



THE CARL FRICKS SPORTSMANSHIP SCHOLARSHIP

PRESENTED BY THE SPORTS COMMISSION ASSOCIATES

PAST RECIPIENTS | 2009 - 2023



IMARION GRIFFIN - 2023

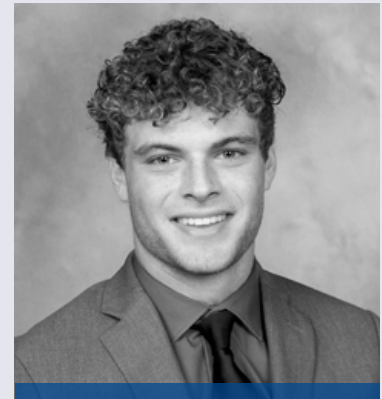
CARDINAL RITTER COLLEGE PREP

Imarion has had to overcome more than his fair share of obstacles and challenges in his high school career. Facing a litany of medical conditions, Imarion did not get discouraged or let the physical challenges slow him down as he worked harder than most to achieve on the soccer field and basketball court. It also did not affect his sense of civility, fair play, and sportsmanship. In a district soccer game, a defender tripped and fell, appearing to injure himself while Imarion was dribbling with the advantage toward the other team's goal. Realizing what had happened to the opposing player, Imarion stopped playing and ran back to help, putting the health of the injured opponent over the advantage he gained with the opponent's fall. Imarion's coach observed him always shaking hands with the other team before and after games, never arguing with officials even if he disagreed with a call, and once allowing a player on an opposing team to wear his extra pair of cleats because the player left his cleats on the bus. In the face of great personal struggle, Imarion has shown extraordinary courage, perseverance, and class in competition.

JACK BURKE - 2023

ST. JOHN VIANNEY HIGH SCHOOL

Competing in football, lacrosse, and wrestling, Jack has displayed compassion and showed class both in victory and defeat. What stands out most is how Jack exhibited those qualities even when he was sidelined with an injury. Tearing ligaments in his elbow during a wrestling match, Jack sought out the opponent who had injured him, encouraging him to not let that unfortunate turn of events affect his performance in upcoming matches. Despite his own disappointment in having his season ended with the injury, Jack was concerned about his opponent's mental state above his own.



ANNA BELLE WAKELAND - 2023

GRANDVIEW HIGH SCHOOL



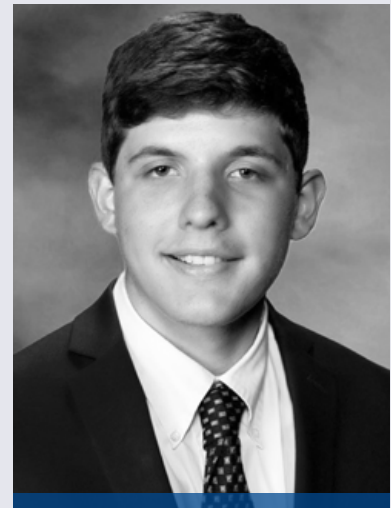
Described as a consummate good sport, Anna Belle's softball coach Tim Winkler summed up her worthiness to receive recognition for her sportsmanship by saying, "I cannot give a specific example of when Anna showed good sportsmanship, integrity, compassion, respect, civility, and class. That's because all those characteristics are simply a way of life for her. She has always shown sportsmanship; day-in and day-out. I've never witnessed her showing displeasure with an official's call. I've seen her on numerous occasions help a fallen opponent to her feet." At a conference track meet, Anna Belle competed in the 400-meter race and after finishing the race, noticed one of her competitors had fallen and stayed down on the track. She rushed over and picked her up, helping her walk off the track to get some help. She stayed with the opponent and encouraged her to keep working hard and competing.



AVA HAMILTON - 2023
BELLEVILLE EAST HIGH SCHOOL

Ava excels on the softball field, but her consistent character and sportsmanship shine far brighter. Her coach Natalie Peters said, “Ava has tremendous relationships with all our local umpires. I have never once seen her react in any negative way to a call that goes against her or her teammates. The umpires know her by name, enjoy being around her, and always compliment her and her character when I speak with them.” While she is respectful of officials and opponents, Ava’s compassion and selflessness to benefit other players on her team stand out as unique and special. When a teammate reinjured her ACL and decided to play the season in a brace instead of sitting out another season, Ava knew this player could not play center field with the injury, so she volunteered to play out of position because she knew it was better for the team. Coach Peters said, “In twenty years of coaching, I have never seen such a selfless and wise decision from a teenage athlete.”

AHREN MUEHLEISEN - 2023
WESTMINSTER CHRISTIAN ACADEMY



Aaron is a swimmer at Westminster, and a competitive clay target shooter with a club outside of school. Aaron has also proven to be the epitome of sportsmanship. Whether it is thanking the officials after every meet or being the first person to check on an opposing diver who injured himself on the diving board before medical attention arrived, Aaron always keeps a positive perspective on what it means to be a good sport. His trapshooting coach Jennifer Laurent said, “Aaron honors the game and is the first to assist scorekeepers that might have inadvertently scored incorrectly to keep the integrity and fairness of the competition intact.” While it is common for other trap shooters to dismiss scorekeepers as hired entities and leave their empty hulls for others to pick up after competition, Aaron consistently models the more appropriate behavior of shaking hands with scorekeepers at the end of rounds and picking up anything left on the field.



ESTHER POTTEBAUM - 2023
JOHN BURROUGHS SCHOOL

Esther plays the right way every day. Always gracious with opponents and officials, she has made a name for herself through her sportsmanship. The Director of Athletics at her school, Peter Tasker, said, “Esther is a powerful exemplar of an athlete living our mission to compete with honor, which I have posited means picking up your opponent when you knock them down. Not only does Esther pick up her opponent, she helps brush them off, makes sure they are healthy, and often apologizes whether she is at fault or not. I have seen her get her goggles knocked off her head in overly aggressive plays by her opponent on many occasions. She has never had a harsh word, a retaliatory gesture, or even a hint of negative body language in response.”



GUS TETTAMBLE - 2022

ST. LOUIS UNIVERSITY HIGH SCHOOL

The St. Louis University High School tennis captain views sportsmanship as a privilege. Making his mark in a sport that often requires athletes to serve as player and referee, Gus often goes above and beyond the call of duty to ensure a fair playing environment, even when the calls do not go his way. The two-time St. Louis Sportsmanship Award winner for the Missouri Valley USTA was described by his coach as “honest to a fault.” If a ball is 99 percent out, Gus calls it in because playing the game is more important than any result. Gus once passed on an opportunity to abandon an injured doubles partner to play in a tournament that could have earned him a scholarship. Ollie Tettamble, Gus’ brother, said of his younger sibling, “It’s not often that someone looks up to their younger brother, but I proudly do. I admire him for his honesty, integrity, and civility.” In a sport dominated by individuality, Gus chooses to be a team player.

ANYI SUN - 2022

JOHN BURROUGHS SCHOOL

Anyi Sun has built a reputation of competing with rather than competing against her opponents. The John Burroughs hockey captain congratulates opponents when they make good plays, helps them up when they fall, and does not argue with officials regardless of the call. Anyi maintains this level of sportsmanship while establishing her own place as one of the few women playing on the John Burroughs ice hockey team. The school’s coaching staff use grace, chivalry and gratitude to describe the character of Anyi. She is aware of her unique situation in her sport and her responsibility to others. Anyi sees herself as a loyal teammate, a humble opponent and a respectful representative of her team and school.



TAYLOR BROWN - 2022

LIFT FOR LIFE ACADEMY

Taylor Brown exhibits class and maturity beyond her years. The Lift For Life Academy basketball co-captain plays tough and finds ways to navigate through tough situations. During one game, Taylor stole the ball from an opponent. Frustrated, the young lady pushed Taylor into a nearby wall, where she hit headfirst. The stunned silence of the crowd signaled things could get ugly, but it was Taylor who kept her composure and after the game, talked things over with the opponent. The two ultimately shared a laugh and a hug. Taylor turned a negative situation into a positive one and provided a great lesson in sportsmanship for all involved.





MATTHEW CLARK - 2022

COLLINSVILLE HIGH SCHOOL

Matthew Clark is being recognized for his integrity, selflessness, and commitment to sportsmanship. The Collinsville basketball co-captain has earned the respect of teammates and opponents alike for how he treats others. Matthew took it upon himself to mentor a teammate prone to emotional outbursts. He was the first to get in the handshake line after a tough loss to a rival school. An opposing coach said, "Matthew is the perfect example of true character in sports." He embodies the highest ideals and principles of sportsmanship and proves service to others is the most authentic mark of greatness.

