Dear Committee-

I would like to nominate Sam Johnson for the Dave Pyle New Journalist Award. He began his career at the Press (Osseo-Maple Grove-Champlin-Dayton) in February 2021. He has hit the ground running covering sports, Champlin City Council and city news, along with the Osseo Area School Board since then.

He has taken on covering city news, school board and sports stories. It’s quite a mix of different beats, but he manages to do it with dedication to getting all the important information into his stories for the readers.

In his sports beat, Sam has jumped right into getting to know the coaches on a personal level and establishing those relationships early on each season. He has weekly conversations with the coaches for each of his sport recap stories. Sam has also been able to write some features on coaches who have hit milestones in their careers and even a retirement of a long-time coach.

Another thing he has done is develop relationships with the student athletes. This has allowed him to write several sports feature stories on these athletes, which have been widely-read and praised by the community.

Sam has taken his time covering the Osseo School Board. In these trying times, some of the board meetings have gotten tense, and Sam has been able to get all angles of each topic he is covering. Sometimes this means he has to follow up with a board member after a 3-hour meeting.

Finally, I just want to mention that Sam is a great person and an asset to my team. I think he is the perfect candidate to win the Dave Pyle New Journalist Award.

Sincerely, Alicia Miller

Managing Editor, the Press (Osseo-Maple Grove- Champlin-Dayton)