

THE MOST IMPORTANT AWARDS IN SPORTS®

T H E
Musical

A W A R D S®

PRESENTED BY



MARYVILLE
UNIVERSITY

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 2022

STIFEL THEATRE | ST. LOUIS



Edward Jones®



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THE SEASON TICKETS

Sometimes the best gifts are the experiences that keep on giving, season after season.





WELCOME

FROM THE ST. LOUIS SPORTS COMMISSION

We did it!

Or more accurately, we're doing it.

Together, we have created the world's foremost event to celebrate good sportsmanship and now it's our mission to grow it, to find ways for it to change more perspectives and behaviors, to make it more visible, and to ensure it will touch more lives.

For now, we couldn't be happier to welcome you to the 2022 Musial Awards presented by Maryville University! Thank you so much for attending tonight's event and supporting our celebration of sportsmanship and the legacy of Stan The Man.

We call the Musial Awards the most important awards in sports because we believe sportsmanship is the most important part of sports. And this is the most inspiring night in sports because, well, it just is.

The Musials always come at exactly the right time of year as we approach Thanksgiving and the rest of the holiday season. Truly, tonight is an occasion for us to give thanks for all we have and for the great role models we are honoring. It is a perfect moment for us to come together to laugh and cry, to learn, to be inspired, and to share a great evening.

Carrying forward the holiday theme this year, the national broadcast of tonight's event will take place Christmas Eve on CBS. We think that will be a wonderful gift for America, and we can't wait for St. Louis to be front and center on December 24 to proclaim our message of kindness, respect, and civility. Our dream is simply for everyone to be a "good sport" and we're so excited to have this grand platform to tell the heartwarming stories that we will bring to life today.

Tonight's show is another one for the ages. What a thrill it is to recognize this year's honorees, from our beloved Albert Pujols to so many other superstars, including the

2022 Extraordinary Character honoree, Warrick Dunn. Every story and every person you'll meet this evening is as incredible and wonderful as the next. We thank them all, and their families and friends, for joining us in St. Louis this weekend.

We also salute our tremendous sponsors, led by Maryville University. Maryville President Mark Lombardi, a Musial Award winner himself, is our guardian angel for his generosity, commitment, and belief in this event and its power to make the world a better place.

We also and always extend our gratitude to the entire Musial family, who have entrusted us to honor Stan in a manner that matches the excellence he embodied.

And once again, as you watch tonight's show and leave the theater, think about creating your own "Musial Moment." How can each of us channel the emotion and inspiration we feel during the Musial Awards to accomplish our own good deeds? How can we use the model Stan set to help one another and improve our community? It doesn't need to happen on the playing field. Your Musial Moment – a simple act of kindness, compassion, selflessness, or generosity – can happen anywhere.

Again, thank you all for supporting the Musial Awards—and enjoy the show!



Frank Viverito
St. Louis Sports Commission President



The St. Louis Sports Commission is the privately-funded nonprofit organization that grows, strengthens and moves St. Louis forward through sports. The organization uses the power of sports to enhance the area's quality of life and generate economic and social benefit for the St. Louis region.



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ST. LOUIS SPORTS COMMISSION



The Musial Awards is produced annually in St. Louis by the St. Louis Sports Commission and the National Sportsmanship Foundation. Meet the two organizations responsible for the most inspiring night in sports:

The St. Louis Sports Commission is the independent, privately-funded nonprofit organization that makes St. Louis a better place to live, visit, work and play through sports. Its efforts focus on attracting, creating and managing major sporting events for the St. Louis region. The organization uses the power of sports to enhance the area's quality of life and to create economic and social benefit for the community.

Since its inception in 1989, the Sports Commission has fulfilled its mission by producing high-profile events that generate excitement, revenue and positive exposure for the region. The organization helps make St. Louis a stronger and more vibrant community. It adds to the impact of the area's professional and collegiate teams to make a great sports city even better. By achieving the highest level of success with its events, the Sports Commission has fortified St. Louis' status as an outstanding sports destination.

The Sports Commission's accomplishments include hosting the NCAA Men's and Women's Final Fours, NCAA Division I Wrestling Championships (9 times), NCAA Frozen Four, SEC Men's Basketball Tournament, PGA Championship, Missouri vs. Illinois Arch Rivalry football series, U.S. Figure Skating Championships, U.S. Olympic Diving Trials, and the record-breaking 2021 U.S. Olympic Gymnastics Trials (just to name a few).

Reflecting a vision to be a leader and innovator in addition to an event producer, the Sports Commission takes the lead in celebrating and furthering St. Louis' Olympic legacy as host of the 1904 Summer Games, the first Olympics in America. The organization represents St. Louis in the World Union of Olympic Cities and has recently implemented several visible projects that raise the profile and impact of the region's Olympic affiliation. The Sports Commission aims to positively impact St. Louis through its opportunities as an Olympic city.

The Sports Commission also operates the St. Louis Sports Foundation, its 501c3 charitable affiliate. The Foundation focuses on promoting sportsmanship in St. Louis and fostering a culture of kindness, respect, civility and selflessness. Foundation programs also strive to make youth sports more enjoyable and to create positive environments for kids to play sports so they stay active and lead healthier, happier lives. The Musial Awards is at the forefront of the Sports Commission's commitment to sportsmanship.