CHLOE RHINE - 2022

ROCKWOOD SUMMIT HIGH SCHOOL

The Rockwood Summit softball standout understands sportsmanship is more important than the scoreboard. Chloe Rhine knows her role as an athlete and respects the difficult job of officials. She expressed her admiration for them and empathy for the harsh criticism they often take. She dissuades teammates from gloating when they make good plays or jeering opponents when they make poor ones. Chloe was the first girl to make Rockwood Summit's JV baseball team before Covid ended her first season. Even this setback did not deter her from serving as an example of good sportsmanship and character. Parents of her teammates and opponents lauded Chloe for being a great player who simultaneously shows others how to behave on and off the field.



RYAN ULM - 2022

FORT ZUMWALT WEST HIGH SCHOOL

Ryan Ulm is a team-first player. The Fort Zumwalt West catcher takes pride in doing the little things that make a team successful. Ryan also takes care to have positive interactions with officials. He politely introduces himself and shakes hands with them before every baseball game. During one game, both Ryan and the home plate umpire were injured by the same foul ball. He immediately went to the umpire's aid rather than show concern for his own. Ryan's coach said, "The umpire was beginning to fall over and Ryan hugged him to hold him up and was comforting him as the umpire needed a minute to catch his breath." Ryan is mature, selfless, and exemplifies what it means to be a good sport.

TYRON WOODLEY, JR. - 2022

DE SMET JESUIT HIGH SCHOOL

Tyron Woodley shows outstanding humility and selflessness in the face of adversity. The DeSmet football captain rallied his teammates after a crushing loss in the state championship game and encouraged them to congratulate their victorious opponent. This came in response to the jeering and negative comments directed toward them by opposing players and fans. As a member of the wrestling team, Tyron lost a close and controversial match that negatively affected his chances to compete in the state tournament. His coach said, "Even though Tyron was disappointed, he held his head up high, and represented himself with class and sportsmanship as he shook the hands of his opponent and his coaches."





KATIE MORWICK - 2021

VALMEYER HIGH SCHOOL

The Valmeyer High School cross country standout and cheerleading co-captain showed extraordinary class, selflessness and an overall giving attitude toward opponents and teammates. Katie explained, “At every meet, I cheer for the last place runners. Usually, parents and coaches only stick around to see their kids cross the finish line, and it breaks my heart. Others come across the finish line with no encouragement. As a runner, I know people cheering for me as I cross the finish line gives me a final spurt of energy.” Katie’s actions bolstered the reputation of Valmeyer’s cross country program as a whole. Katie’s determination and motivational spirit make everyone feel like a champion.

TAL DEAN - 2021

PARKWAY NORTH HIGH SCHOOL

The Parkway North soccer player is being recognized for his display of selflessness and kindness. Earlier this year, Tal and another player went up to challenge for a head ball and collided. Both players not only hit each other hard but landed hard. Tal immediately went over and checked to see if the other player was okay and motioned to the referee to signal that the player needed medical attention. Tal sustained a concussion as a result of the collision but thought of the other player before himself. His display of selflessness and kindness will not soon be forgotten by anyone on the field that day.



HAYDEN HATLEY - 2021

NORTHWEST HIGH SCHOOL

The character of the Northwest High School senior was noticed by an official during one of Hayden’s soccer matches. Following the game, the official wrote a note to Hayden’s coach and said, “Not sure if they have more than one captain, since I’ve seen only #2 Hayden Hatley prior to each game, but Hayden is a great captain who leads by example. My fingers are crossed that more schools and teams can display this type of conduct on the field.” Hayden’s overall approach to the game shows a maturity beyond his years.





EMILY MATTLER - 2021

FOX HIGH SCHOOL

Most athletes share the field or court with their competitors, but in dance competition, teams do not perform in the same space at the same time. Emily didn't let that impede her idea of sportsmanship, going out of her way to share positive messages with other dance teams. Emily said, "At dance camp my junior year, we made sticky notes with positive messages on them for the other teams. I met a senior from another team that year and admired the way she led her team with confidence, so I decided to write her a sticky note telling her what a great dancer she was and how she inspired me." Emily's positive and inclusive attitude toward opponents helps create a more positive experience for everyone.

JOSETTE PARTNEY - 2021

LAFAYETTE HIGH SCHOOL

As a Missouri State champion wrestler and first-degree black belt in Taekwondo, Josette has the physical tools to hold almost anyone down. However, she used exceptional abilities to lift up and console an opponent and rival during the state wrestling tournament. Josette said, "It was an exciting time for me, but one of my opponents (my number one rival) lost on a bad call in her third-place match. In my mind, it was supposed to be her and I in the finals. She was extremely upset, so I went and hugged her and consoled her and gave her a really heartfelt pep talk." Josette continues to make a difference and treats all officials, coaches, and fellow competitors with respect.



JACOB YORK - 2021

FORT ZUMWALT EAST HIGH SCHOOL

The Fort Zumwalt East basketball was injured during a game against rival Fort Zumwalt South. While Jacob was disappointed about the injury, he came out of the locker room to meet with a scout. In a display of selflessness, Jacob told the scout about how great it would be if a player from Fort Zumwalt South would become his teammate someday. The player Jacob was talking about was the one who set the screen that dislocated his shoulder. Jacob ignored his pain and lifted someone else up.



JORDYN GRIMES - 2020

FORT ZUMWALT NORTH HIGH SCHOOL

Jordyn Grimes is the recipient of the top Carl Fricks Sportsmanship Scholarship award from the Sports Commission Associates in 2020. The Fort Zumwalt North basketball standout and track and field captain will receive \$15,000 to continue her studies at Webster University. As a winner of her school's own sportsmanship award, Jordyn has developed a stellar reputation of putting others before herself and embodying what leadership looks like on and off the court. Jordyn's assistant basketball coach described the act of sportsmanship that ultimately won her the top award. "The greatest example (of sportsmanship) that comes to mind happened at the end of the 2019-2020 basketball season. Returning as district champions from last season, our team was facing off against their rivals in the opening round of the district tournament. As the game progressed, it was clear that the other team was going to walk away with the victory, essentially ending Jordyn's (and other seniors') career. With ten seconds left in the game, the opposing coach asked our head coach if we would let one of his star players to surpass the 1,000-point goal for her high school career. Most if not all of the players opposed, but then I heard a leader step up and silence the naysayers. It was Jordyn, expressing that we as a team should allow our cross-town rival to in fact finish her

high school career by breaking that record. As a coach, I was flabbergasted at the maturity and sportsmanship from Jordyn. It is one thing to show good sportsmanship, but it's an even bigger credit for to show compassion at a time when she was facing such disappointment."

Jordyn has also compiled an outstanding body of work when it comes to congratulating opponents, respecting officials and uplifting her teammates whenever needed. Her head basketball coach gave the following description. "Jordyn is unique in so many ways. Intelligence, integrity, selflessness, kindness, caring and hardworking, are all traits that describe this young lady. She is the most complete student-athlete I have ever had the pleasure to coach and teach." This is quite a complement from a person who has taught and coached thousands of young people.

Sportsmanship also means positively affecting someone's life off the field or court as well. Jordyn helped organize an effort for her teammates to wear orange ribbons for an opposing player who had cancer. Jordyn's character has made a significant impact on those inside and outside her school community. She is a worthy recipient of the Carl Fricks Sportsmanship Scholarship and a shining example of the transformative power within every young person.



BRANDON O'DELL - 2020

NORTHWEST HIGH SCHOOL

The junior varsity soccer coach at Northwest High School said the following about Brandon O'Dell. "We were preparing for a junior varsity game against Sullivan High School. Before the game, their coach approached me and told me about one of their players being a special needs student. Immediately after speaking with the boys (about him playing), Brandon speaks up and says, "We have to get him a goal." We played the first half and were up 1-0. I went into my halftime talk and asked the boys if they still wanted to do it, since the game was so close. Brandon said, "We do it, if we can't beat them without this then we don't deserve to win." Brandon and his teammate allowed the special needs player to score in real time and in dramatic fashion.

What sets Brandon's leadership apart is that these situations often happen when the game is out of hand or does not count toward the game's final score. Brandon gave the opposing player the respect of being a true equal on the field.

