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AGAWAM

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Title Town



The Agawam High School boys lacrosse team is the Western Mass. champions.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI

Strong second half wins Western Mass. title for Brownies

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

SPRINGFIELD— When Agawam senior Brayden Federico woke up last Saturday morning, he felt confident that his lacrosse team would defeat Valley Wheel league rival Minnechaug Regional and capture the Western Mass. Class A championship title for the first time.

Federico led the way offensively with five goals and an assist, as the top-seeded Brownies pulled away during the second half for a 13-6 victory over the second-seeded Falcons at Berte Field located on the Springfield Central campus.

“Our main goal coming into this season was to win the Western Mass. title,” said Federico, who’ll be playing college lacrosse at the University of New England next year. “When I woke up this morning, I had a pretty good feeling that it would be our day. It was a lot of fun, especially doing it against Minnechaug. We know each other very well and it’s always a physical game against them.”

It was the third meeting of the season between the Valley Wheel rivals.

Agawam, who finished the regular season with a 13-4 overall record, won the first

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Boys volleyball outlasts competition at Western Mass.

By Gregory A. Scibelli
gscibelli@turley.com

AGAWAM – The Agawam High School boys volleyball team has been a dominant force for several seasons with little deviation.

Their top competition in recent years has been Westfield High School, with the two teams exchanging wins and losses, as well as Western Mass. championships. Agawam has been on the winning side more recently however, with two state

championships in three years.

The state championship playoff brackets had yet to come out, and Agawam’s playoff competition has already heated up.

In two matchups, Agawam has been playing to the maximum, defeating Chicopee Comprehensive 3-2 on May 19 in the Western Mass. Class A Tournament semifinals.

Then, Agawam went up

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The Class A Western Mass. Champion Agawam boys volleyball team.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY WWW.SWEETDOGPHTOS.COM



Memorial Day festivities

Above, Revolutionary War reenactors march in the Agawam Memorial Day parade. Left, Mayor Christopher Johnson waves to the townspeople. See story and more photos on page 12.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI

Agawam Library hosts author Karen Warfield

By Christina Gioscia
Correspondent

AGAWAM – On Monday May 11, Agawam Public Library hosted author Karen Warfield who discussed her book, “The Emancipation of Hannah Fathye Winslow: A Woman’s Journey in Colonial America.” Her book is historical fiction. Kristen Frost, adult services library associate, introduced Warfield. Warfield kicked off the discussion with a skit where

she spoke to the audience using the form of English used during the colonial era, and kindly asked if she could remove her hat. The point of this portion of the discussion was for Warfield to show how hard things were for women back in the colonial era. During the discussion Warfield showed the audience all the research she did to make sure her book was historically accurate. She gave audience

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Successful injunction allows AHS softball into Western Mass. finals

By Gregory A. Scibelli
gscibelli@turley.com

AGAWAM – Last Thursday, one day after Agawam High School softball successfully advanced to the Western Mass. finals with a defeat of Westfield, the mayor filed a court injunction to prevent Agawam from being disqualified from the game due to a clerical error.

The error, which almost got Agawam completely disqualified from the Western Mass. tournament, involved the lack of a three-game commitment in the system used to schedule games. Agawam was only scheduled for two TBA games per the MIAA and the Pioneer Valley Inter-scholastic Athletic Confer-

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SPORTS

Brownies advance to Western Mass. finals



Kiley Ryan swings and connects on a base hit. Right: Avery Gordon pitches for the Brownies.

AGAWAM – The Agawam High School softball team, which was the subject of controversy after a clerical error nearly disqualified the Brownies from the Western Mass. tournament, got through the quarterfinals and semifinals last week, earning the berth in the finals

through wins over Central High School and rival Westfield High School. Following a court injunction (see related story), the Brownies were scheduled to face East Longmeadow in the finals last Saturday. Highlights from that matchup will be in next week's edition.



Taylor Stairs sends a throw to first.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI



Pinch-runner Reece Glynn retreats back to first.



Payton Malanson rounds second and heads for third.



Alexina Lentes gets her lead off third.

International Volley Hall of Fame announces Class of 2026

HOLYOKE – The International Volleyball Hall of Fame (IVHF) is proud to announce its 2026 induction class, with the official ceremony scheduled for October 17 in Holyoke, Mass., USA, the Birthplace of Volleyball. This prestigious group of nine legends, representing eight distinct disciplines within the sport, has been selected for their history-making contributions, standard-setting excellence as global icons on the field of play and significant impact off the court. In addition, four special award honorees will also be honored for their contributions to the sport.

