

**COMMENDATIONS & RECOGNITIONS
DECEMBER 2018**

High School

Upper St. Clair High School senior Tommy O'Brien was named a KDKA-TV Extra Effort Award winner for his success on the field and in the classroom. Doug Petrick, high school science teacher and cross country/track coach, nominated Tommy for the award. Tommy has participated in varsity cross country for the last three years and was voted team captain by his peers this year. Tommy finished sixth at the 2018 AAA WPIAL Championships, the highest finish by an individual male USC cross country athlete in more than 30 years. He finished 18th in the PIAA AAA Championship becoming the first male USC cross country athlete to earn a state medal in the past 30 years. In addition to his success in athletics, Tommy is actively involved in the performing arts including choir and musical theater. He currently serves as president of the Pantheon Choir and vice-president of the Men's Ensemble. Volunteerism is also a big part of Tommy's life. Last year, he served as a USC High School junior mentor, helping freshmen students with their transition from middle school to high school and also volunteered for the USC Mini-THON for the last two years.