The Northwest varsity soccer coach also spoke highly of Brandon. "Brandon has great compassion for those with special needs. I have seen Brandon work with special needs players at the Special Needs Soccer Association (SPENSA). Brandon works hard to make sure the players he is working with are having a good time. Brandon loves the game, but he understands there are bigger things than just soccer." Brandon will continue his studies at Quincy University.



NAOMI FERGUSON - 2020

MARY INSTITUTE & ST. LOUIS COUNTRY DAY SCHOOL

“During the last minute of my district game against Villa Duchesne my sophomore year, I collided with the goalie and suffered my second ACL tear within three years of my first one. Because I still wanted to be there for my teammates in every way possible off the field, I decided to become team manager for the remainder of my high school career, and I could not have made a better decision. As team manager, I shot film at games, kept stats, set up drills, participated in practices if they were down numbers, and supported my teammates in every way I could.” Naomi Ferguson could not play due to injury, but she refused to abandon her teammates and the game she loves. Her words show a passion and dedication for something bigger than herself.

Her experiences also helped her develop compassion for others in similar circumstances. The head soccer coach at MICDS described one instance.” During her sophomore year in a game against a fierce rival, a player on the opposing team suffered a serious knee injury. As the opposing player was being helped off the field, Naomi went out of her way to console her and wish her the best. After the game, she once again sought out the opposing player and shared her experience and successful recovery.” Naomi’s kindness and empathy show the kind of young person she is and how much she cares for others. Naomi will continue her education at Brown University.

MARGIE LODES - 2020

ST. JOSEPH’S ACADEMY

Margie Lodes wants more than to set personal best times during cross country runs. She wants everyone to achieve their very best. Her coach recalled, “In a meet with a challenging field of runners, Margie finished in a much slower than normal time. She explained that she had stopped during the race to assist a runner from a competing team down on the course. Margie, quite naturally, had stopped to help the girl, which of course slowed her time. She has a natural habit of conversing with others during competition to keep things friendly. It was always in her, no matter the weather, nor fatigue, to chat with competing teams’ runners and encourage or congratulate those who either were running with her or those who finished around her.”

Sportsmanship not only has tangible effect on the recipient, but an intangible one on those who witness the act. One of Margie’s teammates said, “Supporting your teammates is somewhat easy.

The true indication of a person’s character is how they treat their competition. Margie is one of the very few people I have met who is as excited that her competitors got a personal best, or won the race, as she is when she herself does. During one of the first races of her cross country senior season, Margie fell and hurt her knee. The race was packed and the course was tight, so a lot of girls fell. One girl in particular fell hard, right by Margie. Margie stayed with the girl until she was sure she would not be trampled, then continued running, shouting to parents for help for the fallen girl. Margie still managed to run a wonderful time, but no doubt it would have been better had she not stopped to help. Her selflessness is astounding.” Actions speak for themselves, and Margie Lodes’ actions speak volumes about her personality and positive character. Margie will continue her education at California State University – Monterey Bay.





DALTON BINGMAN - 2020

ST. LOUIS PRIORY SCHOOL

Dalton Bingman is the type of athlete whose heart is bigger than his game. He wants to win. He wants his team to succeed. He also wants to do both the right way. His football coach said, “What his competitors realized is that he would go out and hit you as hard as possible, and then pick you up right after. In other instances, the opponent would get a good play on Dalton, and he would offer his congratulations on a job well done, and then Dalton would go back and do better next time.” Naturally, Dalton is motivated by his own success, but he’s even more inspired when others do well.

Priory’s wrestling coach was also impressed with Dalton and his positive attitude toward opponents. “His junior year he was going to be wrestling for the State Championship but still took the time to watch guys that were his opponents throughout the season. When he was warming up for the championship match, I saw him walk over to a guy from Moberly that he had several tough matches against that season and congratulate him on placing third. Dalton is more concerned about good people and will go out of his way to help them.” Dalton sees the good in others and wants them to see it in themselves. Dalton will continue his studies at Washington University in St. Louis.

MARK MOORE - 2020

HILLSBORO HIGH SCHOOL

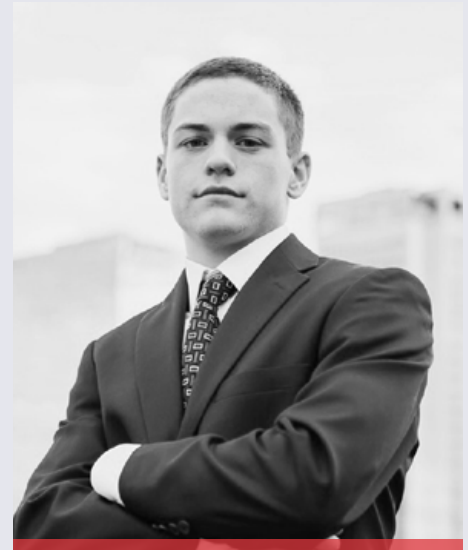
Mark Moore is a four-sport athlete who has matured in age and character over the years.

The Hillsboro Intermediate principal is especially impressed with his personal growth.

“I have known Mark for the past ten years, as a student in the Hillsboro R-3 School District and have found him to be a very intelligent, caring and dedicated young man with amazing leadership potential. Early in Mark’s career, he struggled with keeping his emotions under control and showing positive sportsmanship. As a 5th and 6th grader, he would let his emotions and frustrations get the best of him. Toward the end of junior high, Mark decided that he needed to change his attitude and behaviors. More than any other player I have seen, Mark has made it his mission to grow these last four years as a model in his character on the field or court.”

Mark’s soccer coach provided even more evidence of his turn toward sportsmanship and positive character traits. “Perhaps the best way to describe Mark’s sportsmanship is in his interactions with opponents. For example, Mark’s freshman year of soccer, his team was on the verge of winning a district championship against a conference rival—a team Hillsboro had already played several times that season. As time ran out in the match, the Hillsboro sideline rushed the pitch to celebrate—all but one player anyway. Away from the celebration, there’s Mark. He had gone to the opponent’s side of the field to console their best player. That moment defines Mark as a competitor.” He cares more about people than trophies. He proves relationships are more valuable than championships.

Mark will continue his education at Webster University.





MACIE FARRIER - 2019

FORT ZUMWALT EAST HIGH SCHOOL

Macie Farrier is the recipient of the top Sportsmanship Scholarship award from the Sports Commission Associates in 2019. Fort Zumwalt East's basketball and track and field captain will use the \$10,000 top award to continue her studies at Maryville University. Macie's high school career includes being a two-time winner of the sportsmanship award in her basketball conference. She also garnered a reputation for respecting referees and opponents as well as caring for injured opponents. One situation involved a player from an opposing team who suffered a seizure during a basketball tournament. Fort Zumwalt East played the same team a week later. Macie's athletic director and basketball coach described her actions toward the previously injured player at the return contest. "When our team arrived, Macie made a point to go right up to that player who had the seizure the week before and asked how she was doing and that she and her teammates had been thinking about her."

A former basketball coach of Macie's discussed a situation where other athletes may have had a hard time maintaining their composure. The incident took place after the coach had taken a new job at rival Fort Zumwalt South. "Early in the second quarter, Macie had the ball stolen and, in her attempt to get it back, knocked the player over, and immediately helped her up. As the student section chanted against me, Macie stood in line first to shake my hand."

Macie's coaches characterized her as a four-sport athlete whose compassion has always outweighed her competitiveness. Macie confirmed their assessment by saying, "I embrace the honor of being an athlete with integrity by caring and demonstrating respect for all people involved. You will find me cheering on other athletes. I have developed many friendships with competitors, coaches, and referees throughout my athletic career." Macie embodies the principle that everyone deserves respect regardless of the uniform they wear or the role they play.



BEN CUMMINGS - 2019

JOHN BURROUGHS SCHOOL

The athletic director at John Burroughs said the following about Ben Cummings. "He is a 'glue-guy' who does all the little things that honors competition, honors opponents, honors process and honors the spirit of the game." With a sports resume that includes football, soccer, basketball and golf, Ben understands that people are more important than awards and relationships are far more valuable than recognition. During a district golf match, Ben's opponent scored an 11 on a hole, which is a devastating score in a crucial match. Ben took the time to console his opponent and tell him about how he scored an 11 just a year earlier at State. The strength and skill athletes gain from sports can be used to hold others down or to lift them up. Ben chose the latter.

