SHELBY COUNTY ATHLETIC LEAGUE SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS ANNOUNCED

The Shelby County Athletic League has awarded their annual scholarship to two graduating seniors, one female and one male. Each school nominated two representatives, and the scholarship committee, consisting of representation from each district in the league, met to select the winners. Minimum requirements include a 3.5 GPA and a varsity letter in two sports for two years or one sport for three years.

The winners of the $1000 scholarships from the class of 2026 this year were Makenna Vondenhuevel (Houston) and Cooper Unverferth (Russia).

A versatile competitor, Makenna earned nine varsity letters during her high school career: two in basketball, three in volleyball, and four in softball. Makenna truly excelled on the softball field. Makenna earned Second Team All-SCAL honors in 2024, followed by First Team All-SCAL and SCAL Player of the Year accolades in 2025. She finished her high school career with another First Team All-SCAL selection in 2026. In 2025, she was named to the Southwest District Second Team and was an All-State Honorable Mention selection. In 2026, she was selected Honorable Mention All-Southwest District. Makenna was an elite pitcher who holds the all-time school record for both single-season and career strikeouts. Makenna's dedication extended beyond athletics. A true student-athlete, she graduated as a valedictorian of her class, maintaining a 4.0 GPA. Makenna plans to attend Shawnee State University.

Cooper was a dedicated multi-sport athlete who earned varsity letters in baseball all four years and basketball for two years. During his senior season, he was named SCAL Player of the Year in baseball. He was a two-time First Team All-SCAL selection in baseball and also earned Second Team All-SCAL honors in basketball. Throughout his high school career, Cooper was a member of four state tournament teams: one in basketball and three in baseball. In the classroom, he excelled as well, graduating with a 3.57 GPA. Cooper is continuing his education at Sinclair Community College, where he is enrolled in the Fire Academy program.

Congratulations to Makenna and Cooper, and we wish them the best of luck as they move forward in their future endeavors!