

Madison Sports Hall of Fame Club Announces Major Award Winners

To be honored at 60th Hall of Fame banquet Wednesday, May 31st, 2023

For more information:

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MADISON, WI, April 20, 2023

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 Wednesday evening, May 31st, at Monona Terrace Community and Convention Center.

As previously announced, **Gary Buss from Madison East, Michelle Jesperson from Madison West, Doug Parrish from Madison Memorial, Pam Roecker from Madison La Follette and Bo Ryan from the University of Wisconsin** are the new 2023 Hall of Fame inductees into the Madison Sports Hall of Fame sponsored by Strand Associates.

In addition, the following athletes, coaches and contributors to sports in Madison and the surrounding area are being honored for their contributions.

The Flad Development and Investment Madison Area Sportspersons of the Year goes to two outstanding coaches from Oregon High School. **Chris Mitchell**, the Oregon High School Boys coach whose teams have won the WIAA D2 Soccer championship for two consecutive years and have also won the WIAA State title in 2018. Chris was the Wisconsin State Journal All-Area Coach of the Year in both 2021 and 2022. Chris was also named the WSCA Coach of Year. Chris' overall career coaching record is 84-16-12. Sharing the Sportsperson of the Year Award with Chris is his coaching companion from the Oregon Girls Soccer program, **Bobby Nichols**. The Oregon Girls Soccer team went 23-0-1 during the 2022 spring season and also won the WIAA D2 State Championship last spring. When all was finished, the Oregon Girls Soccer team was ranked #1 by the United Soccer Coaches Association.

The Edgewood College Athletics "Friend of Sport" Award will be awarded to a longtime builder of sports and sports programs for many years. This year's winner is **John Probst**. John worked with the Madison School Community Recreation as Sports Supervisor where he was the head administrator for all of the adult recreational sport programs. During peak participation, there were upwards of 10,000 participants that John had to provide oversight and scheduling for. Additionally, John was involved in coaching at Kennedy Little League, Tri-County Basketball, and East Side Sharks Football. He was a certified WIAA Basketball, Baseball and Softball Official for 30 years and worked 8 WISAA State Basketball Tournaments, 6 WIAA State Basketball Tournaments and 2 WIAA State Softball Tournaments. He served on and is a Past President of the Southern Wisconsin Officials Association. John continues his service with the University of Wisconsin as the football game clock operator for 9 years and working at both the UW Men's and Women's Basketball Score table for the last 7 years. John has been the Official Scorer for Men's Basketball since the retirement of Otto Puls. John extended his scorable duties to include the Boys WIAA State Basketball Tournament where he has worked as the Official Scorer, the Game Timer and a Spotter

John has additionally taken over the responsibility of scheduling the score table staff for the WIAA for the last 2 years.

The McClone Insurance Madison Sportswoman of the Year is **Emily Schwabe**, the Edgewood High School Swimming Coach who team just recently won their 8th consecutive WIAA D2 Swimming and Diving Championship with a score of 350 points. Emily's team won 6 out of the 12 events and swept the 3 relays during the meet. Emily was named the WSCA D2 Coach of the Year for the second consecutive year. An accomplishment she also won in 2018, 2019 and 2020. She was the Wisconsin State Journal's Coach of the Year in 2021 and 2022 and was awarded a Madison Sports Hall of Fame's Special Achievement Award in 2019.

The Madison Area Sports Commission's Madison Sportsman of the Year is going to **Mick Byrne**, the University of Wisconsin Director of Track & Field and Cross Country. Mick's Badgers just recently won the Big Ten Indoor Track Championship and Mick was named the Coach of the Year. Mick joined the Badgers in 2008 and became Director of Track & Field and Cross Country in 2013 for both the men's and women's programs. Since his time at the UW, Mick has coached: 6 Olympians, 1 NCAA Championship Team, 5 NCAA Top Four Trophies, 11 NCAA Individual Champions, 86 All-Americans, 13 Big Ten Team Championships, 67 Big Ten Individual Titles, 37 School records and 12 Big Ten Conference Records with 11 Academic All-Americans. Mick has been recognized by his peers earning 12 Big Ten Coach of the Year honors and 7 Regional Coach of the Year awards to go along with his National Coach of the Year Award.

The Andringa Family "Rob Andringa Multi-Sport High School Athlete of the Year" Award goes to an impressive athlete and student from Madison La Follette, **Jackson Mankowski**. This award is given to a senior Madison high school athlete who has participated in at least 7 varsity seasons in WIAA sanctioned sports, who has distinguished herself/himself in these sports and who has maintained academic eligibility during the entirety of their high school career. Jackson Mankowski won two letters in football and was a team captain, earning 1st Team All-City in 2022 and 2nd Team All-Conference. He has won 2 letters in Track & Field and was a 2 year captain as well. Jackson earned 2nd Team All-City honors in 2022 and was Honorable Mention All-Conference. Jackson also earned 3 letters in Wrestling, was team captain and won the WIAA D1 State Championship in 2022 at 220 lbs. After earning a wrestling scholarship to Stanford University, Jackson was asked to move up to 285 lbs. for the 2023 wrestling season and was wrestling much above his own weight but still managed to win 3rd place at the WIAA State Championships. Jackson was named All-State 1st Team in 2022 and 2023, the Wisconsin State Journal All-Area 1st Team in 2022 and 2023, All-Conference 1st Team in 2022 and 2023 and All-City for all 3 years. As a student, Jackson's GPA is 3.79, on a 4.0 scale and he has taken numerous Advanced Placement courses and has been part of the Dual Language Program since 1st Grade.

The public is welcome to attend this event. Tickets for the event are \$55 and they will be sold until May 25th. Everyone is encouraged to attend and salute this exceptional group of inductees and award winners. Contact Banquet Coordinator, Al Schumacher (608-395-4648) or at alschu44@gmail.com for tickets or go to our website at madisonsportshalloffame.org to order banquet tickets.

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 September through May and holds the induction ceremony every year. There are more than 200 inductees in its Hall of Fame. Go to madisonsportshalloffame.org to find other information about the Madison Sports Hall of Fame Club. Membership is open to anyone who is interested in sports.