



NICO PASCUAL-LEONE

CLASS OF 2012

Nico Pascual-Leone is now playing professional soccer in Spain. To get there, he was a standout for the Amherst College men's soccer team. Before that, he was a three-year star at Wayland High School, where he led the boys' team to the Division 2 North final in 2011 by scoring seven goals in four state tournament victories. Nico was a three-time Dual County League All-Star, a two-time Eastern MA All-Star, and was named to the All-State team as a senior captain.

He was joined on that Wayland team by his brother, Andres Pascual-Leone, then a freshman starter for the Warriors, and now following his brother's path as a soccer player for Amherst College.



"One of my favorite memories from Wayland High School soccer is actually preseason from my senior year," said Nico. "The season was looking bright since we had so many returning players, but there were two other things that made the preseason so great. The first was that my brother was there and we got to bond on the way to the 6 a.m. two-mile fitness test. And second was that this was the last year with my senior friends whom I had played with since kindergarten. We were pushing ourselves and the other players during practice, but after, we were just enjoying the time together before classes started and everything got too hectic."



Nico Pascual-Leone stood out in the classroom as well as on the soccer pitch. During his senior season Nico was one of three scholar-athletes from the state and 33 in the country to be named a National Soccer Coaches Association of America All-American.

As a senior forward for Amherst College, Pascual-Leone was named All-New England first team, Scholar All-American and second-team All-American. He scored 13 goals including a double-overtime game winner in the Elite 8

versus Trinity (TX) on the path to clinching the programs first Division 3 national championship.

"The most important award/moment post-Wayland High School was definitely winning a national championship with Amherst," said Pascual-Leone. "I could go on and on about how much it meant to work towards something for so long and how going out on top was a great feeling, but one of the greatest parts was that coach Gavron, his son Jack, and some of my friends from Wayland (Andrew, Dan, and Doug) had come to Kansas City to watch the Final 4 and finals."

"I would like to thank my family, my coaches, and my friends for all their influence on my athletic career, but I would also like to thank all the teachers I have had in Wayland," said Nico. "Unknowingly, they all had a profound influence on my career, especially those who had to put up with me in elementary school when all I wanted was an extra 5 minutes of recess to keep playing soccer."



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