His soccer coach expressed a similar sentiment about Ben after a John Burroughs win. While his teammates displayed a natural joy and euphoria over the victory, Ben showed empathy toward his defeated opponent. The coach said, "Upon inquiring about the nature of their conversation, Ben later told me he was simply letting the opposing player know how much he had enjoyed the years of competition with this school. And that his thoughts were with him and his teammates as this was likely their final home game ever and the end of their season and career was upon them. Ben Cummings exemplifies the sportsmanship and passion for the game we hope many players in the future emulate." Ben will continue his studies at the University of Wisconsin.

ARIELLE ADAMS - 2019

HAZELWOOD CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL

Arielle Adams understands the meaning of sportsmanship. The Hazelwood Central senior said, “The character you exhibit in settings that involve others will not just read as ‘your’ character, but it will reflect on the team’s character as a whole.” Regardless if I have taken home a win or a loss, I have always made sure to exude the same positive energy I would want to feel if the tables were turned.” Competitive dance and tennis are worlds apart athletically, but Arielle knows that respect and fair play are key to success in both. Hazelwood Central’s tennis coach said, “In tennis, the students have to be their own referees. Arielle consistently made good calls to determine if the balls were in or out and I was never asked to be a line judge in her matches. If there was a dispute on the court, Arielle would always be the one with a great attitude, redo the point, and gently remind them of the rules if they were less-experienced players.”

In competitive dance, opponents do not share the stage, so sportsmanship is often displayed backstage, in dressing rooms or in other common areas. Arielle’s dance coach said of her, “Our competitive group has received the sportsmanship award numerous times in the years Arielle has been on the team, and she has been an integral part in acquiring these awards. She has always done a good job of preserving the expected values amongst the younger dancers, as well as setting a positive example for dancers her same age.” Arielle’s actions line up with the principles she professes. She is a good sport and acts like one. Arielle will continue her studies at Southeast Missouri State University.



SHEA LUBY - 2019

HILLSBORO HIGH SCHOOL

“Shea has demonstrated a track record of sportsmanship by being recognized by players of the opposing team for her civility and kindness,” Hillsboro’s volleyball coach said of varsity captain Shea Luby. With a body of work that goes back to middle school, Shea embodies the principles necessary for a Sportsmanship Scholarship recipient. The volleyball coach went on to describe Shea’s selflessness in greater detail. “Before playing in the Seckman volleyball tournament this season, we learned of the passing of one of the players from one of the opposing teams. Shea, along with her teammates, wanted to do something to show their sympathy and compassion to the other team. They made volleyballs with encouraging notes on them and handed them to the opposing team as they clapped under the net after the match.”

Hillsboro’s assistant principal has also taken notice of Shea’s positive behavior. “At the end of one particular volleyball competition, I observed Shea going through the handshake line. Not only did she make eye contact with every player and coach on the opposing team, she spoke to each of them as she passed. Win or lose, she holds her head up and deliberately makes contact with each player and coach. Sometimes, she gives the opposing team’s players a compliment, a word of encouragement, or a hug. This is the epitome of sportsmanship and class.” Whether it’s on the court, in school or as a member of the larger community, Shea conducts herself with integrity and a humble spirit. Shea will continue her studies at Central Methodist University.

JALEN WHITE - 2019

ST. LOUIS UNIVERSITY HIGH SCHOOL

The way Jalen White views his sports participation is akin to the Golden Rule. The St. Louis University High senior said, “Competition is healthy, but you should still treat others how you would like to be treated.” Jalen is described as a servant-leader by his teachers and coaches, which means he leads by serving others, by giving them what they need to succeed. There was no greater example of Jalen’s servant-leadership than in a track meet in which he lent his starting blocks to a sprinter on an opposing team. The sprinter had forgotten his starting blocks, which put him at a disadvantage during the race. Sprinters without blocks must start from a “stagger” position, which is almost like standing up. Blocks allow sprinters to have a more explosive start and potentially run a better time. Jalen not only allowed the opposing sprinter to use his blocks, he held them in place, so the sprinter could get the best start possible. This is almost unheard of in track and field because placing in early heats is based on time. The sprinter Jalen helped could not only have knocked Jalen out of contention, but several of his teammates as well. It’s the kind of display that shows Jalen cared more about the person than his placing.

St. Louis University High’s track coach delved further into Jalen’s character. “I always saw him reach out to competitors from other schools. If he was in the lead, he would not flaunt it in the face of the competition. And if someone passed him, he would not only congratulate the opponent, he would be genuinely happy for them.” Jalen’s compassion starts quicker than his sprint and his humility extends farther than he can jump. Jalen will continue his studies at Morehouse College.



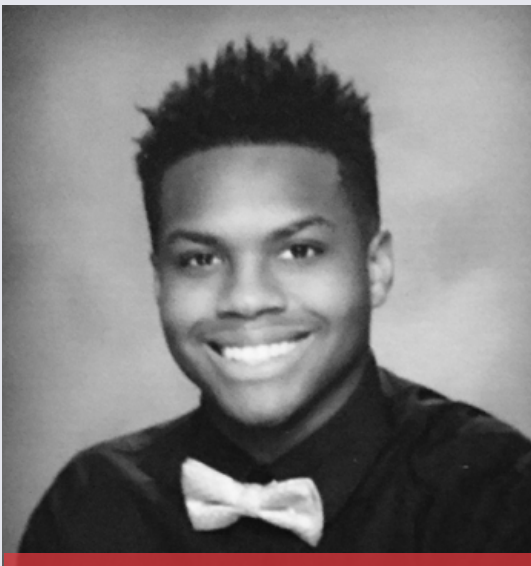


CATHERINE ARNOLD - 2018

FRANCIS HOWELL NORTH HIGH SCHOOL

Catherine Arnold received the top Sportsmanship Scholarship award from the Sports Commission Associates in 2018. The Francis Howell North soccer and volleyball captain will use her \$10,000 award to continue her studies at the University of Kansas. Catherine's selflessness and class were on full display during a soccer game against rival Fort Zumwalt South. A body check from her opponent caused more damage to the Zumwalt South player than it did to Catherine. A clear scoring opportunity presented itself because of the injury to her opponent. However, Catherine could not leave an injured player down. She stopped her dribble, passing up a chance to score, and went to aid the Zumwalt South player who suffered a significant facial injury. Catherine said of the moment, "Without question, her nose was broken, and at that moment, I was no longer a soccer player, I was a human being. I suppose I could have kicked the goal, which would have given our team the lead, but that felt callous and simply wrong. I have never questioned the day I helped an injured human being, not just an opposing player, and I am proud of that moment."

In addition to that impactful moment, Catherine also put together an outstanding resume of sportsmanship throughout her high school career. Kent Stover, Francis Howell North's volleyball coach said of Catherine, "She exemplifies the ideal of selflessness both on and off the court by treating team members, other students, staff members and all others with consideration and civility no matter their relationship to her."



IMANTÉ GRIFFIN - 2018

CARDINAL RITTER COLLEGE PREP HIGH SCHOOL

Imanté Griffin is an excellent football and baseball player, but an even better person. Brandon Gregory, Cardinal Ritter's head football coach said of his senior captain, "In all my dealings with Imanté, he has shown himself to be a young man of integrity, intelligence, and talent. He has displayed the leadership and work ethic that every coach hopes for from his top players." Imanté's track record of sacrifice and selflessness on the field is one to be both admired and modeled. An opposing player was suffering from muscle cramps and had forgotten his receiving gloves. Not only did Imanté give his opponent a bottle of Gatorade, he gave him his extra pair of gloves, too. Before another game, an opposing receiver, who also happened to be a rival's best player, needed a ride to the game. Instead of leaving his opponent stranded, Imanté gave him a ride to the game. The young man scored the game-winning touchdown for the rival school. Imanté sometimes endured criticism from teammates for his selfless behavior but Coach Gregory put things in perspective. "These [disagreements] did not stop Imanté from pulling his teammates back together. Imanté has a little brother watching him. Therefore, it is essential for him to set an example for spectators and younger players." Imanté will continue his education at Mid-America Nazarene University.

