

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Kansas City Sports Commission and Foundation
Names Athletes of the Year**

KANSAS CITY, MO., - The Kansas City Sports Commission (KCSC) has selected area athletes to be honored at the 2007 Annual Awards Banquet. The banquet, in its 35th year, will be on June 19 at the Grand Ballroom in the Kansas City Convention Center.

In addition to the CASEY Award, Lifetime Achievement and Special Achievement Awards, the following honorees just announced: Kansas and Missouri high school and collegiate athletes of the year; sports journalist of the year; amateur sports hall of champions inductees; special athletic achievement award; and the volunteers of the year.

CASEY Award

Dr. Dot Richardson
USA Softball
Two-Time Olympic Gold Medalist

Lamar Hunt Lifetime Achievement Award

Jack Steadman
Kansas City Chiefs
Vice Chairman of the Board

Special Achievement for Professional Athletics

Will Shields
Kansas City Chiefs

Kansas City Collegiate Male and Female Athletes of the Year

Travis Helgeson
University of Georgia
Tennis

Janet Anson
Iowa State University
Gymnastics

Joe McGuff Sports Journalist of the Year

Jack Harry
KSHB-TV, 38 The Sports Spot and Sports Radio 810 WHB

Earl Smith Greater Kansas City Amateur Sports Hall of Champions Inductees

Rick Sutcliffe
Judy Levering

Special Athletic Achievement Award

Arthur Murphy
Special Olympics

Alex George Volunteers of the Year

Susan True
Tom Busch

High School Finalists (award recipients will be announced at the banquet)

Kansas Male

Nick DeBiasse
Lawrence High School
Football and Baseball

Luke Tanner
Shawnee Mission East High School
Swimming

Demetrius Bell
Olathe East High School
Football and Track & Field

- more -

Kansas Female

Megan Bickford
Olathe South High School
Volleyball, Basketball and Softball

Amanda Miller
Olathe East High School
Basketball, Soccer, Cross Country and Track & Field

Brittney Miller
Paola High School
Volleyball, Basketball, Softball and Track & Field

Missouri Male

Conner Teahan
Rockhurst High School
Football and Basketball

Scott O'Donnell
Oak Park High School
Wrestling and Cross Country

Derek Washington
Raymore-Peculiar High School
Football, Basketball and Track & Field

Missouri Female

McKynlee Westman
Smithville High School
Softball, Basketball, Soccer, Cross Country and Track & Field

Logan Thorp
Blue Springs South High School
Golf and Soccer

Michelle Jantsch
St. Teresa's Academy
Volleyball and Soccer

35th Annual Awards Banquet

June 19, 2007

5 p.m. One-on-one media interviews with award recipients

5 p.m. Silent auction & cocktail reception

6:30 p.m. Dinner

Grand Ballroom, Kansas City Convention Center

Kansas City, Missouri

Media welcome to attend - -One-on-one interviews available

About the Banquet: For 35 years, the KCSC has been honoring local athletes and sports advocates and is among the largest gathering of sports celebrities, civic and business leaders, top professional and amateur athletes, and Kansas City area sports fans. The banquet is the chief fundraiser for the 100% privately funded nonprofit Sports Commission. With a small staff, a growing membership, and a big agenda, the Sports Commission makes a big impact in our community. From bringing more health and fitness benefits to youth throughout the metro, to attracting and retaining pro and amateur sports teams and organizations in KC, the Sports Commission is improving the quality of life for individuals, families and businesses in the Kansas City area. For more information: <http://www.sportkc.org>

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