A catalyst for civic benefit, economic development and charitable good, the Sports Commission is recognized as a leader in its industry and in the community. Among several honors, the organization has been selected as the national sports commission of the year three times (2002, 2005 and 2013). The recognition is a testament to the Sports Commission's value to St. Louis and its efforts to help grow, strengthen and advance the region through sports. For more information on the Sports Commission and its events, visit stlsports.org.

THE STORY BEHIND THE **MUSIAL AWARDS**

Out of the heartland of America, a unique and important tradition of celebrating extraordinary sportsmanship has been established. Since 2005, the nation's best sports have come together in St. Louis for the Musial Awards, the most important awards in sports.

Named for Baseball Hall of Famer Stan Musial, the Musial Awards recognize the year's greatest moments of sportsmanship and honor those in sports who embody class and character. The event takes place annually the Saturday before Thanksgiving at the historic 3,000-seat Stifel Theatre in Downtown St. Louis. It is produced by the St. Louis Sports Commission and the National Sportsmanship Foundation. In addition to keeping Stan The Man's legacy alive, the mission of the Musial Awards is to inspire kindness, selflessness, integrity and civility in sports and society.

The roots of the Musial Awards go back to 1999 when the Citizenship Through Sports Alliance (CTSA) launched an awards program recognizing character in sport. In 2005, the event moved to St. Louis. A year later it was renamed the National Sportsmanship Awards. In 2012, with the blessing of the Musial family, organizers announced the event and its awards would be named in honor of the St. Louis hero and Cardinals legend – one of the greatest players in baseball history and the ultimate good sport.

Since 2011, Maryville University has served as the presenting sponsor of the Musial Awards. The school's involvement, leadership and generosity have helped make the show one of the great nights in all of sports.

NATIONAL **SPORTSMANSHIP** FOUNDATION

Expanding on its efforts in St. Louis, the St. Louis Sports Commission launched the National Sportsmanship Foundation in 2012 to change the way society views and values sportsmanship. The groundwork for the organization's creation was established a year earlier when the Sports Commission was asked to take over management of the Citizenship Through Sports Alliance. After developing a new strategic direction for CTSA, the Sports Commission rebranded the organization. The National Sportsmanship Foundation was born.

Today, the 501c3 nonprofit aims to empower people to lead healthier, happier lives through the values of sportsmanship. Leveraging the Musial Awards and other platforms, it wants to inspire people across the nation to be good sports.

St. Louis is regarded as a great place to raise a family; its fans are known as good sports. So it makes sense for St. Louis to be the epicenter of this national drive. The presence of such an important movement can ultimately enhance St. Louis' stature around the country and can help the Sports Commission further contribute to the area's quality of life.



*The St. Louis Sports Commission and the National Sportsmanship Foundation
salute the sponsors of the 2022 Musial Awards:*

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The St. Louis American

REMEMBERING STAN THE MAN

CREATED BY HARRY WEBER

The recipients of the Stan Musial Lifetime Achievement Award for Sportsmanship and the Musial Award for Extraordinary Character are presented a special limited-edition sculpture of the Cardinals legend. Created by St. Louis artist Harry Weber, the work is entitled "Remembering Stan The Man." It is through the generosity of St. Louis-based Edward Jones that the Musial Awards is able to present this unique award.

THANK YOU **Edward Jones**



The Musial Awards is proud to have CBS Sports as its official television partner. CBS will air the 2022 Musial Awards throughout the country as a one-hour special on Saturday, December 24 at 4 p.m. CT. (Check local listings for the airtime in your market.) The broadcast will also run twice on CBS Sports Network and later as a local encore presentation on KSDK 5 On Your Side in St. Louis. This is the fourth year for the Musial Awards to air on the CBS Television Network.



In addition to its partnership with CBS Sports, the Musial Awards is pleased to have Al Roker Entertainment (ARE) as its broadcast production partner. Guided by 14-time Emmy winner and iconic television personality Al Roker, ARE is an industry-leading producer of original, award-winning TV programs and storytelling content.

ST. LOUIS SPORTS COMMISSION

Dr. Mark Lombardi
Chair

Frank Viverito
President

Marc Schreiber
Vice President, Marketing & Development
Musial Awards Executive Producer

Chris Roseman
Vice President, Events

Solomon Alexander
Director, St. Louis Sports Foundation

Tom Dolan
Director of Sales & Development

Amanda Lutz
Director of Member Events & Services
Musial Awards Co-Producer

Coeli O'Connell
Director of Marketing

Olivia Panopoulos
Director of Operations

Tim Ryan
Director of Communications

Kathleen Nelson
Musial Awards Program Contributing Writer

Oliver Chessen
Sierra Rodgers
Interns



A big step in the bright direction

Proudly supporting the 2022 Musial Awards. Join us in cheering on the year's greatest moments of sportsmanship and those in sports who embody class and character. It's another brilliant example of what care can do.





UMB is proud to sponsor The Musial Awards.

At UMB, we believe in giving back to the communities we serve through our dedication to bettering people's lives.

That's why we are proud to support the St. Louis Sports Commission and the National Sportsmanship Foundation and its mission to empower people to lead healthier, happier lives through the values of sportsmanship.