The 40th IVHF induction class features transformational leader and former FIVB President Dr. Ary Graça (Brazil, leader); three-time Olympian and FIVB World Champion April Ross (United States, female beach player); two-time Olympic Gold Medalist and legendary libero Fabiana “Fabi” Alvim (Brazil, female indoor player); two-

time Olympian and World Cup Gold medalist Yoel “Joël” Despaigue (Cuba, male indoor player); four-time Olympian and two-time World Champion Ekaterina Gamova (Russia, female indoor player); three-time Olympian and two-time World Champion Alison Cerutti (Brazil, male beach player); legendary player who also coached his country's first Olympic Gold Medal-winning team Laurent Tillie (France, coach); the architect of Paralympic inclusion Denis Le Breuilly (England, ParaVolley) and three-time Olympic referee Takashi Shimoyama (Japan, referee).

Also announced are four special award winners, recognized for their contributions to the IVHF or the global sport of volleyball itself. They include the late Gabriel Cherebetiu (Mintonette Medallion of Merit, Romania/Mexico), John Cook (Mayoral Award of Excellence, United States), Starlings USA (Court of Honor, United States) and Alejandro

Coccia (Award for Media Excellence, Argentina).

“The IVHF 2026 Induction Class brings together some of the most outstanding figures in our sport. Big congratulations to the inductees and to the IVHF Leadership,” said Fabio Azevedo, President of the FIVB. “The entire Global Volleyball Movement thanks and fully supports the excellent work carried out by the IVHF in promoting the values, legacy and heritage of our sport by honoring the athletes, leaders and officials who have made an exceptional contribution to the development of volleyball and beach volleyball around the world. Celebrating these legends strongly aligns with the FIVB Strategic Vision 2032, and our continued partnership with the IVHF helps bring this vision to life. Together as One!”

All told, the IVHF has inducted 185 individuals from 27 countries into its historic Hall of Fame - those totals will rise to 194 inductees from 28

countries after the 2026 event, as this will be England's first inductee. Three of the inductees also earned one of their votes by winning the Fan Vote for their respective category. More detailed information on each inductee can be found below.

“The International Volleyball Hall of Fame continues to serve as a bridge between the sport's remarkable history and its exciting future,” said Steve Bishop, President of the IVHF Board of Directors. “The Class of 2026 reflects the worldwide growth, diversity, excellence, and enduring legacy of volleyball across every level and discipline of the game. On behalf of the International Volleyball Hall of Fame Board of Directors, we are proud to honor these extraordinary individuals whose achievements and lifelong contributions have helped inspire generations of athletes, coaches, officials, leaders, and fans while continuing to shape the future of our sport around the world.”

The 2026 International Volleyball Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony will take place in Holyoke, Massachusetts, USA on Saturday, October 17, 2026. The event is open to the public on a first-come, first-served basis, and ticket packages are available online now at VolleyHall.org/Induction-Celebration.

“This is one of the most historically significant classes ever assembled by the International Volleyball Hall of Fame,” said George Mulry, Executive Director of the IVHF. “Collectively, the Class of 2026 and this year's special award recipients have helped shape, elevate and redefine the sport of volleyball across multiple eras, disciplines and continents. From Olympic champions and transformational global leaders to innovators in coaching, officiating, media and ParaVolley, their influence can be seen in nearly every corner of the game today. Together, they represent the evolution of volleyball itself —

honoring the sport's rich history while inspiring its future generations.”

Volleyball enthusiasts are encouraged to sign up for the IVHF Insider e-newsletter for behind-the-scenes and exclusive content before, during and after Induction Weekend, including the new series “The Road To Holyoke.” To sign up for free, please visit ivhf.org/

The International Volleyball Hall of Fame is a 501c3 nonprofit based in Holyoke, Mass., and is dedicated to honoring the legends, recognizing the greats and preserving the history of volleyball at all levels - men and women, amateur and professional players, coaches and contributors, around the world. The IVHF was incorporated in 1978 and continues to create a diversely representative institution from a wide range of countries and disciplines. For more information on the induction events, please visit the Hall's website at www.ivhf.org or email info@ivhf.org.