giving and accepting feedbacks, and is willing to make adjustments for the team. This award goes to Jayden, congratulations!

**VARSITY GIRLS BASKETBALL:**

Gerry: Hello, My name is Gerry and my assistant coach is....

Amanda: Amanda

Gerry: Now, our girls’ year, 2019-2020. We had a great year!
Gerry: Before we start our awards, I would like to thank our administration and our Athletic Director, Carl, for hosting a very successful ESDAA Girls Basketball Tournament. We had full support from everyone! We won our ESDAA championship at Lexington and that is wonderful.

Gerry: Our record is 12 Wins and 9 losses. Our season outlook: We won two tournaments and they were NJ Tip-Off and ESDAA Girls Basketball.

Gerry: NJ Tip-Off All Tournament: Ava and Brianna

Gerry: ESDAA All-Tournament Team: Ava, Julianna and Lawryn

Gerry: PSAA Conference: Ava and Brianna

Gerry: NDIAA Honorable Mention: Brianna and last one, Deaf Digest All American: Ava

Gerry: Great job to all the girls!

Gerry: We will be doing the awards! First award: Rookie of the year. This award goes to the player who joined the team for the first time. She has shown commitment by attending all practices and games. She is very motivated as well! We see the “off the bench” role as 6th woman as very important to the team. Now, I am sure you all know who! This award goes to Keferny M. Congratulations!

Amanda: Next award, Most Improved Player. This year, this player’s best game was in the championship game. She truly saved the team in the tournament. During the game, she had tons of steals and rebounds. She also helped tighten the score as well and helped the Girls to win their championship. Who is this person? The award goes to Lawryn, congratulations!

Amanda: Next award, Most Hard Working Player. This person showed so much commitment by attending to practices and games. She has truly taken it all during the process in the season. We will never forget her breakout game against Avenues as she made 17 points and grabbed so many rebounds. During the game, she made few mistakes but kept going as the game continued. The award goes to Brianna, congratulations!

Gerry: Next award, Most Valuable Player. She has taken a huge step this season from last year. She is described as fearless, experienced, confident, and she runs the team. This player carried this team to two championships. In the NJ Tip Off, she scored the game winning shot between the half court and three-point line; Lexington won the championship! During the ESDAA tournament, she really carried the team by making the right plays and controlling the games. She has significantly improved from last year and we have her for the next 4 years! She also is still growing! This award goes to Ava - congratulations!

Gerry: Last award, Anne Leo Memorial Award. This player had an injury year, however, she did not give up. She gave so much commitment to the team by constantly improving every day. In
the championship game, she truly saved the team by beating the full court press and bringing the ball past the half court. The award goes to Alexandra, congratulations!

Gerry: One more thing, it is important to thank our managers! They worked so hard during the season by filling up water bottles, collecting the uniforms and much more. We would like to thank May and Tiana, and also we would like to thank the Boys Basketball managers, Sarker and Steve, for helping us as well.

Amanda: We would also like to recognize our three seniors this year! Our three seniors are: Lawryn, Keferny and Vanessa. They have dedicated so much to the basketball program and we are honored to have them. We want to wish you all the best of luck in your next chapter of life.

Gerry: Last thing, we terribly miss our Girls and we haven't seen you all for a long time. Please be safe and keep up the good work in school. Hopefully, in the future, the basketball season will continue. Please stay in touch!

Amanda: Keep it up by lifting!

Gerry and Amanda: Thank you and good luck!

MIDDLE SCHOOL CO-ED BASKETBALL:

Hello, my name is Phillip Aronson and I am the head coach of Middle School Basketball. I would like to thank Carl Sorrentino for making the schedule and his willingness to add more games due to some cancellations. Our team’s record, 8 wins and 3 losses. What a great season! I’d like to thank Andy Cruz, my assistant coach. He has done a great job and made my life easier, truly. Special thanks to the manager, Kariana, and she has done a great job! She has helped me so much with my computer skills. Thank you! Middle School Basketball team, you all have done a fabulous job and I enjoyed having you all. I’d like to share my favorite story of a very great game against Martin Luther, we lost by 1 but I am still very proud of our efforts.

Phil: We went to New Jersey to play against the deaf school. We won by 6 points and 11 players out of 12 made a point. We also played against another New Jersey school and won by one. It was unbelievable due to no referees and I was proud of our team persevering and eking out by one.

