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2015 award recipients announced for KC Sports Commission Banquet

KANSAS CITY, MO – (February 6, 2015) Five outstanding individuals will be honored April 15 for their commitment and achievements in sports as the Kansas City Sports Commission & Foundation announces the award winners for the 41st Kansas City Sports Commission Awards Banquet.

Waddell & Reed Executive of the Year: Dayton Moore – Dayton Moore is the Senior Vice President-Baseball Operations/General Manager of the Kansas City Royals. Dayton and his staff have worked to build a consistently strong farm system that was rated by Baseball America, MLB.com and ESPN.com as the best in baseball in 2011. In 2014, the Kansas City Royals snapped a 29 year playoff drought and captured the American League Championship. The Royals were also named Baseball America Organization of the Year in 2014. The Wichita native, along with his wife Marianne, is very involved with the Greater Kansas City community from speaking at numerous community events each year to starting the “C” You in the Major Leagues Foundation, in 2013, as a way to support youth baseball, education, families in crisis and faith-based programs and organizations. Moore also serves on multiple community boards around Kansas City.

Kansas City Downtown Marriott Sportsman of the Year: Shane Ray – The SEC’s Defensive Player of the Year is a powerhouse on the field for the University of Missouri. Shane leads the SEC in sacks per game and TFLs per game. Shane has used his athletic skills to steer him in the right direction with his life and he uses the discipline and dedication off the field working with local youths at the Boys and Girls Club. Shane also gives back to the Columbia community by volunteering at the local food pantry.

Kansas City Life Sportswoman of the Year: Bobbi Walden – Bobbi is the Drug Free National Powerlifting Champion and has rewritten the Kansas State record book for her weight class. She is also a Second Lieutenant in the Army. Over the past two years Bobbie has ranked #23, #27 and #28 for best lifting totals of all women in the USA. She also coached a lifter who won both the National Championship and World Championship in Powerlifting.

Burns and McDonnell Coach of the Year: Mike Talamantes – Mike is Park University’s head men’s and women’s volleyball coach. He is the winningest coach in Park history for all sports. In 2014, both the men and women volleyball teams won their respective NAIA National Volleyball Championship, both beating the 2013 national champions. The women were the only undefeated team in all of college volleyball with a 40-0 record and a 120-6 record in sets. On and off the court he teaches the student-athletes hard work and how to plan for life.

Sprint Community Champion: Nicholas Hibbeler & Mike Grossner – Nick Hibbeler has been an inspiration to the Park Hill School District Community. In 2013 he was diagnosed with Stage 2 testicular cancer, had undergone six rounds of chemotherapy and five surgeries yet he still played soccer for his high school, club and state ODP team. Nick was selected as a finalist in USA Today’s Most Inspirational High School Athlete Contest and gave up his spot to Dom Cooks, a terminally ill basketball player from Washington.

As the head football coach at Baker University, Mike Grossner puts academics first and athletics second. This has resulted in 12 of his players being named NAIA Scholar-athletes with a 3.5 GPA or higher. Eight days after losing the Cross Country and Track & Field Coach, Mike was diagnosed with a stage 4 tumor on his throat. Then in October a sophomore football player committed suicide. Throughout all the tragedy Mike worked to bring the Baker community together through football.

The Awards Banquet will be Wednesday, April 15 at the Kansas City Downtown Marriott-Muehlebach Towers. A 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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