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## **Kansas City Sports Commission to honor outstanding scholar and professional athletes**

KANSAS CITY, MO (June 2012) – The Kansas City Sports Commission & Foundation is excited to announce their annual sports awards honorees. These athletes are being recognized for their achievements and their accomplishments on and off the court and field.

Special Achievement Award for Professional Athletics: Left fielder for the Kansas City Royals, Alex Gordon. Gordon earned his first gold glove after his first year ever playing outfield at the professional level. Gordon also had career highs in average, homeruns, and runs batted in. This award is presented to a professional athlete, coach or administrator in Kansas City that generates outstanding community involvement through education and athletics. The Kansas City Sports Commission & Foundation hopes this award encourages professional sports franchises to promote teamwork, sportsmanship and education in their sports programming.

Collegiate Female Athlete of the Year: outside hitter for Missouri Volleyball Lisa Henning. In 2011, Henning was All-America Third Team selection and AVCA All-Central Region honoree after setting the school record for kills in a single season (523), named to the All-Big 12 First Team as a unanimous selection and was the first Tiger to ever lead the Big 12 in kills per set and points per set during league play in a season. Collegiate Male Athlete of the Year: Marcus Denmon for the 2010-11 season earned First Team All-Big 12 honors after averaging 16.9 points, 3.5 rebounds, 1.8 assists and 1.8 steals per game and leading the Tigers in scoring, 3-point shots made (82) and three-point field goal percentage (.448). Denmon also ranked in the top 10 in the Big 12 in scoring (7th), field goal percentage (5th). These awards honor collegiate athletes in Kansas City that generate outstanding community involvement through athletics and education.

High School Female Athlete of the year: Blue Springs basketball player Tyonna Snow. Snow has helped the Wildcats to three consecutive Missouri Class 5A state runner-up finishes and a 57-5 record the last two seasons. An all-state, all-conference and all-district selection as a junior after posting averages of 14 points and six rebounds per game, Snow has been the Blue Springs High defensive player of the year the past three years and will join her sister Bry at Missouri State. High School Male Athlete of the Year: Lee's Summit West football player Evan Boehm. Boehm won the Simone Award as a senior, which goes annually to the top prep player in the Kansas City metro area becoming the first lineman to ever win the prominent award, while taking home the Buck Buchanan Award for Outstanding Lineman in the Kansas City area as a junior. Boehm has been a 1st-Team All-State and All-Conference selection for the past three seasons, and led his team to the 2010 Missouri State Class 5 championship. He will join the Missouri Tigers this fall. These awards are presented to high school athletes in Kansas City that generate outstanding community involvement through athletics and education.

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Earl Smith Greater Kansas City Amateur Hall of Champions: Volleyball Coach for Bishop Miege Gwenn Pike. Pike has made Miege volleyball a Kansas dynasty since taking over. Coach Pike recently reached 1,000 career wins and she was inducted into the National High School Athletic Coaches Association Hall of Fame in 2006. The Miege volleyball team has won 21 state championships; the last being in 2011. This award recognizes outstanding achievements in amateur athletics by conferring an annual induction ceremony for the Earl Smith Greater Kansas City Amateur Sports Hall of Champions. The induction ceremony and presentation of these awards is intended to be an incentive for the continued pursuit of excellence for athletes, coaches, administrators and sports journalists and to focus public attention on outstanding educational and informational achievements in these categories.

M&I bank Border Showdown Trophy is being presented to the University of Missouri. The trophy presentation will take place at 12:45 p.m. at Mizzou Arena in Columbia, MO. The M&I Bank Border Showdown Series dates back to 2002. Missouri currently has an advantage in the series with a 7-2 lead in titles. Missouri leads the all-time series with a 208-149 point advantage as of the end of the 2010-2011 school year.

Metro Sports/Time Warner Cable will be producing a 30-minute special to highlight all the award winners on July 21 at 7 p.m.

**About The Kansas City Sports Commission & Foundation**

We are the energy that drives athletics and sporting events in Kansas City. We attract, promote and manage sports at every level for the community - from supporting youth programs to producing professional teams. Since 1990, we have helped generate over \$750 million in revenue for the region. If its sports and it benefits the Kansas City metropolitan area, we bring it. SportKC.org

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