MADELYN HUBBS - 2018

PATTONVILLE HIGH SCHOOL

Pattonville High School's senior swimming and water polo captain overcomes a tremendous challenge with humility and strength each time she gets in the pool. Madelyn was born without her left arm, but this has not stopped her from giving her best in and out of the pool. A meet during her junior year presented the greatest challenge of her athletic career. Madelyn swam the butterfly in the 200-meter medley relay for her team. She saw the official raise his hand before her leg of the relay began, usually the signal for a disqualification. Unsure if the ruling affected her, Madelyn kept swimming and posted a personal best time, giving her team what would have been a third place finish. But her initial instincts proved to be correct. Madelyn had been disqualified because she could not touch both hands to the wall on her relay turn. Anna Braswell, Pattonville's swim coach, explained, "Due to the fact that I didn't have the proper exemption to the rule paperwork filed with the state director for swimming, she was disqualified from her race. Madelyn handled this situation respectfully and maturely and politely asked the official and myself how to file paperwork correctly so this wouldn't happen again." Given the circumstances, Madelyn showed remarkable composure. Added Coach Braswell, "Madelyn is a humble athlete who continuously displays sportsmanship. She is an excellent advocate and leader for all students and especially students with disabilities." Madelyn will continue her education at Maryville University.



CONNOR KINGSLAND - 2018

LINDBERGH HIGH SCHOOL

Lindbergh High senior Connor Kingsland was gearing up for the state cross country meet when he made eye contact with Jared Neikirk, a runner from Cape Central whom he had competed against before. Connor went on to describe the unusual, yet life-changing interaction between him and his fellow competitor. "About half way through [the race], he passed me, fast...like it was nothing for him. With 100 meters left in the race, I was trying to give it that last kick when I saw a guy just standing in the middle of the course, almost stumbling, hardly able to move his legs. Without thinking, I ran up to him and grabbed him. I realized then it was Jared. I said quietly to him, 'Let's finish this race together.' When I grabbed him, both he and I got enough strength to finish the state cross country meet."

Connor's cross country coach, James Petersen, talked about the impact of his grand gesture. "This was a very proud moment for his parents and me as a coach, having an athlete who is considerate and supportive of others all throughout the season and even in the heat of the highest level of competition." Connor will continue his education at Western State Colorado University.

MARY LABELLE - 2018

ST. JOSEPH'S ACADEMY

For Mary LaBelle, sportsmanship means "acknowledging the other team's success and talent, respecting the referees and the game, and keeping my attitude classy" With this perspective in mind,

Mary has amassed an impressive body of work during her athletic career at St. Joseph's Academy where she is the captain of the varsity basketball team. Her reputation is one of helping up a fallen opponent, not being obnoxious during team celebrations, and not arguing with referees over questionable calls. Mary's positive attitude extends beyond the court and to all aspects of the game.

St. Joseph's head basketball coach Julie Matheny said, "I can recall a game at Villa Duchesne, when the game was over, Mary was the player picking up all the cups from under the bench, put the chairs back on the rack and just making sure our visitors area was clean and presentable. The AD from Villa was astounded by Mary's attention to detail and doing the right thing. She was the captain that led by example not by words. She is the player that chases the balls down for the ref, even if they made a bad call." Mary will continue her education at Kansas State University.





LEOR GOLDFARB - 2017

LADUE HIGH SCHOOL

The Sports Commission Associates awarded Leor Goldfarb its top Sportsmanship Scholarship honor for 2017. The Ladue varsity wrestling and lacrosse captain will receive \$10,000 to begin his college education. Leor's class, humility and selflessness eclipse any feat he has achieved on the field or on the mat. In the semifinals of the district wrestling tournament, Leor was down seven points to his opponent from Hannibal. Late in the second period, Leor was injured by an illegal slam from his opponent. The referee gave him two options: He could have his opponent disqualified for the illegal move and automatically advance to the state finals or forfeit the match and allow his opponent to advance. Leor chose to forfeit the match and let his opponent move on to state. In a letter to the Ladue superintendent, Hannibal coach Derek Greening said, "I am not sure how many individuals and coaches would make the same decision. It takes an enormous amount of character and class to make a decision like this. In 16 years of coaching, I have seen many students default for much less to guarantee themselves a win." This is just one instance that exemplifies Leor's sportsmanship. He's known for being supportive of teammates and opponents alike, and as relayed by his athletic director, Leor "knows what happens in sports is greater than the outcome of the game or match being held."

MATT FERENCE - 2017

LAFAYETTE HIGH SCHOOL

Matt Ference played football and baseball at Lafayette High School, but it is the way he channeled his talent into remarkable kindness that makes him worthy of the Sportsmanship Scholarship. Matt started the "Kick for Kel" campaign to raise funds for the Jack & J.T. Snow Foundation to fight Wolfram Syndrome, a rare form of Type I diabetes. Kel is a seventh grader and friend of Matt's who suffers from the disease. Whenever Matt made a field goal or an extra point, punted the ball more than 40 yards, or landed a punt within the opponent's 20-yard line, donors pledged money to the campaign. Due to Matt's stellar punting and kicking, "Kick for Kel" raised more than \$12,000 for the Snow Foundation in 2016. Matt's head football coach, Boyd Manne, said, "I have been a coach for 25 years and have never seen an athlete show so much compassion, kindness and selflessness as Matt did for (Kel) this season."



NATALIE RUSHING - 2017

FORT ZUMWALT WEST HIGH SCHOOL



Natalie Rushing's basketball skills are only exceeded by her leadership as team captain and the compassion she has for her teammates, coaches and opponents. Fort Zumwalt West girls' basketball coach Amanda Krueger recalled Natalie's selfless behavior in the heat of competition: "One teammate recalled Natalie stealing a ball during a game in which the opposing player was injured trying to get the ball back. Instead of taking the advantage, Natalie stopped play to make sure her opponent was OK. On another occasion, I was complaining to a referee about a call that I thought should have gone our way. Natalie pulled me aside and said it was her error and the referee was correct. This led to my subsequent apology to the referee for being a poor sport. In Natalie's case, it is not one great act of sportsmanship that makes her worthy of this scholarship. Rather, it is her continuous display of honesty, integrity, kindness and class that makes her a very special person, worthy in every way of this great recognition."



NICK ALEXANDER -2016
ST. JOHN VIANNEY HIGH SCHOOL

The Sports Commission Associates awarded Nick Alexander their top Sportsmanship Scholarship honor for 2016. The Vianney varsity swimming captain will receive \$10,000 to begin his college education. A four-time state champion, two-time All-American and holder of multiple Missouri swimming records, Nick is one of the best swimmers in the state. In fact, he will compete in the 2016 U.S. Olympic Swimming Trials. Yet Nick's speed in the pool is eclipsed by the class, humility and compassion that define his high school swimming career. In 2014, the Vianney swim team competed in the Lindbergh Splash Out Cancer Invitational. Nick dedicated his race to a 5-year-old boy battling leukemia. Nick won the race and presented his gold medal to the young cancer patient. The boy's father said, "For a high school athlete to be so competitive on the one hand, and yet so caring on the other, just amazes me." Nick has also earned the admiration of officials and opposing coaches. The biggest compliment to Nick's selflessness came from a rival coach. Kevin Brennan, the head swimming coach at Chaminade, noted that Nick took the time to mentor one of his top swimmers even though they are competitors. For Nick's nomination, Brennan wrote: "I believe the word that best describes Nick is class. He has always shown a class attitude towards everyone – his opponents, other coaches and officials. Few have done what he has done; and yet through his entire high school career he has handled himself with class." Nick is continuing his education at the University of Missouri.



LEEANN GRAFF - 2016
PATTONVILLE HIGH SCHOOL

Leeann Graff competed in volleyball, tennis and soccer at Pattonville High School. Serving as captain of the varsity soccer and tennis teams, she took on a leadership role promoting sportsmanship among her teammates and throughout her school. Contributing to Leeann's selection as a Sportsmanship Scholarship recipient was a commendable step she took after attending the Musial Awards, an annual event in St. Louis that celebrates the greatest moments of sportsmanship in North America. The stories of extraordinary sportsmanship inspired and motivated Leeann to do something in her school. She approached her athletic director, Bob Hebrank, with the idea to create Pattonville's own sportsmanship award. "Leeann has come up with the nomination process for all of our coaches and she will be part of picking the best nominee to represent Pattonville," Hebrank said. So thanks to Leeann's doing, Pattonville is now annually honoring a deserving student-athlete for their commitment to class and character. Her effort to spread the Musial Awards' mission to celebrate and elevate kindness, selflessness and civility in sports is a remarkable act of sportsmanship in itself. Leeann is continuing her education at Southeast Missouri State University.

