



Michael Peter Horvat Secondary Coaches' Award

Michael Peter Horvat (2000-2017) was an 11th grade honor student at Cedar Shoals HS where he was a member of the track and field team, the basketball team, and the staff of Cedar BluePrints magazine. Michael also attended Whit Davis and Barnett Shoals ES and Hilsman MS. He enjoyed participating in sports and made many friends among his teammates, coaches, and officials. He was part of the East Athens Little League baseball team that won the City Championship when he was in elementary school, and he was a member of the Hilsman Middle School boys basketball team that won the City Championship when he was in eighth grade. As a sophomore, he won the Area Championship in the high jump and went on to score at the state meet, where he was proud to be a part of the Cedar Shoals team that won the 2017 Class 5A State Championship in track and field. Michael was a winner in sports, academics, and life and made an impact on many people. He was a coach's dream who worked hard, didn't complain, was a great teammate, and was always looking to improve. He was an encouraging friend to everyone, a mentor to many, and a supportive ally to those who were different from him.

The *Michael Peter Horvat Secondary Coaches' Award* was established in 2017 by his family to recognize the important role that coaches play in the lives of students. His father and first coach, Dr. Michael Horvat, retired as a kinesiology professor and a national leader in the field of adapted physical education. His mother, Glada Gunnells Horvat, has been a senior administrator in the University of Georgia Athletic Association for over 30 years. His siblings, Ian and Kala, are both honor graduates and former student-athletes at Cedar Shoals HS. The \$500 annual award, first presented in 2018, is for a CCSD employee who serves as a coach on one or more sports teams at the middle and/or high school level, who inspires and motivates student athletes to excel and who promotes the values of teamwork and sacrifice that Michael modeled.



**Past Recipients of the Michael Peter Horvat Secondary Coaches'
Award:**

2018: Stephen Hinson, Clarke Central High School
2019: Jeffrey Burton, Hilsman Middle School
2020: Connor Naughton, Hilsman Middle School
2021: Chris Aiken, Clarke Central High School
Chris Hulse, Clarke Central High School
2022: Josh Campbell, Cedar Shoals High School
2023: Markise Foote, Cedar Shoals High School
2024: William Lance, Clarke Central High School
2025: Daniedra Barnett, Burney Harris Lyons Middle School
2026: Chris Batson, Clarke Middle School