Count on more.®

THE *Musical* AWARDS[®]

/// PAST AWARD RECIPIENTS ///

THE STAN MUSIAL LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD FOR SPORTSMANSHIP

- 2014 Joe Torre
- 2015 Arnold Palmer
- 2016 Cal Ripken Jr.
- 2017 Jackie Joyner-Kersey
- 2018 Jim Thome
- 2019 Bart Conner & Nadia Comaneci
- 2020 Hank Aaron
- 2021 Wayne & Janet Gretzky

THE STAN MUSIAL AWARD FOR EXTRAORDINARY CHARACTER

- 2013 St. Louis Cardinals
- 2014 Mo'ne Davis
- 2015 Lauren Hill
- 2016 Tamika Catchings
- 2018 Sister Jean Dolores Schmidt
- 2019 Laila Anderson
- 2020 Bubba Wallace
- 2021 Zaila Avant-garde

2021

Mutaz Barshim & Gianmarco Tamberi
Buffalo Bills Fans (represented by Bills fans
William Burke & Dan Konopski)
Lavel Dumont
Bryce Harper
Rebel Hays
Mario Hoefler
Mark Lombardi
LSU Gymnastics

2020

Laurent Duvernay-Tardif
Ireland Lacrosse
Madison Keys
Chris King & Max Gerschman
Sabrina O'Heron
Josh Speidel
Kellyn Taylor, Aliphine Tuliamuk &
Stephanie Bruce

2019

Jerod Aker & Jeff Shillington
Marek Bush
Chris Davis
Forest Lake Christian School Girls Volleyball
Henry Frasca
Chris Kerber
Darius Kruah
Laura Mazur & Jessica Robertson

2018

Lonni Alameda
Jordan Bohannon
Gerald Hodges
Ty Koehn
Ozzie Smith
Kaiden Whaley
Kate Wynja

2017

Michael Bidwill
Kaleb Carter & Carla Collins
Aliyah Charbonier
Abbey D'Agostino
Carl Edwards
Matthew Garcia
Paul Mainieri
Dion Puthoff
Krista Young, Levi Thompson &
The Hawkeye Wave

2016

Amed Castro-Chavez
Joel Jensen
Nic Nelson
Judie Offerdahl, Sarah Myhre & Shelby Baker
Travis Rudolph
Buck Smith
Jack Sock
Hayes & Tammy Stripling
Charlie Wilson

2015

John Blaine & Matt Woodrum
Jason Boulais
Keaton Hamin
Ernie Johnson
Mike Matheny
Tim Smyczek
Chase Vazquez, Scooter Terrien &
Miles Rodriguez
University of Virginia & Loyola
Marymount Women's Rowing
Wichita State University Cheerleading



Wayne & Janet Gretzky (2021)



Hank Aaron (2020)



Nadia Comaneci & Bart Conner (2019)



Jackie Joyner-Kersey (2017)



Arnold Palmer (2015)



Joe Torre & Mo'ne Davis (2014)

PAST RECIPIENTS

2014

David Belisle
Cari Hampton
James Hawkins
Derek Herber
Jason Millard
Olivet (Mich.) Youth Football
Nathane Simnick
Malik Stewart
Josh Zuchowski
Scott Suppelsa
Eric Voss

2013

Casey Mack
Ethan McConnell
Kirsten Moore & Westmont College
Fraser Valley Fusion '97
Bri Ebenroth
Steve Bonastia & Seckman Softball
The University of Nebraska
Mike Bush

2012

College of the Ozarks Women's Basketball Team
Demetrius de Moors
Lee Gibson & Colorado Academy
Rashawn King
John Mohrmann & Saint Louis Priory Soccer
Rob Nugent & Washington College
Greg Schiano & the Tampa Bay Buccaneers
Nate, Nick, Kim & Pat Smith
Meghan Vogel

2011

Camp Kilpatrick Mustangs Basketball Team
Daniel Crum
Jocelyn Fischer
Bryane Heaberlin & the United States U-17
Women's Soccer Team
John Huether
Manchester (Conn.) High School Wrestling Team
Northwestern College (Minn.)
Women's Volleyball Team
Tyler Parks & Mike Smith
Roncalli (Ind.) High School Softball Team
Andria Scheese
Skyline (Ala.) High School
University of Albany Men's Basketball Team
Rick Wallace
Tom Walter
Grant Whybark

2009

Albert Pujols
Azusa Pacific University
DeKalb (Ill.) High School Boys' Basketball Team
Grapevine (Texas) Faith High School Football Team
Monte Vista (Calif.) High School
Ohio State University
Anthony DiCarlo
Aleksandra Mackiewicz
Courtney Teatro
Geofrey Kalanzi
Shawn Crawford
New York Yankees
Minneapolis South High School Nordic Ski Team
Maryville University Baseball Team
Jared Ingram

2008

Allan H. (Bud) Selig
Edwardsville (Ill.) High School Wrestling Team
Framingham State College (Mass.)
Women's Soccer Team
Brian Hung
The Lake Fenton Five: David Bittinger,
Lucas Hasenfrazt, Jake Kirk, Ethan
Merivirta & Matthew Taneyhill
Christopher Glaze
Marvin Stoner
John Fernandez & The Wounded Warrior Project
Craig Biggio
Rick Horton
Chris Draft
Manny Legace
Jeff Wedding
Warner Robins, Ga. Little League Baseball Team
John Graf & Connor Sherwood
Mallory Holtman & Liz Wallace
Nicholas Kirkpatrick

2007

Tony Gwynn
Sarah Dawn Schettle & Mike Rose
Kelly Schmidt & Russ Davis
Angela Verbeelen
Army Women's Basketball Team
Rainer Martens
Trevor Bunch & Travis Jones
Carlos Delgado
Josh Kinney
Marc Bulger
Jamal Mayers
Chad Riegel

2006

Joey Cheek
Philip Barr & Lauren Clary
John Smoltz
Teresa Clark & Brandon Cole
Grant Hill
Adam Van Houten
Joshua Harter & Jim Johnson
Patrick Lepper
Taj McWilliams-Franklin
Bill Byrne & Texas A&M University
Pat Hewitt
Lea Plarski
Lou Brock
Isaac Bruce
Hollis Thomas

2005

Torry Holt
Danny Gathings, Chanda Gunn &
the Mesa State Football Team
Edgar Martinez
Jim Kessler & Amanda Larsen
P.J. Brown
Jamie Vest & Shane Laurie
Doug Weight
Kayla Shaul
Paul Hamm
Teresa Edwards
Wood Selig & Tim Van Alstine
Daniel Gould, Ph.D.