ROLANDO MERRIWEATHER - 2016
CARDINAL RITTER COLLEGE PREP HIGH SCHOOL

A four-year varsity football player and senior team captain at Cardinal Ritter College Prep High School, Rolando Merriweather is a leader on and off the field. Rolando's selection as a 2016 Sportsmanship Scholarship honoree comes on the strength of his actions during the high school football postseason. An opposing player had been injured on the field and suffered a concussion. After the game, as paramedics tended to the player, Rolando instructed his teammates to form two lines so they could shake the injured opponent's hand as he was carried to a waiting ambulance. Rolando said he was glad the player's parents saw that even the opposing team cared about their son. This act showed Rolando's tremendous selflessness and leadership in an intense situation. Rolando is continuing his education at Missouri University of Science & Technology.





MARISSA VOELKER - 2015

PARKWAY NORTH HIGH SCHOOL

The Sports Commission Associates awarded Marissa Voelker their top Sportsmanship Scholarship honor for 2015. The Parkway North graduate and multi-sport varsity athlete in swimming, diving and softball received \$5,000 to begin her collegiate education. Marissa's efforts as a first team all-district softball player helped lead Parkway North to a district championship in 2015. However, it was Marissa's actions as a diver that earned her this year's top award. During a diving meet earlier in the season, Marissa placed second with a personal best score. Marissa was simultaneously confused and elated. On one hand, she had posted her best performance ever. On the other, she thought there was a competitor who may have done better than she did. When the awards ceremony ended, Marissa looked at her score sheet and noticed an error in the calculation. She had not placed second after all, but she was the only one who knew. Marissa found the athlete who had rightfully placed second, explained the situation to the young lady and her coach, and then promptly handed over the medal. Marissa's act of sportsmanship not only negated a lifetime-best performance, but it took away valuable team points. Instead of disappointment, Marissa's coach, Natalie Vonarx, expressed great pride in what her diver had done. "Marissa's ability to see something that was wrong with her dive sheet and take action on her own illustrates her integrity and selflessness." Marissa will continue her education at the University of Missouri.



FATIMA SEHIC - 2015

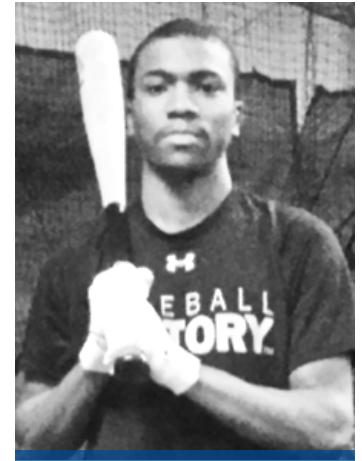
HANCOCK PLACE HIGH SCHOOL

Fatima Sehic competed in varsity softball and basketball at Hancock Place High School and served as the basketball team's captain her senior year. Opponents are not enemies and Fatima made that point clear each time she stepped onto the field or court. She gained a reputation for being the athlete who would welcome the opposing team and thank officials postgame. During a lengthy rain delay in a softball game against rival Bayless High, Fatima took it upon herself to visit the opposing bench and break the ice. Hancock Place softball coach Nicole Herman said, "Within minutes, the entire benches of both teams were in the outfield laughing, dancing, telling stories, etc. For 15 minutes, they were no longer rivals. There was no hatred or competition. Thanks to Fatima, they were just 25 softball players." On another occasion – this time on the basketball court – Fatima discovered there were athletes on the opposing team who did not have any water. Having brought extra water bottles from home for the game, she shared them with her opponents in hopes that "it would ease the game for them." It is this type of positive attitude and concern for others that made Fatima a 2015 Sportsmanship Scholarship honoree. She will continue her education at the University of Missouri.

QUENTIN PHILLIPS - 2015

CARDINAL RITTER COLLEGE PREP HIGH SCHOOL

Quentin Phillips was a four-year varsity baseball player and senior team captain at Cardinal Ritter College Prep High School. Quentin's selection as a 2015 Sportsmanship Scholarship honoree comes on the strength of an incident retold by his AAU summer league coach, former Cardinal Curt Ford. During a game in the fall of 2013, Quentin was at third base after hitting a triple. In the next at-bat, he saw an opportunity to reach home plate. A close play at the plate resulted in a collision that injured the catcher. Quentin immediately helped the player to his feet and gave him water as first aid help arrived. He apologized to the young man and his parents before leaving the park. Quentin's passion for the game of baseball is only eclipsed by his compassion for others. Quentin will continue his education at Louisiana State University.

**LAUREN DISPERS - 2015**

MARQUETTE HIGH SCHOOL

Lauren Disper was a varsity softball player at Marquette High School. She led an effort her sophomore year to raise money for a former teammate who had been diagnosed with cancer. Lauren's coach, Lizzy Indelicato, called Lauren's actions the most selfless thing she has seen in her four years of coaching and eight years of playing. Indelicato said, "Even though Lauren had not spoken with her since she left the team, she took time to visit her (at the hospital) and play games to help pass the time (during radiation and chemo treatments)." When a helmet decal was created in the young lady's honor, Lauren purchased enough for her teammates to wear and encouraged their sale to other St. Louis area teams. During Lauren's senior year, when a young lady from Eureka tragically passed away in a car accident, Lauren orchestrated a moment of silence at home plate with Eureka's seniors that included a presentation of Eureka's colors in a unique bouquet of purple and white flowers. As a softball player, Lauren is a frequent traveler, but it is her care for others that will take her the furthest and the reason why she is a 2015 Sportsmanship Scholarship honoree. Lauren will continue her education at the University of Arkansas.

ERIN BIRSCHBACH - 2014

FOX HIGH SCHOOL

The Sports Commission Associates selected Erin Birschbach to receive its top \$5,000 Sportsmanship Scholarship award for 2014. A three-year captain of the Fox High School varsity girls' basketball team, Erin led the school to its first district championship in 23 years and finished her high school career with the third most points in Fox history. The class and character she exhibited on the court surpassed her statistical accomplishments. Erin was lauded for the respect she had for officials and the camaraderie she shared with opponents. One game in particular exemplified her selflessness and compassion. In February, Fox played at rival Windsor High School on senior night. A week earlier, Windsor's top player suffered an ACL injury that ended her senior season. Erin wanted to help brighten the opponent's spirits, understanding how devastated the four-year starter and captain was to miss her final home game. So Erin and her coach devised a plan to allow the injured player to be on the court for the start of the game and score an uncontested basket. Erin was the one who "lost" the opening tip. She said seeing her injured competitor catch a pass from a teammate and make the shot was "an amazing moment." In his recommendation letter for the scholarship, Erin's coach, Jeremy Donald, mentioned that his seven-year-old son often gets to watch Fox's practices and games. Coach Donald said, "I can teach him the skills and talk to him about what is right and wrong. However, having the opportunity to watch a girl like Erin Birschbach is the most in-depth lesson he'll ever receive in what true sportsmanship is all about." Erin is continuing her education at Jefferson College.





KAYLA HEZEL - 2014
MEHLVILLE HIGH SCHOOL

Kayla Hezel competed in multiple sports at Mehlville High School and served as captain of the varsity softball and soccer teams. Her on-field compassion and civility stood out throughout her high school career. She was praised for offering her hand to fallen players, going out of her way to congratulate opponents even after difficult losses, and consistently thanking referees for their hard work and professionalism. Kayla said in her mind, sportsmanship is the most important aspect of the game. Among her actions that back that up was an incident that occurred when Mehlville played Cor Jesu Academy in softball. The Cor Jesu team was running late for the game and upon arriving at Mehlville, had to hurry down a steep hill to get to the field. A player carrying the squad's water jug tripped, busting the jug open and sending it down the hill. As the Cor Jesu players stood in disbelief, Kayla told them not to worry and encouraged them to start warming up. Kayla and a teammate then picked up the jug, filled it with water and ice, brought it to the Cor Jesu dugout, and wished her opponents good luck. Mehlville soccer coach Thomas Harper said, "Kayla understands that competition helps shape character and develop attitudes and values that will last a lifetime." Kayla is continuing her education at the University of Missouri.

KENNY PLEIMANN - 2014

ST. JOHN VIANNEY HIGH SCHOOL

Kenny Pleimann served as a student assistant for the football, basketball and baseball programs at St. John Vianney High School. He is the first student manager to receive the Sportsmanship Scholarship – a tribute to the extraordinary sportsmanship he displayed in the role. Although he never ran for a touchdown, made a basket or scored a run, he stood out among athletes at Vianney for his class, integrity and unselfishness.

