



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Kansas City Sports Commission announces award winners for their annual Awards Banquet

KANSAS CITY, MO – Five outstanding individuals will be honored in April for their commitment and achievements in sports as the Kansas City Sports Commission & Foundation (KCSC&F) announces the award winners for the 40th Kansas City Sports Commission Awards Banquet.

Kansas City Downtown Marriott Sportsman of the Year: Colin Dougherty is a senior varsity basketball player for Leavenworth High School. Colin was diagnosed with autism at the age of two and was a part of the special education program until the end of middle school. Now he is a straight A student in a typical classroom. Colin's family has been involved in basketball for several generations with his grandmother's six children all playing college basketball, his aunt Lisa played for KU and is part of the 1,000 point club and his uncle Neil was an assistant coach under Roy Williams at KU then became the head coach at TCU before passing away in 2011.

Kansas City Life Sportswoman of the Year: Kelly Dippold has been competing all her life. In 2012 she won her age division (50-54) at the World Triathlon Championship in New Zealand. She was timed in 2 hours, 28 minutes, 21 seconds for the 1,500-meter swim, 40-kilometer bicycle ride and the 10-kilometer run. While a college student at the University of Kansas, Kelly swam the 200 individual medley, 400 individual medley and the 200 breast stroke. At one time she held the Big Eight Conference record in the 200 breast stroke.

Burns and McDonnell Coach of the Year: Kansas State University Football Coach Bill Snyder has produced 33 AP All-Americans, 42 NFL draft picks, and 46 first-team academic All-Americans. In 2012, he led the team to its first Big 12 Conference championship since 2003 and participated in the Fiesta Bowl. Coach Snyder currently serves as chairman of the Leadership Studies Building Campaign, honorary chairman of the K-State Changing Lives Campaign, and is past president of the Friends of the Libraries organization at K-State.

Sprint Community Champion: John Denison founded Metro Sports in 1996 and it has grown to be the sports leader in the Midwest, winning more Emmy, Telly and Aurora awards than all other media entities in the Kansas City area. John is also founder and principal partner of Niles Media Group. Metro Sports has produced programming for the Kansas City Chiefs, Royals, Sporting Kansas City, NFL, MLB, NHL, MLS, Big 12, Missouri Valley, Mountain West, Summit League, NCAA, NAIA, MU, KU, K-State, UMKC, Wichita State, ESPN, FSN and many more.

Waddell & Reed Executive of the Year: Robb Heineman is the CEO of Sporting Club, the parent organization of Sporting Kansas City and he is one of the club's five principal owners. Robb also serves as Managing Partner of Sporting Innovations, a technology company focused on innovation in sports and entertainment. In 2012 Robb was selected to the *SportsBusiness Journal's* Forty Under 40 list and won *The Stadium Business Awards* Executive Award. In the spring of 2011 Sporting Club announced historical partnerships with Panasonic, Sprint, Cisco and Google, enabling Sporting Park to serve as a living lab for sports and entertainment technology.

The Awards Banquet will be Friday, April 19 at the Kansas City Downtown Marriott-Muehlbach 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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