

Student Employee of the Year Nomination 2022

Nominee: John Askin

Supervisor: Kelly Valentine

Athletics- Marketing & Promotion

It is with great pleasure that I nominate Monmouth University senior, John Askin as the Monmouth Athletics Marketing Student Employee of the Year nominee. John is a senior finance major who currently holds a 3.8 GPA and is a 4-year letter winner for the Monmouth Men's Soccer program. John also serves as the Monmouth Student Athlete Advisory Committee (MSAAC) President, and is among the highest achieving student-athletes in community service hours. That all being said, John has still managed to not only keep a federal work study job with our department, but has excelled in every aspect of it.

John joined our team in the fall, while in soccer season, and immediately prioritized learning every aspect of the job. While the athletics schedule is quite demanding in the fall for a men's soccer player, John completed weekly office hours, where he was able to take on a different role than most marketing assistants (who primarily work game days). He assisted in creating and preparing game day operations, social media plans, and combined his role as MSAAC President to work with various on-campus groups to help promote student attendance at home athletics events. John became a regular member of our office, joining us for various planning meetings and offering the "student side" of idea and content generation. While he has gone above and beyond expectation many of times, one of the most impressive displays of his dedication to our department has been his willingness to work on his own game days. We played home football games on days that conflicted with home and away men's soccer games and John would still insist on coming to work as much of the football games as he could (and would then quite literally sprint to change in the locker room and hop on a bus). John only continued to impress us at the conclusion of his fall season, when he had more availability to work. He quickly emerged as a leader amongst our much smaller than usual, staff, demonstrating skills that we really only see in our full-time employees. He is the person I pair all of our new employees with for training, as he not only has an incredible ability and natural inclination for working with people, but he continues to be the highlight for all of our new employees when it comes to the onboarding process. He is the first student employee I have ever had that led a home men's basketball in-game production on his own (for reference, this is not even something that I have even done- it normally takes minimally 2/3 people- I missed my first game in 7 years and John led our student team to conduct a full game with on court and in game promotions, the videoboard, music, every element in a game that is not the game itself being played, all without me being there, and I cannot tell you how impressed by this I still am).

While John's ability to master the various tasks of this position are nothing short of amazing, his character and persona are truly what have made the biggest impact on our department. John brings a consistent energy to any and all tasks that he completes at work. While aspects of this job are not always glamorous, like putting up and taking down the giant Hawks tunnel you see at every home football game, John always finds a way to make an experience not only a positive one but even fun. That

energy and attitude is infectious and has positively impacted not only our other student employees, but our professional staff, student athletes, fans, and really anyone who he comes in contact with. John is the definition of a textbook teammate. He is ALWAYS willing and the first to lend a hand to someone in need, whether it be a coworker struggling to master a game script or a little, future Hawk competing in the "Dress Like a Player" competition at halftime of a basketball game. He is extremely dependable and reliable with communication and professional skills that are nothing short of immaculate. He has been a leader amongst our student staff, assisting in training all new employees in various areas and tasks. This has not only generated a group of students who will be leaving Monmouth with a skill set and experience necessary for any career in the sports industry, but that are transferable to just about any area in life they may choose to pursue. In a year (or two at this point) that has been challenging for so many reasons, one being a significantly smaller student staff than I have previously had, John has greatly stepped up and proven the age old "quality over quantity." Every year that I nominate a student, I feel the need to stress the difficulty of the positions that they take on in our marketing office as in a majority of schools, these roles are filled by professional "adults" who are full-time staff members. I've thrown just about everything you could imagine John's way and not only has he accepted the challenge every time, he has continued to excel, and might I add, with a smile on his face.

John has used his platform at work and his position as the President of MSAAC to create not only a better experience for others at Monmouth, but has ventured beyond into the local community as well. On campus, he has worked with our department, the MSAAC group and various organizations on campus like the Student Government Association, Student Activities Board, Black Student Athlete Huddle, Spectrum and Athlete Ally to collaborate on a better experience for not only student-athletes, but the general student population. This past winter, John and the other students in MSAAC utilized his position in our department to work with our staff and raise money to buy gifts for the Audrey W. Clark School in Long Branch, which serves students and their families who do not have the means to celebrate the holidays. The group more than doubled the gifts they were able to provide the year before. John has found the way to combine all of his individual roles and resources, including those of this job and on campus, to make a powerful impact not only here at Monmouth, but is taking it a step further and making efforts to better the world. I'm not sure many of us have even figured out how to do that, so to see it from one of my student employees...I'm sure you've figured out by now why he not only earned this nomination from me, but would be an incredible choice to for Monmouth's Student Employee of the Year.