



Penn Station Athlete of the Month –

Student: Joe Nelson Smith Jr.

GPA: 4.0

School: Beech High School

Athletic Director: Bill Alexander

Parents: Christy & Joe Smith

Sibling/s: Alex and Faith Smith

Favorite Penn Station Restaurant: Indian Lake, Hendersonville, TN

Favorite Penn Station Sandwich: Chicken Parmesan

Extracurricular Activities: Beta Club, FCA Leader, National Honors Society Member, Student Council Vice President

Favorite Book: Into the Wild

Role Model: My Parents

Sports Role Model: Derek Jeter

Greatest Achievement So Far: Getting saved and becoming a Christ-follower

Plans After High School: Continue sports in college, get a degree in engineering, be a light to this dark world

How has participating in high school athletics benefited you? High school athletics have taught me many lessons on and off the playing field. Two of these lessons are most significant to myself. First, whatever you do, work at it with all your heart – you never know who is watching and/or who you could impact. Second, don't let your failures define you. Let them refine you.

What made you decide to play the sport for which you were named the Penn Station Athlete of the Month? When I first began playing football, I played for the sheer joy of it (as I still do today). Yet, I soon realized that through my position (QB) I was/am able to significantly impact others' lives for the better.

Quote from Athletic Director: "Nelson is a natural leader both in the classroom and on the field. The only male athlete in our school to play football, basketball, and baseball, Nelson represents the finest qualities of what it means to be a valuable member of one's community." – Bill Alexander



Quote from Principal: “Nelson has not only established himself as a leader on the field of play but also throughout the school with his involvement in organizations such as the Fellowship of Christian Athletes, Beta Club, Student Council, and Deca. His work ethic and his drive to succeed along with his strong moral consciousness makes him a true leader and an exceptional young man worth of any honors you bestow upon him.” – Kenneth Powell