2004

Darren Woodson
Eric Montalvo & Kristen Zaleski
Jamie Moyer
Jessica Stollings
Ray Allen
Rachel Butler
Marty Turco
Theresa Berry
Michelle Kwan
Edna Campbell
Vince Dooley
Jay Coakley

2003

Shelton Quarles
Paul Moore & University at Buffalo
Women's Soccer Team
Jim Thome
Jessica Lenderman
Bob Lanier
Revae Green & Tyler Yonge
Adam Graves
Melanie Mendrop
Apolo Anton Ohno
Jennifer Gillom
Andy Geiger
Jody Brylinsky

2002

Jerome Bettis
Jeffrey A. Steele & Heather Weinhold
Curt Schilling
Jodi Henderson
Steve Smith
Brian Hartley & Devin Reed
Brian Mullen
Jermaine Harris
Vonetta Flowers
Sue Wicks
Donald Marsh & Velma Pruett

2001

George Audu, Safiya L. Ingram & Lindsay Morton
Al Leiter
Luke Anderson
Samuel Perkins
Robyn Michelle Detty & Christopher Ryan Thomas
James Flanigan
Stan Mikita
Mindy K. Madewell
Rulon Gardner
Suzie McConnell Serio
John Byers, Gregg A. Hiland & Lori J. Satterfield

2000

Allison Beightol
Tony Gwynn
Jessie Garrett
Hersey Hawkins
Jennifer Arrington & Matthew Simmons
Will Shields
Paul Stewart
Larry Scheller
Michelle A. Akers
Ester Kim
Dawn Staley

1999

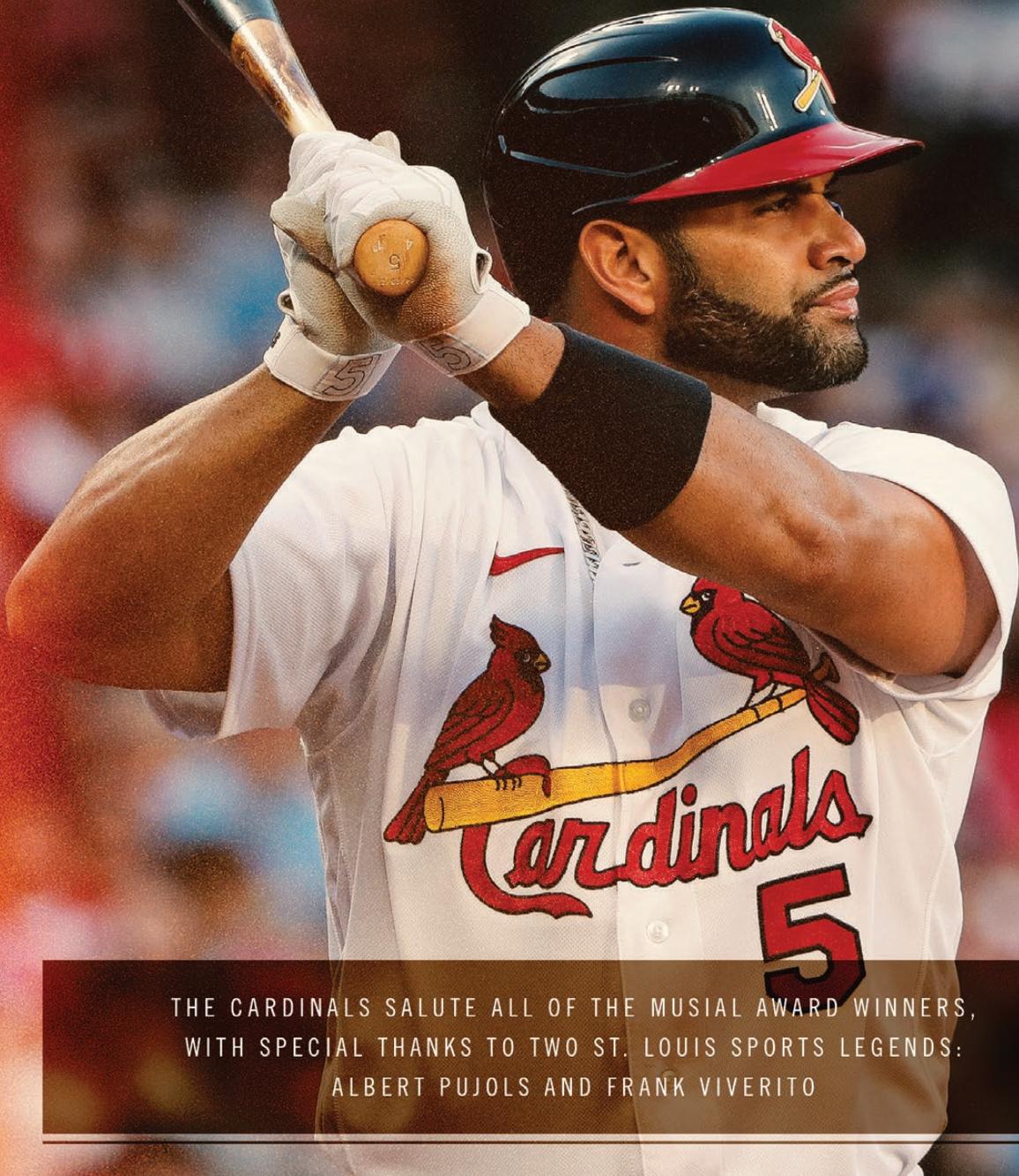
Allison Beightol & Jarrett Erwin
Sammy Sosa
Rebecca Whittle
Avery Johnson
Marco Binion & Sheree Riley
Frank Sanders
Ron Francis & William "Willie" O'Ree
Sarah Wood
Jackie Joyner-Kersey
Suzie McConnell Serio