Kenny had an amazing rapport with officials and opposing teams. His favorite thing as manager was walking the line with his team after every game to shake opponents' hands and tell them they played a good game. Multiple opposing coaches and players commented to their counterparts at Vianney about Kenny's positive attitude toward the opposition, even when Kenny's teams were on the losing side. Perhaps the most powerful testament to Kenny's sportsmanship is offered by Vianney basketball coach Kevin Walsh, whose young son serves as the team's water boy. Coach Walsh recounted how after games his son would tell him about the sportsmanship lessons Kenny taught him at the end of the bench. Kenny would explain to him that he can't act poorly when a referee makes a call against Vianney because it reflects badly on the team.

He would remind the boy that cheering when an opponent missed a shot or booing when one was made was not the right way to act. Coach Walsh said, "As a coach, I am so proud of Kenny for understanding the importance of sportsmanship. More importantly, as a parent, I am thankful that Kenny was the person sitting next to my son and educating him on why it is so important to have good sportsmanship." Kenny is continuing his education at McKendree University.



BRIANNE EBENROTH - 2013
ST. DOMINIC HIGH SCHOOL

Brianne Ebenroth is a multi-sport athlete who participated in cross country, basketball and soccer during her four years at St. Dominic High School. Although she competed in several sports, it was soccer she excelled in. Brianne garnered multiple all-St. Louis, all-conference and all-state honors. She earned a full athletic and academic scholarship to Drury University. But prior to her senior season, Brianne was diagnosed with Postural Orthostatic Tachycardia Syndrome (POTS), which causes chronic fatigue and other symptoms. Because of the condition, she was no longer able to play at the high level she expected of herself. Faced with this reality, she opted to return the scholarship so that Drury could use the funds for another deserving player. It was a tremendously classy, selfless and mature decision. Even with the medical condition, Brianne made the most of her senior season at St. Dominic. With Brianne as its captain, the school's soccer team won its second consecutive state title. In the championship game, with three minutes to go and St. Dominic up 2-0, Brianne asked her coach to substitute her for any teammates who had not yet played. St. Dominic Director of Athletics Jim Welby said, "Despite being her last competitive soccer game ever, Bri even wanted to take herself out so her teammates could have the memory forever. She had the foresight, compassion and sportsmanship to think past the moment and think about her teammates in the biggest game and moment of the year." Brianne is continuing her education at the University of Missouri-Columbia.

SHERMAN CALHOUN - 2013

CHRISTIAN BROTHERS COLLEGE HIGH SCHOOL

Sherman Calhoun competed in track and field as a sophomore, but the gridiron was his true home in four years at Christian Brothers College (CBC) High School. Sherman is the embodiment of the saying, "Tough times don't build character, they reveal it." During his senior year, CBC lost to rival DeSmet in the district playoffs, bringing the Cadets' season to an abrupt end. Sherman described the contest as "the hardest game" he's ever played. After the game, a heartbroken Sherman did something practically unheard of in football. He walked over to the DeSmet sideline and congratulated each of the players and coaches and wished them luck in the next round. It's common for teams to meet at midfield for the obligatory handshake after a game. But Sherman went a step further, showing tremendous class and respect for his opponent. It was a remarkable display of sportsmanship. Sherman's loyalty and character extended beyond this game and throughout his high school sports career. One of his coaches noted that Sherman is respected by his peers because he gives them respect. The coach called Sherman one of his favorite players because of his contagious smile and tremendous spirit. Sherman is continuing his education at Lincoln University.

**BLAKE DRYER - 2013**

ROCKWOOD SUMMIT HIGH SCHOOL

Blake Dryer competed in baseball, basketball and track and field while at Rockwood Summit High School. Blake's basketball coach described him as "soft-spoken, respectful, hard-working, and highly coachable." This stellar attitude was challenged during a varsity basketball tournament when the level of physical play became intense. An opposing player elbowed Blake under his eye causing an injury that required stitches. Later in the game, the player who injured Blake found himself on the floor after a hard foul by one of Blake's teammates. Showing great class, Blake, with butterfly tape over his eye, reached down to help his fallen opponent up. Officials complimented Blake on the selfless act. It's no surprise that Blake was recognized with the Outstanding Sportsmanship Award from the Missouri State High School Activities Association. In his junior year, Blake persevered during a challenging time as his father fought through a devastating Lymphoma diagnosis. On the court, he kept his emotions in check, never allowing the adversity of the situation to affect his interactions with teammates, opponents or officials. Although Blake is not competing at the collegiate level, he said he does plan to participate in intramurals and intends to continue to set an example of sportsmanship for others to follow. Blake is continuing his education at Rockhurst University.

KATIE RINGHAUSEN - 2013

FRANCIS HOWELL HIGH SCHOOL

Katie Ringhausen participated in track and field as a freshman, but her love of golf catapulted her to new heights during her four years at Francis Howell High School. She played in two state championships and was the No. 2 ranked player on the team her senior year. The only thing consistently better than Katie's scores was her character. Katie penalized herself for the smallest of infractions – even those unbeknownst to her competitors. She always used her counting device to keep an accurate number of strokes during play. Katie displayed great sportsmanship in a particular match when her competitor ran out of golf balls, which would result in the player's disqualification. Rather than take the easy win, Katie gave the opponent a sleeve of her own golf balls which allowed her to finish the round. Katie has been recognized multiple times for outstanding sportsmanship on the state and conference levels. She is continuing her education at the University of Central Missouri.





LUKE SCHLUETER - 2012

PARKWAY WEST HIGH SCHOOL

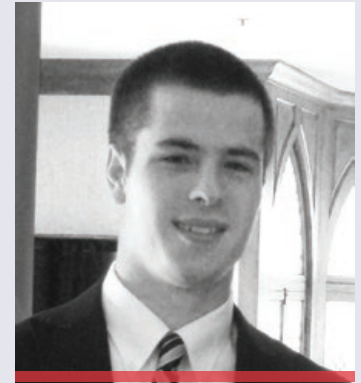
A four-time state championship qualifier, Luke Schlueter captained the Parkway West varsity swim team during his senior year. He was admired and viewed as a role model by his teammates and coaches – and his opponents. Parkway West coach Allison Zeller said there were multiple meets where other teams would be chanting, “Schlueter, Schlueter!” She said when she asked another coach why they were chanting his name, the response was that his competitors really like Luke and respect him as a swimmer and person. Luke always socialized with other swimmers. After every race, he would humbly shake hands with his opponents before exiting the pool. As a senior, he placed third in the 100-Fly at the state meet and broke a long-standing school record. True to his character, he immediately turned to his competitors to congratulate them on their accomplishments before he left the pool to accept his medal. Luke’s selflessness has long been evident. At age 13, as a member of the Creve Coeur Racquet Club swim team, he was due to receive the squad’s high point trophy. On the night of the team’s awards banquet, he privately asked his coach to award the trophy to the swimmer with the next highest point total since he had been the recipient the previous year. Luke never told anyone except his parents about the conversation, and no one clapped louder for the swimmer who accepted the trophy. Luke continued his education at Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

ZACHARY BOATMAN - 2012

SAINT LOUIS UNIVERSITY HIGH SCHOOL

Zachary Boatman played four years for the St. Louis University High School volleyball program. Those at SLUH say he is a shining example of sportsmanship: He is an honest competitor, selfless teammate and a gracious individual. His coach, James Gioia, noted that Zach would help the officials with calls that pertained to plays he made. Gioia said, “It is evident from watching Zach that he never seeks to gain an edge in any dishonest or unsportsmanlike way. He competes purely and honestly.” Gioia added that Zach was gracious in both victory and defeat. He celebrated with teammates and not in the face of his opponents.

When SLUH lost, Zach genuinely congratulated his opponents and displayed tremendous respect. A defining example occurred in the state volleyball championship. SLUH lost a hard-fought match to Francis Howell Central. After receiving their medals, Zach implored his teammates to stay on the court at the net and applaud each Francis Howell athlete during the medal ceremony. The following week, SLUH’s athletic director received a note from Francis Howell stating that the school’s fans, coaches and players appreciated the act of sportsmanship and felt Zach’s actions were first class. Zachary continued his education at the University of Arkansas.



