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Timothy W. Gleason, Commissioner

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For Immediate Release
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Capital's Pelanda Named June OAC Scholar-Athlete of the Month

Twinsburg, OH-- Capital senior **Brian Pelanda (Marysville)** has been named the Ohio Athletic Conference (OAC) Scholar-Athlete of the Month for June.

In its eighth year of existence, the OAC Scholar-Athlete of the Month honors an exceptional student-athlete on a monthly basis. Criteria for the award consist of the student-athlete being of sophomore, junior or senior status, competition in a sport that is in-season, sportsmanlike conduct and carrying at least a cumulative grade-point average (gpa) of 3.0.



Life can be pretty difficult as a full time student but being a student-athlete can add an all-new element to the equation, but Capital University senior Brian Pelanda takes it all in stride—literally.

Brian is a four-year letterwinner on the indoor and outdoor track and field teams. During the indoor season, he helped the Crusaders to a sixth place finish scoring points in the 400 meter dash and as a part of the 4x400 meter relay team. He also was on the 2005 indoor squad that set a school-record in the 4x400 meter relay.

Being a student athlete is nothing new to the Marysville, Ohio native, but he says the collegiate level does add something different to his schedule.

“The high school track season is like a month and a half long and there’s not a lot outside of school,” Brian said. “In college you’ve got to balance everything: school, meetings, group projects, and everything else and still make it to practice by 4 o’clock. The first couple of years it was a really hard transition.”

Eventually Brian adjusted and has managed to earn a 3.798 grade point average and is graduating with a Bachelor’s degree in History. By his senior year added another element to his already busy schedule as he was elected President of the Student Government.

Brian takes pride that he has been able to balance academics, athletics and extra-curricular pursuits. “One of the misconceptions is that athletes are all about their teams and having fun. While it is fun to be involved in athletics it is not easy.”

Politics is Brian’s career ambition so becoming the leader of student body representation on campus seemed like the reasonable step towards that goal. Adding on this new responsibility wasn’t very hard for Pelanda to undertake; he feels that his problem-solving nature coupled with being a student-athlete has prepared him for this role.

“Being in the sport gives you structure throughout the week. When you’re in a sport you have practice every single day at the same time and every weekend you’ve got a meet, so you don’t have the opportunity to procrastinate,” Brian says. “I’ve learned more in athletics than I’ve learned anywhere else. It’s that discipline and learning how to work with people. I feel that responsibility and I’m conditioned to that a lot through athletics.”

After graduation, Brian plans on continuing his education by attending graduate school at the University of Akron.

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Capital Sports Information Assistant, Monique Bowman, is credited for much of this feature.

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