

Madison Sports Hall of Fame Club Announces Major Award Winners

To be honored at 61st Hall of Fame banquet Wednesday, May 29th, 2024

For more information:

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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 four new Hall of Fame Inductees. The awards event is set for Wednesday evening, May 29th, at Monona Terrace Community and Convention Center.

As previously announced, **Nathan Brown from Madison LaFollette, Sarah Docter-Williams from Madison Memorial, Reece Gaines from Madison West and Jerry Haugh from Madison Memorial** are the new 2024 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 Sportsperson of the Year is going to **Aleah Grundahl**. Grundahl hails from Deforest High School and the University of Whitewater. Aleah, a senior women's basketball player was named to the WIAC First Team All-Conference Team and the WIAC Player of the Year for the 3rd straight year. She was also a WBCA First Team All-American for the second consecutive year. She is the Whitewater career scoring leader with over 2000 points in her illustrious career.

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 **Lowell Bakken**. Lowell was a longtime high school coach at Madison La Follette where he coached football, Boys and Girls Golf where his teams made 6 State Tournament appearances and won 9 City Championships. Bakken was also a WIAA Basketball Official for 34 years and was selected to officiate at the State Tournament 6 times. He was inducted into the Wisconsin Coaches Hall of Fame in the Officials Division in 1995. Lowell worked as the UW Official Football Game Clock Operator for 50 years from 1968 – 2018 and worked the NCAA National Championship game in 2018 as the "Ready for Play" operator. (the 25 or 40 second play clock)

The McClone Insurance Madison Sportswoman of the Year is **Andrea Jaskowiak**, who as a senior softball pitcher at Madison Memorial was a Wisconsin Fast Pitch Coaches Association 1st Team All-State Selection and the Wisconsin State Journal All-Area Player of the Year. Andrea was selected to the 1st Team and the Player of the Year in the Big 8 All-Conference selections. She was also selected 1st Team All-City as a pitcher with an 18-6 record, with a 0.93 ERA with 282 strike outs, hit 5 home runs with a .310 batting average. In 324.1 innings in her 3-year high school career with a career 1.55 ERA and a total of 556 strikeouts. Andrea threw a perfect game with 15 strikeouts in a WIAA Regional championship game in 2023. She was a 2-time 1st Team All-Conference selection, a team MVP and captain and set the school's single season strikeout record with 282. Andrea was ranked No. 58 on Extra Innings Softball Extra Elite 100 rankings.

She has now taken her pitching arm to the University of Iowa where she is a freshman pitcher for the Hawkeyes.

The Madison Area Sports Commission's Madison Sportsman of the Year is going to **Rowan White**, an Edgewood High School senior hockey goalie. Rowan was a unanimous First Team selection and was selected as the Badger Small Conferences Player of the Year. White was also given the Wisconsin Prep Kirk Daubenspeck's award as the best goalie in Wisconsin. He was selected as the Wisconsin State Journals all area first team. His statistics as a senior are impressive with 472 saves, 7 shut outs, a 1.09 goal per game average and a 95.7% save percentage.

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, **Alayna West**. Alayna has participated in four sports during her high school career and has won 8 letters in those sports. Alayna played volleyball for 2 years and was named Honorable Mention All-Conference. She played softball her freshman year before switching over to track and field for her sophomore and junior seasons and became a WIAA State qualifier. Her best sport was basketball where she was a 2nd team All-Conference selection her sophomore year and 2-time 1st team All-Conference selection. She was named to the 1st team All Area Team on two occasions and was named to the AP 4th team All-State and a 1st team All State selection as well. Alayna is going on to further her education and continue her basketball career at DePaul University. West carries a 3.89 GPA and is taking multiple honor and AP courses, is a member of the Student Advisory Club and mentors local elementary students.

The public is welcome to attend this event. Tickets for the event are \$60 and they will be sold until May 23rd. Everyone is encouraged to attend and salute this exceptional group of inductees and award winners. Go to our website at madisonsportshalloffame.org/banquet to order banquet tickets or contact Banquet Coordinator, Al Schumacher 608-395-4648) or at alschu44@gmail.com for 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.