

# PIL Honors Athletes, Coaches at Celebration of Champions

May 21, 2017



The Portland Interscholastic League (PIL) capped its 2016-17 season Sunday with a Celebration of Champions, acknowledging outstanding athletes, teams, coaches, and leadership achievements. This 19th annual event was held 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 Sportsmen and Sportswomen of the year from the nine high schools—Benson, Cleveland, Franklin, Grant, Jefferson, Lincoln, Madison, Roosevelt, and Wilson.

The PIL Hall of Fame sponsors the Celebration each spring for current athletes. Former star athletes are inducted into the PIL HOF at an **Induction Banquet**. This year the ceremony will be **October 29** at the Holiday Inn-Portland Airport.

From among nominees from each school, the PIL named Franklin's **Henry Mong** as *Sportsman of the Year* and Grant's **Khiarica Rasheed** as *Sportswomen of the Year*.

A star runner, Mong won the Oregon 6A 800-meter and 1500-meter runs Saturday. He was a first team cross country all-star and PIL 800 and 1500 champion multiple times. Rasheed maintained a 3.94 GPA while earning four letters in each of three sports—basketball, volleyball, and track and field. She was a three-time All-PIL basketball star and player of the year in 2016.

**Kendra Gardner**, coach of Grant's co-champion women's basketball team, was named the *Martha Richard Woman Coach of the Year*. By leading Wilson men to the soccer title, coach **Frank Mathews** won the *E. Paul McCall Coach of the Year* award for men. The *Ron Pheister Award for Assistant coaches* was claimed by Grant's **Michael Vasbinder**, who assisted in football and baseball.

Cleveland's **Mike Shanahan** was named *Athletic Director of the Year* and was joined by Jefferson's AD **Jackque Sage** for the *Athletic Director Service Award* upon their retirements from PIL service for 16 years and 13 years respectively. **Charlotte Richardson** received the *Robert Blanchard Distinguished Award* for 44 years of coaching track, the last 10 at Lincoln.

The PIL also honored eight middle school *Coaches of the Year* as follows, by Cluster: Volleyball, **Shauna Bishop**, Grant; Cross Country, **Julie Abrams**, and Wrestling, **John Farinola**, Lincoln; Boy's Basketball, **Kurt Brauckmiller** and Wrestling, **Brandon Laborico**, Franklin; Girl's Basketball **Tony Morones**, Roosevelt; Baseball, **John Hovious**, Madison; and Track & Field, **Michele Olson**, Wilson. **Tammy West** and **Danielle Koping** from the Madison Cluster shared *Coordinator of the Year* honors.

The athletes were chosen from each school for their character, leadership, inspiration, sportsmanship, and accomplishments in athletics and academics. They are listed below by school, followed by the head coach (HC) and assistant coach (AC) nominated for coach of the year honors:

## ***Sportsman and Sportswoman, Head Coach, Assistant Coach of the Year***

School, athletes, sports played — total letters, grade point average; Coaches (head & assistant) (League award winners in **bold face**.)

**BENSON:** Kevin Nguyen, football, basketball, tennis, track & field—8 letters, 3.11  
Anna Nguyen, volleyball, tennis, track & field—5 letters, 3.98  
HC Earl Clark, men's basketball; AC Geoffrey Balke, track & field

**CLEVELAND:** Harper Lee, football, wrestling, track & field—8 letters, 3.86  
Marcelina Roberti, volleyball, softball—6 letters, 3.90  
HC Jeff Zerba, wrestling; AC John Taylor, football, wrestling

**FRANKLIN:** **Henry Mong**, cross country, track & field—6 letters, 3.43  
Delaney Hartmann, cross country, track & field—8 letters, 4.2  
HC Ty Kovatch, men's soccer; AC James Brauckmiller, Softball

**GRANT:** Andrew Finkleman, tennis—4 letters, 4.12  
**Khiarica Rasheed**, basketball, volleyball, track & field—12 letters, 3.94  
**HC Kendra Gardner**, women’s basketball; **AC Michael Vasbinder**, football, baseball

**JEFFERSON:** Dylan O’Brien, football, basketball—5 letters, 4.0  
Kolby Cantue-Cliette, basketball, soccer—3 letters, 3.75  
HC Patrick Strickland, men’s basketball; AC Dale Baugh, men’s basketball

**LINCOLN:** Brandon Leitgeb, football, baseball—6 letters, 4.2  
Sarah Nasson, soccer, track & field—8 letters, 3.9  
HC Jay Wilson, tennis; AC Kara Wendel, swimming

**MADISON:** Abdi Hassan, football, wrestling, track & field—7 letters, 3.2; and  
Riley Powers, soccer, basketball, baseball—9 letters, 3.66  
Mele Kavapalu, volleyball, track & field—7 letters, 3.88  
HC Don Johnson, football; AC David Kelly, men’s soccer

**ROOSEVELT:** Austin Schulz, soccer, wrestling—9 letters, 3.78  
Breanna Mizee, soccer, basketball, track & field—7 letters, 3.9  
HC Jennifer Lohse, women’s soccer; AC Nick Porter, softball

**WILSON:** Caleb Seely, cross country, track & field—7 letters, 3.65  
Saioa Lostra, volleyball, basketball, softball—10 letters, 4.1  
**HC Frank Matthews**, men’s soccer; AC Tony Petragila, cross country, wrestling, T&F

----- 30 -----

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. 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 emphasized 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 was a coach and athletic director in the PIL, teaching and coaching at six 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 Celebration of Champions.

**The Robert Blanchard Award – Distinguished Service**

Named in honor of a former Superintendent of Portland Public Schools from 1969 to 1980, a strong advocate of athletics, this award is presented to the person whose contributions benefit all PIL schools.

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

Martha 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 athletes and 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.