Celebrate extraordinary sportsmanship
with an extraordinary beer



St. Louis Cardinals



THE CARDINALS SALUTE ALL OF THE MUSIAL AWARD WINNERS,
WITH SPECIAL THANKS TO TWO ST. LOUIS SPORTS LEGENDS:
ALBERT PUJOLS AND FRANK VIVERITO



**THE
MAN**

THE ULTIMATE
GOOD SPORT

Stan Musial

1920 - 2013

Defined by class, excellence, humility, and generosity, Stan Musial embodied the virtues of sportsmanship. That's why the most meaningful and inspiring night in sports bears Stan The Man's name. Beloved by our community and around the world, his legacy and spirit are forever honored when we celebrate extraordinary sportsmanship and all that's right in sports.

Stan is considered one of the greatest baseball players in history with 22 seasons as a St. Louis Cardinal. He totaled 3,630 hits, ranking fourth all-time and is considered to be the most consistent hitter of his era. Playing first base and later in the outfield, he helped the Cardinals win three World Series championships, was named the National League's MVP three times and made 24 All-Star Game appearances. A first-ballot inductee into the National Baseball Hall of

Fame in 1969, Musial received numerous awards for his contributions to baseball and society. He was selected to the Major League Baseball All-Century Team in 1999 and posthumously inducted into the St. Louis Cardinals Hall of Fame in the inaugural class of 2014. In 2011, President Barack Obama presented him the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the highest civilian award in the United States.

Given the nickname "Stan The Man," he was a role model on and off the field. It is for this reason that his statue outside Busch Stadium is inscribed with the quote from former baseball Commissioner Ford Frick: "Here stands baseball's perfect warrior. Here stands baseball's perfect knight." A true icon of sportsmanship, he left a legacy that few can match.



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THANK YOU
**FRANK
 VIVERITO**

PRESIDENT, ST. LOUIS SPORTS COMMISSION



As his retirement as president of the St. Louis Sports Commission approaches, we celebrate Frank's 27 years guiding our organization to success and bringing the best in sports to St. Louis. We salute him for his leadership, vision, passion and how much he has meant to our community. All along the way, he has exemplified integrity and civility – and treated people the right way – embodying the spirit of the Musial Awards.

CONGRATULATIONS ON YOUR RETIREMENT!





*Congratulations to the
Recipients of the*

**2022
MUSIAL
AWARDS**

*“ONE MAN PRACTICING SPORTSMANSHIP IS FAR BETTER
THAN A HUNDRED TEACHING IT.”*

– Knute Rockne

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JULIA COLE

FEATURED MUSICAL ARTIST

The MusiC Awards is pleased to have Nashville recording artist Julia Cole perform at tonight's show. Julia encourages empowering self-worth and good vibes to her growing #ColeTeam community. She has amassed more than 90 million streams and has been featured on CMT, Audience Network, The CW, Radio Disney, Spotify's Hot Country, Breakout Country, New Boots, Wild Country, Pop-Co, as well as Apple Music's Country Risers, Country Caffeine, Soundcheck, Back Porch Country, Today's Country, and more.

Influenced by the genre-crossed locker room playlists she and her Texas volleyball teammates blasted, Julia's musical style blends authentic country storytelling with a little Houston rhythm and attitude. Julia got her start performing the Star-Spangled Banner before her own high school volleyball games, and was soon performing for NFL, MLB, MLS, NASCAR, and ESPN events before crowds of 75,000. She's since signed to CAA and toured globally in over 10 countries opening for acts like Dan + Shay, Jon Pardi, Carrie Underwood, Kenny Chesney, Kane Brown, The Chainsmokers, Dierks Bentley, Chase Rice, Lee Rice, Jon Langston, Eli Young Band, Chris Lane, Michael Ray,

Jake Owen, Rhett Akins, LANCO, Tracey Lawrence, Tyler Farr, Love and Theft, Thompson Square, David Nail, Hunter Hayes, Canaan Smith, Jonny Lang, Kevin Fowler, Runaway June, and Clare Dunn.

Julia brings her love for music and sports full-circle by advocating for women's athletics and empowerment. ESPN, Mizuno, and Mizuno Olympians have teamed up with Julia and her music to promote multiple self-worth and confidence focused campaigns. Julia's "Now You Know Music Row" songwriter series featuring #1 hit songwriters and up-and-coming artists also raised thousands for the Tennessee Boys & Girls Clubs' sports programs.

