

26th Annual Minnesota Girls and Women in Sports Day

21 athletes and sports leaders to be recognized

Wednesday, February 1 – 12 p.m. at the Minnesota State Capitol

Some of Minnesota's most inspiring and influential student-athletes, coaches and athletic leaders will be recognized at an award ceremony on Wednesday, February 1, at the Minnesota State Capitol in St. Paul. The award ceremony will be conducted in conjunction with the 26th annual National Girls and Women in Sports Day, a nationwide celebration recognizing the accomplishments of individuals in the promotion and advancement of girls' and women's sports. The 2012 ceremony will be honoring 21 individuals who will be receiving awards in five separate categories. Award recipients are nominated by schools, community organizations, recreation centers, and amateur and professional sports organizations. All are invited to attend this special event. Details about award winners are below.



The Marie Berg Award for Excellence in Education - Vel Teichroew, Richfield HS, Teichroew actively worked to increase opportunities for high school girls in the mid-1960's as the Girls Athletic Association (GAA) advisor at Richfield High School. In the 1970's she served on the MSHSL Women's Advisory Committee, making recommendations on rules, seasons, sports and State Tournaments. As one of the founding members of the critically important Minnesota State HS Coaches of Girls Sports Association, she tirelessly served as its Executive Director for 13 years. Teichroew has been inducted into the MSHSL Hall of Fame, the Mankato State University Hall of Distinction and the Richfield Hall of Fame. Teichroew retired after 30 years of teaching physical education, serving as the Girls Sports Coordinator and coaching gymnastics, tennis and cross country skiing. Her last 27 years were at Richfield High School where she was the consummate role model for young athletes.



The Girls' and Women's Sports in the Media Award - Lynette Sjoquist, Radio Sports Analyst, Sjoquist has been a true media pioneer in covering women in sports. Most recently, she has been the "Voice of the Gopher Women's Basketball Team" as a radio analyst for the past 11 years. Prior to working with the Gophers, Lynette played and then worked as a public relations director for the Minnesota Fillies of the Women's Professional Basketball League. In this role she served as a radio analyst and also worked to expand media coverage for the League. Prior to her work with the Fillies, Sjoquist played for the All-American Redheads traveling basketball team, playing and promoting the game throughout the country. She regularly speaks to local community groups, promoting athletic opportunities for girls and women.



The Wilma Rudolph Award for Courage and Inspiration - Gabriele Anderson, University of Minnesota/USA Running, Anderson was an outstanding track and cross country athlete at the University of Minnesota. Prior to her senior year, she was diagnosed with adenoid cystic carcinoma, an uncommon and persistent cancer. She endured treatments for the cancer and was able to return the next season and perform at a high level in both the Big Ten and nationally. Among her many outstanding performances at Minnesota was her second-place finish in the 1500 meters at the 2010 NCAA Outdoor Track Championship. In the summer of 2010, Anderson joined Team USA Minnesota. Anderson graduated from Minnesota with a degree in English and Political Science and finished her Master of Public Policy degree a year ago. She is currently pursuing the 2012 Olympic Trials/Olympics as a sponsored athlete for Brooks Running and Team USA Minnesota.



Special Merit Award - Peggy Brenden, St. Cloud Tech HS/St. Paul Urban Tennis. In 1972, the year Title IX was passed by Congress, Brenden was blazing trails for future girls and women in sports. As a high school tennis athlete at St. Cloud Tech HS, she filed a lawsuit challenging the Minnesota State HS League's ruling that she could not play on the boys' tennis team. The lawsuit and the controversy that it generated, encouraged people to stop and think about what girls were capable of as athletes. It challenged the status quo and jump-started the implementation of Title IX. For the last 16 years, Peg has also served on the Board of St. Paul Urban Tennis - bringing tennis and life skills to girls and boys in St. Paul. She is a member of the Luther College Hall of Fame, the USTA Northern Section Hall of Fame and received the Rolex/International Tennis Association Achievement Award. Brenden lives in St. Paul and is a Workers Compensation Judge for the State of Minnesota.



Special Merit Award - Judy Jungwirth, Bloomington Schools/Women's Hockey. Jungwirth can be largely credited with helping to put girls' hockey on the map in Minnesota. In the late 1970's and early 1980's the Women's Hockey League started with four teams. The league began putting on clinics, teaching women how to play and providing opportunities. The league has grown to 81 teams and over 1300 women. This movement helped create momentum for the addition of HS girl's hockey. As a member of the U's M Club Board, Judy helped push through an initiative to present Letter Awards to women who participated in intercollegiate athletics prior to Title IX. Jungwirth still serves as the secretary for the U of M Women's Physical Education Alumni Association. She played professional fastpitch softball from 1975-79 and played many more years as one of Minnesota's most honored amateur players. Jungwirth retired from teaching physical education in the Bloomington school system and lives in Bloomington.



