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## **Tennis Legend Billie Jean King to Honor Female Athletes**

*WIN for KC will host annual Women's Sports Awards Celebration on Feb.5*

**KANSAS CITY, MO** – The Women's Intersport Network (WIN for KC) is proud to announce that tennis icon Billie Jean King will be the keynote speaker for the annual Women's Sports Awards Celebration set for Friday, February 5, 2010 at the Hyatt Regency Crown Center.

"Billie Jean King epitomizes what WIN for KC is all about, which is empowering girls and women through sports and fitness," said Patti Phillips, WIN for KC Director. "In fact, organizations like ours would not be in existence if it weren't for the groundbreaking work Billie Jean has done around equality and opportunity for girls and women."

The Celebration will honor King for her efforts to raise awareness about gender equality in the sports arena while honoring female athletes and high school state champions from greater Kansas City. This year, six area women will be awarded for their tremendous achievements in sports.

The six award winners are as follows: Shaleia Jamison (BKD WOW Award); Kristina O'Neal (DST Systems Adversity Award); Loretta Sinnett (Hallmark Cards Outstanding Mentor Award); Kori Quinn (Lockton Courage Award); Nancy Simons (Sprint Spirit Award); and Carolyn Mitchell (UMB Senior Sportswoman Award).

"The award winners are a special part of the luncheon because they are so inspirational in their accomplishments," said Kathy Nelson, 2010 WIN for KC Luncheon Chair. "Our goal at the event is to ultimately motivate more people in the room to get moving. No one does that better than our award winners who, through sports, have become true "she-roes!"

In addition, WIN for KC will begin accepting nominations for the 2010 Chanda Rubin Charitable Fund Scholarship. The fund provides scholarships to graduating female seniors in the five-county greater Kansas City areas who have played tennis in high school. The 2009 scholarship was awarded to Khitam Jabr, a 2009 graduate of Winnetonka High School and now a freshman at UMKC. Rubin – the former No. 6 player in the world and winner of seven WTA singles titles – will attend the luncheon, as well as visit select Kansas City area schools on Thursday, Feb. 4.

The annual Awards Celebration is held in conjunction with National Girls & Women In Sports Day which is celebrated on February 3, 2010. It is the largest luncheon celebrating the Day and is an annual sell-out with more than 1,400 participants. National Girls & Women In Sports Day (NGWSD) was organized by the Women's Sports Foundation in 1987 and is a nationwide celebration of community-based events to honor achievements and encourage female participation in sports.

**Tickets for the Celebration may be purchased at [www.winforkc.org](http://www.winforkc.org). In addition, supporters are invited to participate in a raffle to win a chance to attend the U.S. Open in New York City. The package includes two Presidential Suite tickets to the U.S. Open, two grounds passes, VIP access, roundtrip airfare for two on Midwest Airlines, two-night hotel accommodations and a tennis racket autographed by Billie Jean King. Each raffle ticket costs \$50, includes a one-year WIN for KC membership, and is tax-deductible. The winner will be notified by phone on Monday, February 8. Winner does not have to attend the event to participate or win. For more information, go to [www.winforkc.org](http://www.winforkc.org).**

The Kansas City Sports Commission & Foundation is a privately-funded non-profit organization dedicated to enhancing the quality of life and economic success of Kansas Citizens by promoting sports. WIN (Women's Intersport Network) for KC is a division of the Kansas City Sports Commission that empowers women and girls through advocating and promoting the lifetime value of sports and fitness while providing opportunities for participation and leadership development. For more information, visit [www.winforkc.org](http://www.winforkc.org) or call (816) 474-GOKC.

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