Between Julia's weekly radio show, #ColeTeam Countdown, on YoCo, WYCZ 96.7 FM and Twitch reaching more than 1.3 million listeners, her TikTok videos, as well as the #ColeTeam Quarantine Instagram Live series featuring Julia's friends (professional athletes, major label musicians, models, NFL coaches, FOX and ESPN hosts, and influencers), Julia and her fans have stayed connected and helped each other through the pandemic.



We are proud to support the 2022 Musial Awards

Sportsmanship, class and character are the foundation of a thriving team — and community. Enterprise Bank & Trust is honored to sponsor the Musial Awards and help recognize individuals who work hard to further our values and improve the communities we serve. To all of the 2022 honorees, congratulations and thank you!

Together, there's no stopping you.
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HOSTED BY
MIKE BUSH
 THE MUSIAL AWARDS



The Musial Awards is grateful for the dedication of Mike Bush. The veteran St. Louis news and sports anchor has exceeded the event all 17 years it has taken place in St. Louis. Mike also travels the country – separate from his day-to-day newscast responsibilities – to showcase the greatest moments of sportsmanship and bring them to life in the most entertaining and inspiring way.

Mike and producer/videographer Scott Suppelsa, together forming Onyour6 Productions, provide the featured stories highlighted at the Musial Awards and in the Musial Awards broadcast. Along with producer Adam Dew, their work has resulted in prestigious recognition, including 14 Mid-America Emmy Awards, six regional Edward R. Murrow Awards, the Associated Press Award for best TV sports story, and a national Edward R. Murrow Award earned in 2020 for their feature profiling Musial Awards honoree Henry Frasca and Major League Baseball player Chris Davis.

Throughout his distinguished career, Mike has won countless Emmys to go along with a national Edward R. Murrow Award he received in 2009. In 2012, he was inducted into the National Academy of Arts & Sciences' Silver Circle, which recognizes broadcast pioneers who have worked in the industry for at least 25 years.

Arriving in St. Louis in 1985, he helped KSDK, St. Louis' NBC affiliate, become one of the top-rated stations in the country. He is now the news anchor for the station's evening newscasts. He moved to his current position in 2003 after 18 years in the sports department. As a sportscaster, Mike did play-by-play work for NBC, FOX, ESPN, the St. Louis Cardinals and Saint Louis University Basketball. He was the radio voice for the St. Louis Rams during the team's 1999 Super Bowl season.

Mike is ingrained in the St. Louis community and a great friend to many charitable organizations. As the producer/host of the Muscular Dystrophy Association local telethon, he has helped raise tens of millions of dollars. Even with the national telethon no longer in existence, Mike has kept alive the local Labor Day weekend special that continues to benefit MDA. Another cause near and dear to Mike is a baseball camp for the hearing impaired. In 1995, after years of involvement, organizers renamed the camp "The Mike Bush Fantasy Camp for the Hearing Impaired."

Prior to joining KSDK, Mike was the sports director at KMBC-TV in Kansas City. The Chicago native began his career in 1978 as a news reporter in Tucson, Ariz. Mike and his wife Claudia are proud parents and grandparents. They have four children and two grandchildren.

*tolerance resolve fairness self-respect honesty endurance
sincerity integrity virtue forthrightness daring goodness
fair play honor principles fortitude diligence decency
connection tenacity civility bravery determination
earnestness grit trustworthiness perseverance respect
standards dependability self-esteem excellence dignity
confidence ethics effort responsibility courage purpose*

GOOD SPORTSMANSHIP LASTS A LIFETIME



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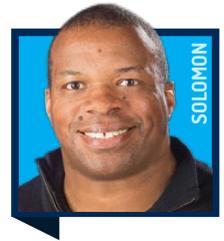
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The St. Louis Sports Commission has created an innovative program fostering civility, respect and selflessness among young people in our region. Inspired by the great Stan Musial, the organization visits schools in the metro area to introduce the concept of “Musial Moments” and to instill the qualities of sportsmanship on and off the field.

Presentations are led by Solomon Alexander, the director of the Sports Commission’s Sports Foundation. Through a fun, interactive and impactful 45-minute session, Solomon motivates students to care about sportsmanship and to be good to those around them – just as Stan The Man did during his illustrious career and life.



BOOK NOW!

Funding from Sports Commission supporters enables this program to be offered at no cost to participating groups.

To bring Musial Moments to your school or organization, call 314-345-5130 or email salexander@stlsports.org.

Musial Moments presentations are geared for young people in third grade through high school.





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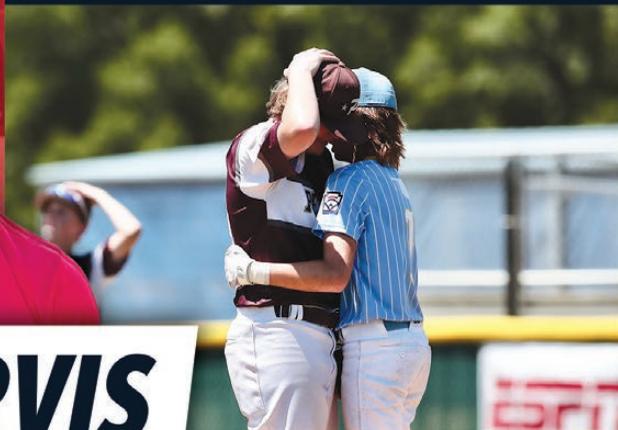


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ISAIAH JARVIS



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Competition doesn't mean compassion takes a back seat. Isaiah Jarvis proved that with just five words and one gesture, offering support to opposing pitcher Kaiden Shelton and illustrating how Little Leaguers can make a global impact.