Special Merit Award - Mary Jo Kane, University of Minnesota/Tucker Center. Mary Jo is Professor and Director of the Tucker Center for Research on Girls & Women in Sport at the University of Minnesota. She received her Ph.D. from the University of Illinois with an emphasis in Sport Sociology. Professor Kane is an internationally recognized scholar who has published extensively on media representations of athletic females. In 1996, Mary Jo was awarded the first Endowed Chair related to women in sport: The Dorothy McNeill Tucker Chair for Women in Sport & Exercise Science. She is a Fellow in the National Academy of Kinesiology, the highest academic honor in her field. In 2004, she received the Scholar of the Year Award from the Women's Sports Foundation. She was recently named one of the 100 Most Influential Sports Educators by the Institute for International Sport. In 2011, Professor Kane was selected by the Research Consortium of AAHPERD to deliver the Raymond Weiss Distinguished Lecture next March in Boston. Kane considers one of her most important contributions to the development of girls and women in sport to be the proposal she wrote in 1992 that secured a \$2 million endowment to launch the Tucker Center, the first such research center in the world to be housed inside a major research university. The donation came from Dr. Dorothy Tucker who is a 1945 graduate of the U of M.



Special Merit Award - Janis Klecker, Marathon Running. Klecker was one of the trail blazers for women in marathon running. Olympic marathon running for women did not begin until the 1984 Los Angeles Olympics. Klecker won the USA Olympic Trials in 1992 and was a member of the 1992 USA Olympic Team in Barcelona, competing in the marathon. She is a two-time National Champion, five-time Olympic Trials Qualifier, two-time winner of the Twin Cities Marathon, two-time winner of the San Francisco Marathon, winner of the Houston Marathon and winner of Grandma's Marathon. Her outstanding achievements have earned her a place in the U.S. Track & Field Minnesota Hall of Fame. Currently, Klecker holds the women's world record for the 50K, a record she has held for over 25 years. Klecker has been a speaker at the Tucker Center Distinguished Speaker Series. A native of Edina and an alumna of the U of M, she is a practicing dentist and lives in Minnetonka with her husband and 6 children.



Special Recognition - D'Ann Brosnahan, Athena Awards. Brosnahan has been on the forefront of helping to recognize the accomplishments of girls in sports for decades. The Athena Awards are a spectacular event held each year to honor the top Metro Area high school girls for their athletic accomplishments. She has been a member of the Minneapolis Athena Awards committee since 1964, serving as the chair three times. Brosnahan also joined the St. Paul Athena Awards committee in 1995. Each year she writes the Emcee's script describing the achievements of the 50+ girls who receive the annual awards. Brosnahan joined The Coalition Committee which sponsors this event in the mid-90's and wrote the script for the past 10 years. In 2011 she received the Gamma Sigma National Service Sorority Distinguished Service Award for her volunteer work. She is the Executive Director of the Minnesota Dietetic Association. Brosnahan and her husband live in Edina and are AVID supporters of women's sports and can be seen in the stands at many sporting events featuring girls and women.

2012 Breaking Barriers Awards

Sandy Belkengren Richfield Schools, P.E./Coaching
 Tracy Buford Laura Jeffrey Public Charter School, Girls Basketball Coach
 YWCA of Minneapolis Cancer Recovery Exercise for Women (CREW)
 Deborah Diamond University of Minnesota, Women's Sports Marketing
 Rene Gavic Visitation School, Dean of Students/CC & TF Coach
 Keri K. Goeltl Hamline University, Women's Initiative Committee/PAAB
 Kelly Haws St. Cloud Cathedral HS, CC Coach/Gymnastics Official

Connie Parsley Visitation School, Girls' Golf Coach
 Kelli Rolstad Women's Hockey Official
 Jack P. Shawn Official/President Suburban Officials
 Barbara Thomason Park Rapids Tennis Coach
 Sarah Waldo Kelliher High School, Volleyball/Track Coach/P.E.
 Janet Zenzen Sauk Center Slam Volleyball Club

Minnesota Girls and Women in Sports Day is sponsored by the Minnesota Coalition of Women in Athletic Leadership.

For more information about the event contact: Kelly Anderson Diercks - diercks@augsborg.edu - (612)-330-1245 or find us online at <http://ngwsd-mn.com/>