



PRESS RELEASE

Warren Police Athletic League helps High School State Champions purchase Championship Rings

The Warren Police Department is proud to share how the Police Athletic League (PAL) helped local varsity high school student athletes commemorate their historic year. The Lincoln High School 2024 boys' varsity basketball team became Division II State Champions for the first time in the history of the Lincoln School District! This historic team was coached by head coach Wydell Henry with the Abes defeating Grand Rapids Christian on 03/16/2024 by a score of 53-39. The entire team was recognized within the district as well as by Warren Mayor Lori M. Stone. A victory parade was also held with the team being recognized at the State Capitol for their historic achievement. Like all champions, the Abes were very excited to obtain their championship rings.

However, the expense of purchasing the 20 plus rings is an expense that could not come from the school budget. As such, it became quite clear that outside funding would be necessary to help the team obtain their well-earned rings. While funding and donations were being discussed, the Warren Police School Resource Officers (SROs) overheard the discussion and instantly knew what needed to be done. With the full support of the entire Warren Police Department, the Police Athletic League (PAL) was able to donate \$2,000 towards the final purchase of the championship rings! This donation allowed the rings to start being made for the players, coaches, and staff. Lincoln High School alumni, and current head of Warren PAL, Officer Deandre Tucker was able to present the donation check to Coach Henry. This initial payment helped ensure that the team would be able to remember this once in a lifetime event for many years to come!

Commissioner Rushton stated that "this is community policing at its finest. The School Resource Officers recognized a need in the community and knew that Warren PAL could help. Our SROs and PAL officers have established great working relationships with Lincoln High School and the other districts in the community. These officers play many different roles in helping students. This is yet another example of the police and community uniting for the common good."

Warren Mayor Lori M. Stone added "I am grateful for the generosity of PAL for recognizing the accomplishment of kids in our community. As a teacher, I understand how the work, drive, and determination of student athletes have bigger impacts on their lives. As Mayor, I was proud to celebrate the Lincoln High School Varsity Basketball team with a reception at city hall in recognition of how much impact their championship has beyond individual accomplishments. This victory promotes a sense of pride for classmates, families, the school district, and the community as a whole. The fact that the School Resource Officers stepped up to find the resources to ensure these student athletes receive this symbol to remember their accomplishments is a testimony to the value of relationships that are forged within a community."

While the PAL donation was sizeable, other funding is still necessary to ensure that all players, coaches, and necessary staff receive a championship ring. There is a current GoFundMe account set up for those who would like to donate. With the community's help, let's make these championship rings a reality for every member of this historic winning team. **If interested, please see the link at <https://gofund.me/b30c164b>.**



Lincoln Abes, 2024 State Champs



Head Coach Wydell Henry with Championship Trophy

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**For further information, please contact Warren Police
Commissioner Charles Rushton @ 586-574-4803**