

# PIL Honors Athletes, Coaches at Celebration of Champions

May 17, 2015



The **Portland Interscholastic League (PIL)** paused for praise Sunday in acknowledging outstanding athletes, teams, coaches and leadership achievements in the 2014-15 season at the 17th annual Celebration of Champions at Nike's Tiger Woods Center in Beaverton.

Team and individual league and state champions were honored from each of the nine member schools, along with the naming of student Sportswoman and Sportsman at Benson, Cleveland, Franklin, Grant, Jefferson, Lincoln, Madison, Roosevelt, and Wilson.

The PIL Hall of Fame sponsors this event as well as the Induction Ceremony for new Hall of Fame members, scheduled this year on Oct. 18 at the Holiday Inn-Portland Airport.

Each school also recognized a Coach and Assistant Coach of the year, leading to League honors for three high school coaches—Darryl Kealy for Girl's Tennis at Cleveland won the **E. Paul McCall Award** and Kelsey Green for softball at Roosevelt won the **Marsha Richard Award** for Coaches of the Year, while Page Mesher was recipient of the **Ron Pheister Assistant Coach of the Year Award** for his work in boys basketball at Benson.

Six others were honored for **PIL Youth Sports (middle school) recognition**—Tammy West, cross country, Madison cluster; Mario Molony, volleyball, Roosevelt cluster; Brett Christy-Hamilton, wrestling, Cleveland cluster; Emily Kellet, girls basketball, Grant cluster; Angel Humphrey, track & field, Roosevelt cluster; and Jessica Russell, Coordinator of the Year, Cleveland cluster.

Franklin's Scott Santangelo was named **Athletic Director of the Year** for the fourth time in his 16-year career, and former Benson athlete/coach and Assistant District Athletic Director Bill Ranta received the **Robert Blanchard Distinguished Service Award**. Both are members of the PIL Hall of Fame. Ranta will be retiring in December after 40 years of association with the PIL.

Following are the **Sportswoman and Sportsman** chosen from each school for their character, leadership, inspiration, sportsmanship, and accomplishments in athletics and academics (Grade Point Average for all 18 averaged about 3.8)

**BENSON:** Chaquinn Cook (volleyball, basketball, track & field—10 letters); Anthony Ross (football, basketball, track & field—6 letters).

**CLEVELAND:** Emma Wrenn (cross country, swimming, track & field—12 letters); Robert Bergan (football, basketball, track, lacrosse—8 letters).

**FRANKLIN:** Maria Carlsen (basketball, track & field, cheer—9 letters); Austin Sparks (football, track & field, weight lifting—8 letters).

**GRANT:** Hanna Posey-Scholl (cross country, track & field, wrestling—8 letters); Sam Davis (football, track & field, basketball, tennis—11 letters).

**JEFFERSON:** Gianna Taylor (volleyball, cheer—4 letters); Larry Brister (football, wrestling, track & field—8 letters).

**LINCOLN:** Emma Lambert (soccer, track & field—8 letters); Nate Ostmo (football, baseball—8 letters).

**MADISON:** Abby Vogel (volleyball, skiing, tennis—11 letters); Marquis Bowles (football, basketball, track & field—6 letters).

**ROOSEVELT:** Megan Verbout (soccer, softball—8 letters); Sean Brady (football, baseball—7 letters).

**WILSON:** Madison Horn (basketball, soccer, lacrosse—6 letters); Ben Lensch (basketball, soccer—7 letters).

Named the **Coaches and Assistant Coaches-of-the-year** respectively from each school were the following:

**BENSON:** James VanSheeta, cheer; Page Mesher, boys basketball;

**CLEVELAND:** Darryl Kealy, girl's tennis; Kellie Cook, cross country;

**FRANKLIN:** Steve O'Neill, wrestling; Rob Jamieson, soccer, wrestling, track & field;

**GRANT:** Doug Winn, cross country, track & field; Erin Cole, volleyball;

**JEFFERSON:** Montral Brazile, wrestling; Dale Baugh, boy's basketball, track & field;

**LINCOLN:** C.J. Watson, baseball; Wes Warren, football, basketball;

**MADISON:** Asst. David Kelly, boy's soccer;

**ROOSEVELT:** Kelsey Green, softball; Jonquil Vann-Tessmer, track & field;

**WILSON:** Thor Ebensen, cross country, track & field; Thomas Nava, boy's basketball, tennis.

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*Submitted by*

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#### **Additional Information on the Named Awards:**

##### **The E. Paul McCall Award – Coach of the Year**

Paul McCall was a PIL Coach, Administrator and District Athletic Director and he guided the PIL through a period of unmatched growth and success. He will be remembered by those who worked with him as a tireless advocate for kids and athletics. Paul believed that:

- Every coach served as an important role model for all athletes.
- He established high expectations for himself, those who worked with him and his players.
- He emphasizes development of the player as a student and as an athlete.
- Each coach should be humble in victory and gracious in defeat.

##### **Ron Pheister Award – Assistant Athletic Director of the Year**

Ron Pheister was a coach and Athletic Director in the PIL, teaching and coaching at 6 different PIL schools. He believed that the heart of a strong athletic program was finding good coaches and giving them the support they needed to be successful. Ron was responsible for starting many programs we still have today, including the PIL Awards Ceremony we are attending this afternoon.

##### **The Robert Blanchard Award – Distinguished Service**

Named in honor of Superintendent of Portland Public Schools Robert Blanchard from 1969 to 1980. Dr. Blanchard was a strong advocate of athletics. This award is presented to the person whose contributions benefit all of the PIL schools.

##### **The Marsha Richard Award – Coach of the Year**

Marsha coached in and became the Assistant Director of Athletics for the PIL. In her role, she was inspirational to many coaches and is credited for the development of women athletics and many coaches in the PIL. Marsha believed that coaches have a unique opportunity to positively influence young people by encouraging athletes to challenge themselves and to continue to grow.