NATALIE WILLIAMS - 2012

PARKWAY SOUTH HIGH SCHOOL



A multi-sport athlete at Parkway South (basketball, cross country and soccer) – not to mention newspaper sports editor – Natalie is a fierce competitor. But throughout high school, she learned that respecting others, including her rivals, was more rewarding than winning a game. During her senior year, the Parkway South girls basketball team was set to play rival Lafayette in a game that would determine the conference title. The game was scheduled for 7 p.m., but Lafayette mistakenly thought tipoff was at 5:30 p.m. Natalie discovered the error and left the pregame shoot-around to try to help the Lafayette players so they wouldn’t sit around for three hours. Parkway South coach Thomas Williams said, “Natalie wanted nothing more than to win that game, but she wanted to win the right way.” As a member of Parkway South’s varsity cross country team, she selflessly filled a spot until younger runners were ready to step up at the end of the season. Coach Sandra Guymon said, “Not only did Natalie never question this role, she set an excellent example for the freshmen and sophomores.” In her nomination essay, Natalie recounted a story of how she became friends with a Lafayette cross country runner she was “supposed” to dislike. During her sophomore year, Natalie engaged her opponent in conversation at an awards ceremony. Finding the competitor to be a nice person, Natalie realized the schools’ rivalry shouldn’t get in the way. From that point forward, they cheered each other on and helped one another get through every race. The camaraderie she instilled among her teammates, opponents and herself underscored her remarkable maturity. Thomas Williams, the Parkway South basketball coach, said, “Natalie has set the standard for what all future Lady Patriots will be measured by on the court and in the classroom.” Natalie continued her education at Stephens College.

KATIE KENNEDY - 2011

LINDBERGH HIGH SCHOOL



A graduate of Lindbergh High School, Katie Kennedy was a member of the school's track and field team and captain of the varsity cheerleading squad. During her senior year, she broke Lindbergh's pole vault record. But as proud as she is of that accomplishment, she says she takes even more pride in the kindness, integrity and class she exhibited in competition. That approach made her one of the most popular pole vaulters in the area. According to one of her coaches, Katie was always one of the first to congratulate anyone who beat her and was the first to console anyone who finished behind her. The coach described how at the Kansas Relays Katie sat next to and comforted a competitor from Oklahoma who was distraught after missing her opening jump. Later, after Katie was eliminated from the competition, she helped calm a vaulter from Fort Zumwalt High School whose coach could not attend. At the State qualifying meet, Katie noticed a top rival vaulter was about to be in violation of a uniform infraction. She informed the competitor of the mistake, saving her from disqualification. Katie recognized the importance of sportsmanship on the sidelines as well. She said as a cheerleader she observed unsportsmanlike behavior. "It saddened me to see not only athletes behaving badly, but parents as well. I tried to use those times to point out to the younger cheerleaders that our job was to bring the schools together." Katie continued her education at Maryville University.



JASON GRANT - 2011

ST. JOHN VIANNEY HIGH SCHOOL

A first-team All-State selection, Jason Grant was the captain of the Vianney varsity soccer team. According to his coaches, there were multiple times when referees would tell them how much they respected Jason and how well he carried himself on the field. In fact, the coaching staff received a letter from the Missouri State High School Activities Association indicating that a referee had written to the organization to acknowledge Jason's professionalism, leadership and sportsmanship qualities. His respect for the game and the referees was contagious. His positive attitude made the players around him better. In his scholarship nomination essay, Jason wrote: "Although winning is very important, the way that you win is even more important. I was always taught by my parents and coaches to hold my head up after a loss, and to properly respect my opponent after a win." Jason continued his education at Western Michigan University.

ZASMINE JOHNSON - 2011

HAZELWOOD CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL



Zasmine Johnson played volleyball, basketball and soccer at Hazelwood Central. Michael Loyd, who coached Zasmine's club volleyball team as well as the varsity team at Fort Zumwalt East, said, "There isn't a more selfless and classy athlete than her... Before every match, she would go tell the opposing coach good luck. At the end of every match she would make sure to thank the opposing coach, the refs and the players. If we would lose, she would always wish the winning team best of luck on the rest of the day. Several coaches would come up to me to talk about her attitude on the court and how lucky I was." As an all-conference honorable mention selection in soccer, Zasmine played goalie even though she wasn't comfortable with the position. The team needed her and she did it for the team, according to Hazelwood Central coach Patrick Rocco. He added that her teammates nicknamed her "Grandma" because of her compassion and the way she treated them was as if she was watching over them like a grandma would. Rocco said, "In my seven years of coaching, I have coached and encountered hundreds of student-athletes. I know of no other athlete that I have coached or observed that is more deserving (of the scholarship) than Zasmine." Zasmine continued her education at the University of Missouri.



JIMMY MYERS - 2010

WESTMINSTER CHRISTIAN ACADEMY

Jimmy Myers graduated from Westminster Christian Academy where he was a four-year letterman on the varsity tennis team and served as captain during his junior and senior seasons. His coach, Nathan Talley, said that not only did Jimmy play No. 1 for the Westminster team and play amazing tennis all season, “he did so with an attitude of grace, humility and kindness.” It was not unusual for Jimmy to defeat an opponent soundly yet walk off the court with him, asking a question about the player’s school or sharing a laugh. During his senior season, Jimmy encouraged his teammates to go beyond the traditional handshake at the end of each match. He urged them to make eye contact and give a sincere compliment as well. In the heat of competition, Jimmy demonstrated great self-control and poise. Talley watched one match in which Jimmy’s opponent made several bad line calls. But Jimmy did not let it bother him. Instead, he regrouped, gave his opponent the benefit of the doubt, and kept playing with passion and focus. In another match, Talley observed Jimmy defeating a very capable opponent with ease. On the changeover, he watched Jimmy playfully joking around with his opponent, both of them laughing, enjoying the sport and each other’s company. The coach said, “As I watched that, I actually got teary because that’s so much of what it’s about: enjoying the sport and the people you meet because of the sport. Having fun with people and never at others’ expense. Most high school kids don’t understand or demonstrate this – and I can’t imagine any of them showing it better than Jimmy Myers.” Jimmy continued his education at Covenant College in Lookout Mountain, Ga.

MEGAN WOOD - 2010

WASHINGTON HIGH SCHOOL

A graduate of Washington High School, Megan Wood was a member of the school’s varsity cross country, basketball, soccer, and track and field teams. She earned numerous academic and athletic honors – yet her scholarship recommendations emphasized that sportsmanship is one of Megan’s greatest strengths. That quality was highlighted during her senior year in a cross country race. As Megan passed a competitor in the final half-mile, she told the athlete to run with her, push on and “you can do it.” The competing runner finished ahead of Megan, yet Megan celebrated her achievement, congratulating her on a terrific race. The competitor’s father witnessed the exchange and was so moved that he wrote a letter to Washington’s athletic director praising Megan. In her scholarship essay, Megan wrote: “Being an athlete is the easy part of any sport but having good sportsmanship takes heart and a strong character. I commend those who have the audacity to encourage an opponent, because they do it out of the kindness in their heart, never for glory. In my book, sports are played not for winning – that only lasts a second; but for playing fair, having fun, and giving back, because a kind, encouraging word or deed can make all the difference in living life to its fullest.” Megan continued her education at the University of Arkansas.



TRENT ROSS - 2009

TRIAD HIGH SCHOOL

Trent Ross of Troy, Ill., was the recipient of the inaugural St. Louis Sports Commission Associates’ Sportsmanship Scholarship. Trent was an outstanding student-athlete during his four years at Triad High School. He captained the varsity track and field and cross country teams, and also played on the junior varsity soccer team. Perhaps his most remarkable attribute was the attitude he had toward opponents. At the end of every race, Trent thanked and congratulated each of his fellow competitors no matter where he finished. It takes tremendous character to congratulate someone who just beat you. Moreover, it requires a humble spirit to encourage those who finish after you without being condescending. Races can also be exhausting. Trent helped those runners off the ground and allowed them to lean on him until they caught their breath. His commitment to sportsmanship did not end on the track. Trent used social media to keep in contact with his fellow competitors. They encouraged and congratulated each other via e-mail and Facebook. Triad cross country coach Andy Brendel said, “In my seven years of coaching high school sports, I have yet to see an athlete display such a high level of sportsmanship.” Brian Weiss, the school’s track and field coach, said Trent “displays a unique combination of exceptional natural talent, superior motivation, character beyond reproach, and a dynamic spirit, all of which elevate him, in my mind, into the top one percent of athletes and students that I have had the opportunity of teaching and coaching.” To all that, Trent replied that while he was honored to be nominated by his coaches, he doesn’t think he did anything special. “To me, doing what I do for other competitors at races is just how I was raised and that is not anything out of the ordinary.” Trent continued his education at Western Illinois University.