

PIL Honors Athletes, Coaches at Celebration of Champions

Sunday, May 20, 2018



The Portland Interscholastic League (PIL) capped its 2017-18 season Sunday with a Celebration of Champions, acknowledging outstanding athletes, teams, coaches and leadership achievements. This 20th 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 naming of Sportsmen and Sportswomen of the year from each school—Benson, Cleveland, Franklin, Grant, Jefferson, Lincoln, Madison, Roosevelt, and Wilson.

From among nominees from each school, the PIL named Franklin's **Samantha Brauckmiller** as *Sportswoman of the Year* and Grant's **Damon Hickok** as *Sportsman of the Year*. Brauckmiller was softball pitcher of year three straight years and a four-time PIL all-star, while Hickok was a football all-star offensively and defensively and a starter on Grant's state championship basketball team while earning seven letters.

Grant basketball coach **Robert Key** was named the *E. Paul McCall Coach of the Year* and Cleveland girl's soccer coach **Emily Ngan** was named the *Martha Richard Coach of the Year* for her team's championship season. *The Ron Pheister Award for Assistant Coaches* was claimed by Wilson's **Jacob Hockett** who assisted in football, wrestling, and baseball for the Trojans.

Two first year athletic directors shared the *Athletic Director of the Year* award, Wilson's **Mike Nolan** and Cleveland's **Nathan Stanley**, also sharing *School of the Year* honors presented by Benjamin Dudley of the Positive Coaching Alliance. The PCA mission is to enhance the sports culture through positive, character-building experiences.

Karrin Garrison received the *Robert Blanchard Distinguished Service Award* for over 30 years of outstanding work as secretary to five different Portland Public Schools athletic directors in that time.

The PIL also honored eight *middle school youth coaches of the year* as follows, by cluster: Cleveland—**Matt Farley**, cross country; **Joseph Jefferson**, football; and **Meghan Eigo**, track & field; Franklin—**David Cole**, volleyball; Wilson—**Lance Johnson**, wrestling; Madison—**Cliff Vogl**, girls basketball and **Ellis Matthews**, boys basketball; and Jefferson, **Jacob Lusby**, baseball. *Youth Sports Coordinator of the Year* is **Kaitie Swengel** from the Grant cluster.

Franklin High School received the *PIL Sportsmanship School of the Year* award.

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

The athletes honored from each school were chosen for their character, leadership, inspiration, sportsmanship, and accomplishments in athletics and academics. They are listed below by school, sports played, letters earned and grade point average, followed by Coach of the Year nominees—head coach (HC) and assistant coach (AC) (PIL award **winners in bold face**):

BENSON: David Wallberg, football, wrestling, baseball—10 letters, 3.47;
Echo Nguyen, cheer, tennis—5 letters, 3.88.
HC Eric Knox, girls basketball; AC Page Mesher, boys basketball.

CLEVELAND: Rowan Anderson, basketball—3 letters, 3.9;
Sophia Smith, basketball, track & field—6 letters, 3.61.
HC **Emily Ngan**, girls soccer; AC Mark Wren, cross country, track & field, swimming.

FRANKLIN: Xavier Peraza, football, track & field—8 letters, 3.71;
Samantha Brauckmiller, softball, swimming—5 letters, 4.06.
HC Gina Aman, softball; AC Tim Itami, football, wrestling.

GRANT: **Damon Hickok**, football, basketball, track & field—7 letters, 3.3; and Philip Quinton, cross country, soccer, track & field—10 letters, 4.1; Jude Baxter-Game, volleyball, track & field—6 letters, 3.3.
HC **Robert Key**, boys basketball; AC Christine Stenberg, girls soccer and track & field.

JEFFERSON: Romeo Akil, football, basketball, track & field—8 letters, 2.6; Kiasia Lane, cheer, volleyball—5 letters, 3.85.
HC Montral Brazile, wrestling; AC Karry Cameron, football and wrestling.

LINCOLN: Will Duffy, football, wrestling, lacrosse—10 letters, 3.78; Trynadii Rocha, cheer, wrestling—8 letters, 3.5.
HC Pat Adelman, boys basketball; AC Matt Ryman, track & field and football.

MADISON: Michael Bennett, soccer, basketball, baseball, golf—10 letters, 3.2; Grace Lee, volleyball, tennis—6 letters, 4.2.
HC Jenny Lutton, softball; AC Nicole Matthews, volleyball.

ROOSEVELT: Lammi Kalil, cross country, track & field—8 letters, 3.64; Grace Ferres, softball—4 letters, 3.64.
HC Michael Bontemps, girls basketball; AC Jake Stout, cross country and track & field.

WILSON: Alex Slenning, cross country, track & field—8 letters, 3.6; Adahra Poasa, cross country, track & field—8 letters, 3.78.
HC Jackie Kolesar, volleyball and golf; AC **Jacob Hockett**, baseball, wrestling and football.

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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. 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.