

Madison Sports Hall of Fame Club Announces Annual Winners
To be honored at Hall of Fame banquet August 31, 2021

For more information:

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MADISON, WI, August 9, 2021 – The Madison Sports Hall of Fame Club will honor some of the areas top athletes and coaches from the past year at its annual banquet in addition to five new Hall of Fame inductees. The awards event is set for Tuesday evening, August 31st, at Monona Terrace Community and Convention Center.

The Exact Sciences Madison Sportsman of the Year Award will be given to University of Wisconsin Volleyball Coach Kelly Sheffield. Kelly led the University of Wisconsin volleyball team to the precipice of a National Championship in NCAA Volleyball losing in the semi-final match this past spring. Sheffield will be entering his ninth year coaching the UW volleyball team and he has a winning percentage of .805 (206-50) while at Wisconsin.

The Neckerman Insurance Madison Sportswoman of the Year Award winner is Baluck Deang, Madison Edgewood Tennis and Basketball player. While Baluck was an outstanding player on the hardwood for the Crusader basketball team, she excelled on the tennis court where she earned her second consecutive WIAA State Tennis Division 2 Singles Championship. Baluck is continuing her tennis career by attending Delaware State in the fall

The Edgewood College Friend of Sport Award will be awarded to a longtime builder of young people in the area of youth football. This year's winner is Will Smith. Will has been associated with the South Side Raiders Youth Football Organization for over 40 years. He has found uniforms, funded for equipment, recruited kids to play and coached in an effort to bring the youth of the south side of Madison opportunities that otherwise they wouldn't have been able to receive.

The Madison Area Sports Commission Pat Richter Favorite Sibling Award winner is Nicole Newman. Nicole, a graduate of Madison LaFollette High School where she was the Big Eight Player of the Year for 3 of her 4 years playing on the varsity. She went on to an outstanding career at Drake University where she was a two time All American and led all of Division 1 softball pitchers in strikeouts and strikeouts per 7 innings pitched while leading her Drake Bulldogs to 3 Conference Championships and two invites to the NCAA softball tournament. Nicole went on to get her graduate degree at the University of Minnesota while being a Graduate Assistant with the Gopher Softball Team. Nicole has just become the Pitching Coach for the NCAA Division 1 Creighton University BlueJays.

The Flad Development & Investment Area Sportsperson of the Year winner is Brooks Empey from Stoughton High School. Brooks was an outstanding 3 sport athlete at Stoughton excelling in football, wrestling and track and field. Brooks won the WIAA State Wrestling tournament at 220 lbs. for the past two years. Brooks was a two way

player in football earning all conference and all state honors. Even at 220 lbs., Brooks was a sprinter on the track team running the 100 m and the 200 meters as well as the 4 x 100 and 4 x 200 relays. Brooks is heading to the University of Wisconsin at Madison to continue his wrestling career.

Jerry Kelly, Mike Lucas, Joel Maturi, Molly McClimon-Watcke and Sue Mussey-Kempf are the 20221 Hall of Fame inductees sponsored by Strand Associates.

Tickets for the event are \$50. The event is open to the public and everyone is encouraged to attend and salute this exceptional group of inductees and award winners. Contact Al Schumacher (608-395-4648) for tickets until August 25th.

The Madison Sports Hall of Fame Club began in 1963 to recognize and honor great athletes and sports figures from the city. The group hosts weekly luncheon meetings from August through May and holds the induction ceremony every year. There are more than 200 inductees in its Hall of Fame. Go to <http://www.madisonsportshalloffame.org> to find other information about the Madison Sports Hall of Fame Club. Membership is open to anyone who is interested in sports.