



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Four local individuals and one community to be honored at Sports Awards Banquet

KANSAS CITY, MO – The Kansas City Sports Commission will be honoring four outstanding individuals and one community for their commitment and achievements in sports at the 41st Kansas City Sports Commission Awards Banquet on Friday, April 11.

"The individuals being honored display qualities that show their dedication and enthusiasm for sports," said Sarah Dee, Events Director. "From a local High School community that rallied around the loss of a teammate to a Gold Medal Olympic swimmer, our city is filled with outstanding individuals."

Waddell & Reed Executive of the Year: Clark Hunt - For more than a decade, Hunt has been involved in the leadership of the Kansas City Chiefs and currently serves as the club's chairman and CEO. In 2013, he ushered in a new era of leadership, hiring Head Coach Andy Reid and General Manager John Dorsey and saw the team record, the greatest single season turnaround in franchise history on the way to the playoffs.

Kansas City Downtown Marriott Sportsman of the Year: Matt Besler - Sporting Kansas City defender Matt Besler has accumulated many accomplishments on the field including helping Sporting KC win the 2013 MLS Cup. Besler is the top defender in Major League Soccer and helped the U.S. Men's National Team as they qualified for the 2014 FIFA World Cup.

Kansas City Life Sportswoman of the Year: Shannon Vreeland - Blue Valley West High School graduate and current University of Georgia student, Shannon Vreeland is a successful swimmer. This past March the Lady Bulldogs won the NCAA Championships to claim their second consecutive national title. In 2012, as part of the 800-meter free relay, Vreeland won the gold medal at the Olympic Games in London. In 2013, she won gold medals in all three relays at the FINA World Championships.

Burns & McDonnell Coach of the Year: Adam Dorrel - Dorrel became the head football coach at Northwest Missouri State in 2011 then proceeded to rack up wins and awards. In 2013, Dorrel was named American Football Coaches Association Division II National Coach of the Year and his team won the NCAA Division II National Championship after completing a 15-0 season. Adam Dorrel has been a long-time Bearcat.

Sprint Community Champion: Shawnee Mission West Football Community - In 2013, Shawnee Mission West High School lost a star football player, Andre Maloney, when he died of complications from a stroke after scoring a touchdown during a football game. The SMW community came together as a family to help the football team finish a season without their teammate.

Dave Stewart, a senior Sports Anchor and Reporter on Time Warner Cable SportsChannel, formerly Metro Sports, will be the emcee for the evening. Stewart has spent a majority of his career in the sports world on radio and television. For his television work, Stewart earned Mid-America Emmy Awards for Host-Sports Program while at KMBC (1998) and Anchor-Sports Program at Metro Sports (2003). In 2004, he became the first broadcaster to win the Joe McGuff Sports Journalist of the Year Award, presented by the Kansas City Sports Commission and Foundation.

"We are excited to have Dave Stewart back as the emcee of our banquet," said Kathy Nelson, President & CEO. "Dave does a great job as emcee and since he knows the award winners, I'm sure he will have a few stories to tell."

The Awards Banquet will be Friday, April 11 at the Kansas City Downtown Marriott-Muehlebach Towers. A VIP Reception will start at 5:30 p.m. with dinner and the program starting at 7 p.m. To purchase a sponsorship package call 816.389.4191 or visit sportkc.org.

About The Kansas City Sports Commission and Foundation

The Kansas City Sports Commission & Foundation benefits the Kansas City region through sports by creating, attracting and managing major sporting events for Kansas City. And, promote the lifetime benefits of sports for youth through educational initiatives, tournaments and clinics.

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