Isaiah called on his own experience when his team from Oklahoma faced Kaiden's team from Texas in the Little League regional in Waco, Texas in August. With two strikes and the bases loaded, Kaiden needed a strike out and fired the ball as hard as he could right down the center of the plate. As the ball approached, Isaiah didn't think it would hit him, so he held his ground. But the pitch sailed, hit Isaiah on the cheek and knocked him down – to Kaiden's horror. "I got hit many times myself, but nothing like that," Kaiden said, "I thought I hurt him. I had never done that."

For the first 10 seconds, Isaiah says, "I was scared of a concussion." Coaches and medical staff rushed to his aid, then helped him to his feet. "When I stood up and grabbed my helmet and hat, I knew I was OK." But Kaiden wasn't. "I didn't feel good about myself," he says. Isaiah saw the concern on Kaiden's face as he walked to first. Without thinking at the time, Isaiah trotted to the mound, hugged a despondent Kaiden and said, "Hey, you're doing just great."

Only later did Isaiah recall being in Kaiden's position, hitting an opponent with a ball in the lead-up to the tournament in Waco. "I hit him in the head pretty hard. It didn't enter my mind in the moment I went over to Kaiden," he says. "But since then, I remembered it. That might have motivated me." When Kaiden's teammates joined him on the mound, Isaiah returned to first base. Kaiden remained upset, though, and left the game moments later. Both players expected their exchange would be forgotten in the excitement of Kaiden's team advancing to the World Series in Williamsport, Pennsylvania. They were wrong. The video spread throughout the country and around the world.

"People want to see that there are good people in the world," Kaiden said, "and showing good sportsmanship is a way to do it." He returned to pitch twice in the Little League World Series. "With 20,000 people, it was nerve-racking, but once I started throwing strikes, I focused on my team and didn't worry." He's also taken a page from Isaiah's playbook of empathy, encouraging teammates and opponents alike. "If I see someone is down," he says, "I try to make sure he's OK."

"PEOPLE WANT TO SEE THAT THERE ARE GOOD PEOPLE IN THE WORLD, AND SHOWING GOOD SPORTSMANSHIP IS A WAY TO DO IT."

- KAIDEN SHELTON

Months after their Musial moment, both boys still get noticed. Friends and strangers want to shake their hands. Even into October, a clerk at a convenience store recognized Isaiah and offered him a free pizza and slushy. "People see him as a hero," says Isaiah's father, Austin. "The world is so divisive, but they saw a gesture between two young competitors who came together in compassion. I think the world is hungry for that."

The two continued to give interviews together and play baseball through the fall. They even played together for a weekend in October on Isaiah's traveling team, the Arkansas Sox. Kaiden's mom, Melody, is a high school teacher and she has seen post-pandemic how "kids are struggling to get back into interacting with one another. That moment made us realize there are good things in the world. And if our kids are leading the way, we're doing something right."



NADIA POPOVICI

Nadia Popovici is named after fellow Musial honoree Nadia Comaneci. But this year's recipient offers her own take on Nadia's theme. Trusting her training and instincts, Nadia's quick thinking saved a life. It just took a while to figure that out. A transplanted Vancouverite living in Seattle, Nadia had front-row seats for the Kraken's 2021 home opener against the Canucks. She was so close that she could see Canucks assistant equipment manager Brian Hamilton as he worked behind the bench. A pre-med major, Nadia noticed a mole on the back of his neck that she suspected was cancer.

Should she let him know? If so, how? Casting doubts aside, she opened her Instagram app and typed in large, multi-colored letters, "The mole on the back of your neck is possibly cancerous. Please go see a doctor!" Equipment guys are the busiest men on the bench, but Brian glanced up long enough to see the message. "I wondered who she was talking to," he says. The message stuck, though, because she used that large font – and because Brian has lost two siblings, a niece, and his father to cancer.

"I'M STILL IN DISBELIEF ABOUT HOW MANY LIVES THIS HAS AFFECTED FOR THE POSITIVE."

- NADIA POPOVICI

Nadia couldn't focus on the rest of the game. "My first reaction was that I shouldn't have said that. I embarrassed him," she says. Brian, too was uneasy, so he asked his partner, Jess, to take a look. She agreed that because of the mole's irregular shape, he should show it to one of the team physicians. The doctor agreed; the growth was removed and weeks later diagnosed as malignant melanoma. He returned to a plastic surgeon, who removed more tissue, and finally received word December 22 that the second sample was clear of cancer. A relieved Brian wanted to thank the stranger who saved his life. But how? In those two months, Nadia wondered often if her message had gotten

through. And if not, "I thought about the next game and maybe I'd see him again and make things more obvious or get a second chance." The next Canucks game in Seattle was New Year's Day, the perfect time for Brian to find his guardian angel. He wrote a note that the team posted on its social media accounts: "It's about an incredible person taking the time to notice something concerning and then finding a way to point it out during the chaos of a hockey game."

The message received 10 million impressions; a typical team post receives about 100,000. When Nadia's mom learned about the message, she woke Nadia up after an overnight shift on a suicide prevention hotline. "My first reaction was that I was amazed I got it right," she says. "Then I cried with my mom." The teams hastily arranged an event so the two could meet, which left Brian and Nadia little time to plan what they would say. "So often when people perform a random act of kindness, you don't get a chance to thank them. I just wanted to say thank you," Brian says. "We were masked and you can't see our faces and it's chaos with the cameras and everybody wanting to capture the moment. But being Nadia, she calmed the whole room by saying thank you first. She thanked ME for following up."