Phil: We have four awards, Most Valuable Player and Most Improved, and I will allow Andy to announce the awards. I will be doing the Rookie of the Year and Best Defensive Player.

Phil: Rookie of the Year. This player immediately was on the starting five. He is an excellent rebounder and improved every game. He has motivation to do better! This award goes to Naquan, congratulations.
Phil: Second award, Best Defensive Player. This player? WOW! Very aggressive and helps the team so much. She plays like Dennis Rodman, the NBA’s best defensive player. Regardless of her getting hurt, she kept playing. This award goes to Jordana, congratulations!

Andy: Hello Middle School Basketball team! Lexington Family! My name is Andy Cruz and I am the assistant coach. I have three things to discuss with you.

Andy: Most Improved Player goes to Eliana. Congratulations! You definitely deserved it. At the start of the season, you were scared, shy and the confidence was not there yet. We believed in you and as the season went on, you kept improving and continued to shoot and dribble more. Congratulations again.

Andy: Most Valuable Player, who? Abraham. At the start of the season, you were a bit passive and chill. As the season went on, your game became better. You also played many positions, and it was tough memorizing all of the plays. You slowly got it together as the season progressed. You have really led the team by making the plays and caused disruptions on the defense. Congratulations! You have a bright future.

Andy: Family and team. I love you all! I know we had a lot of room of improvement. I saw a lot of potential in each one of you. Regardless of the good and bad times, Coach Phil and I enjoyed working with you all. The same thing applies to life: You will have many good times and bad times and it is important to enjoy both. During the good times, it’s a blessing and the bad times will be lessons. I hope you still work on your game! Take some time daily to work on your game. I hope next year maybe we will still have basketball! Can’t wait to see you all again.

Phil: Thank you, Andy. I would like to thank three players as they all are in the 8th grade. This will be their last year on the Middle School Basketball team before going to Varsity.

Phil: Robinho, thank you for all you do. You did a great job this year. You showed and taught many players on the team. Good luck entering high school this fall. Please do not give up and you will do great!

Phil: Jordana, from first year to third year, you made significant improvements. You kept shooting more and your defense is great. Best of luck!

Phil: Dana, I hope you will play on Varsity next year. I believe in you!
Phil: All of the middle school players, keep practicing. Stay safe and see you all in the fall. Have a great summer! Thank you.

**VARSITY CHEERLEADING:**

Shaunina: Hello my name is Shaunina Young and I am the head coach for Cheerleading. I wanted to say I am very impressed with the team this year! They have worked so hard, supported each other through our ups and downs. I am proud to be their coach!
Shaunina: In ESDAA, we placed second and won the Creative Dancing award. This year, the team has truly worked so hard and as the season continued, they have improved tremendously. Next year, I definitely expect to see this team go to the next level. Our goal is to get first place in ESDAA cheerleading, hopefully.

Shaunina: As for our seniors, we have five. You all will be greatly missed. Our seniors were the key to our success this year. Some will go to college or work, I wish you all luck in your future endeavors.

Shaunina: I am going to go ahead with the awards, starting with our Most Valuable Player.

Shaunina: This award goes to Dorgianny, congratulations!

Shaunina: Most Hard Working Player award goes to Anyara, congratulations!

Shaunina: Most Improved Player award goes to Dudu, congratulations!

Shaunina: Have a great summer, rest well, take care, try to have fun and see you in the fall!

LEXINGTON ATHLETICS SPECIAL AWARDS:

Manager of the Year, Carl Sorrentino: This year, we had a large group of managers. I’ve also called them the dream team for managers. This group is a very strong group and consists of many former athletes and they’ve shown strong leadership. Winners of the award- Female Manager goes to May, congratulations! Male Manager goes to Luis, congratulations! Again, this year’s group is an absolutely strong group.

Tom Whalen Unsung Hero Award, Carl Sorrentino: Hello! The award, Tom Whalen Unsung Hero Award, is for the athletes who have contributed so much to the athletics program and often go unnoticed. They like to work behind the scenes and keep it moving. We appreciate you both!

Winners of the awards: Michael M and Julianna V. Congratulations!

Betty Nower Scholar Athlete Award, Frank Dattolo: Hello athletes! Congratulations all for coming and watching our students getting awards. I am honored to announce the Betty Nower Athletic Award. Frank is signing Betty Nower as BN as her sign name. Looking back, when I worked in Lexington in my first year as a teacher, Betty Nower was my High School supervisor. Betty Nower herself is a Child of a Deaf Adult (CODA) and her parents are deaf. She worked at Lexington for 40 years! She started as a teacher and moved up as supervisor. I only worked under her for a year and that was when her time came up. We always value her! She always believed in each student and believed their success. She has encouraged everyone and had a warm personality with an infectious smile. She had tremendous patience and support and I was proud having her as my supervisor. It is my honor to announce the Betty Nower award! The
criteria for the award? Between sophomores to seniors with the highest GPA and the winners of the award? It is my pleasure to announce the winners of the highest GPA: Alexandra and Elghin. Congratulations to both. Congratulations to all student athletes and please keep it up. Remember, please keep a balance of academics and athletics! Take care all.

Bill Byrd Sportsmanship Award, Carlos Aponte-Salcedo: I looked at the definition of Sportsmanship - meaning: Fairness, showing respect to other teams and showing humility and appreciation regardless of the outcome while playing sports in Fall, Winter and Spring. The award also represents the SOAR expectations in Lexington. Safe, Open-mindedness, Accountability and Respect. The winners of 2019-2020 Bill Byrd Sportsmanship Award are Alexandra and David, congratulations!

Male and Female Athlete of the Year, Jane Moran: Hello all, sports awards are always a special night for those who participate in athletics. We want to recognize those who have helped Lexington thrive. Thank you, athletes! Remember, athletics and academics are supposed to be balanced, just like you have to balance in life, right? Now, the two awards, Male and Female Athlete of the year. What is the criteria? Academic excellence, leadership, wonderful overall performance, team player, and commitment to sports. The winner of the Male Athlete of the Year goes to Tayqwan. The winner of the Female Athlete of the Year goes to Brianna. Congratulations to both!

Carl- The sports awards have concluded. I am very proud of our students! I wanted to show my utmost appreciation to our coaches. Annually, I have always said this, and I continue to say it, our coaches are the backbone of the athletics program. It is not me, because I do the hiring and I supervise the coaches. The coaches prepare the program, they develop practices and usually have to come up with strategies in the games. They are also the role models for our students as well! Thank you, Coaches, for all you do!

Carl- Secondly, how does our Athletics program continue? Our students. Without you, we do not have a program. The students’ involvement ensures the Athletics program moves forward. Thank you, students! I am honored to introduce our Superintendent, Russell West, as this is his first athletic awards. Russell West will provide the closing message.

Russell: Hello Bluejay Nation! I am thrilled to have you all with us tonight. Tonight, we are celebrating achievements and what kind of achievements? Our student athletes. This has been a great year since the fall and yes, we’ve had an impact because of Covid-19 and it forced us to close the building. We’ve had to start distance learning and it has been three months! Did we expect this? No. Did we let COVID-19 define us? Absolutely not. We will be celebrating our achievements from fall to now. You should be proud! I am very proud as my first year as superintendent. I’ve enjoyed coming to some of the games and I always enjoy hearing stories in Lexington sports and I am very proud of the Lexington Community. Athletics are a very important program that we offer and why is it important? Opportunities for the students. It’s all about experiences and learning beyond the classroom. I wanted to take the time to recognize the achievements the students made this year. Our Soccer team earned third place in ESDAA.
Our volleyball team won third place in ESDAA. Our Girls Basketball won NJ Tip Off championship and in ESDAA, we won it all on our home court! Our Boys Basketball won NJ Tip Off championship and placed second in ESDAA. Our Cheerleading team won second place in ESDAA. Wow for all of the achievements and I am very proud. This is what makes Lexington special because the students cherish our Bluejays. I’d like to talk about the pep rally! It was a very memorable experience with the recognition of all the teams and individuals at Lexington. We also recognized our student leaders. It was beautiful seeing kids and adults being involved in the pep rally and I was inspired. I truly wish we could get together and celebrate the achievements in person but that didn’t happen. I still want to thank you and the community for being involved. I appreciate the Lexington community’s strong loyalty and support. I truly look forward to us getting together again. I truly miss you all and I miss interacting with the Lexington community. Before I close, I wanted to say as a superintendent, I am very proud of you all and I am proud of the Lexington community. GO BLUEJAYS!