The Canucks and Kraken also surprised Nadia with a gift of \$10,000 to use for medical school tuition at the University of Washington. "I'm still in disbelief about how many lives this has affected for the positive," says Nadia, who completed a research fellowship in dermatology last spring. "I still get messages from people saying that the story inspired them to go to the doctor, who found something and removed it. To have that effect on people is why I chose medicine." Brian thinks the story also grabs people because, "It's a positive use of social media. It's a positive interaction between two strangers. And the world needed to be reminded that there are Nadias out there."

Nadia has found her voice and makes a habit of trusting her instincts. She recently appeared in a video with her fellow medical students to advocate for easing the regulations for hospital residents. "If I'm concerned about someone, I want to be the person to reach out," she says. "Even if they take things the wrong way, I tried my best."



BRITTANY BOWE

The most intriguing twist in Erin Jackson's rise to supremacy in speedskating might not be that she's from Ocala, Florida, a city devoid of naturally occurring ice. Instead, it might be that another Olympic speedskater from the same hometown, Brittany Bowe, kept Erin's Olympic dreams alive through an unselfish act that earned a Musial Award.

Separated in age by almost five years, the two started as inline skaters, along with yet another Olympian, Joey Mantia, who have followed one another's transitions to the large, frozen oval. "We have a photo of Erin standing between myself and Joey," Brittany told the Minneapolis Star Tribune, "and she comes up to maybe our chests. We go back very far." Even after the two women could stand eye-to-eye, Erin looked up to Brittany. "She's always been there for me, helping me out, even when I was the new kid back in Ocala," Erin says, "an awesome mentor and an amazing friend if I ever need advice."

Before the Olympic Trials this year, Brittany's career was well-established as a two-time Olympian; Erin was an international star on the rise. She entered the Trials as a favorite in the 500 meters, a distance at which the U.S. women hadn't won an Olympic medal in 28 years. Early last season, Erin became the first Black woman to win a World Cup event, won four of eight 500-meter races on the World Cup circuit and reached the podium two other times.

But Erin's ascendance seemed destined to be cut short when she slipped and finished third at the Trials, from which the top two qualified for the Olympics. She was left with no recourse. U.S. Speedskating rules allow for a reskate in the case of a mechanical failure or fall – but not a mere slip. If she had been injured or ill, the governing body could have made an exception for her. Thus, the medal favorite appeared to be on the outside looking in – unless one of the qualifiers gave up her spot.

Brittany, who finished first, didn't hesitate. "In my heart, there was never a question. She has earned her spot," Brittany says, downplaying her generosity. "This is bigger than just me. This is the Olympic Games, and it's about Team USA and giving everybody the opportunity to showcase what they got." Despite her humility – or perhaps because of it – Brittany's unselfish

"THIS IS BIGGER THAN JUST ME. THIS IS THE OLYMPIC GAMES, AND IT'S ABOUT TEAM USA AND GIVING EVERYBODY THE OPPORTUNITY TO SHOWCASE WHAT THEY GOT."

- BRITTANY BOWE

gesture was hard to ignore. Her U.S. teammates named Brittany the country's flagbearer for the opening ceremonies in Beijing. Days later, Erin won gold in the 500 meters, becoming the first Black woman to medal in the sport, the first U.S. speedskating Olympic gold medalist since Shani Davis won the men's 1,000 in 2010 and the first U.S. woman to win an individual medal in the sport since 2002. "Words cannot explain how proud I am of her," Brittany says of Erin's achievements. "I knew she had the chance to do something really special, and she just showed the world why she deserved to be here."

The sacrifice also paid off for Brittany. She ended up competing in the 500 because of a late opening in the field and finished 16th. She finished 14th in the 1,500, and joined Erin as an individual medalist, earning bronze in the 1,000.

"Hopefully, this has an effect," Erin told reporters in Beijing, adding that Brittany "made a really big sacrifice for me. I'll be grateful to her forever."

The Ascension Charity Classic is thrilled to support the 2022 Musial Awards recognizing the importance of sportsmanship and character in sports.



Christian Heavens

Ascension ambassador and professional APGA golfer

Christian is a role model for younger African American golfers and others — he uses the game of golf to encourage youngsters to pursue their passions with integrity and dedication to fair play for all.

Important components of sportsmanship are integrity and a commitment to fair play for all. The game of golf is well known for supporting these same values.

In partnership with the Advocates Professional Golf Association (APGA), the Ascension Charity Classic presented by Emerson is committed to providing equal access to play golf, for more people, no matter their background or financial situation. **We salute this year's Musial Award winners for their dedication to making sports more inclusive, kind and fair for all.**





JORJA ROBERSON, DEMERIA MOORE, JASMYRN STAMPER, CARA ROBERTSON & SYRIANNA JONES

Fairness transcends competition. Nowhere was that more clear than at the Mississippi Girls Class 1 High School Powerlifting Championships in April. In the most important competition of their season, a group of rivals came to the aid of a competitor to give her a chance to shine.

Or, in this case, to sparkle like her namesake. Diamond Campbell, then a junior at Bruce High School, attempted her first lift, thought it went well and would earn a green light as a good lift. Instead, it earned a red light, which indicates a foul or using incorrect form. A judge told her that she would be disqualified because of the beads in her hair. A rule preventing lifters from wearing certain types of headgear had been altered and itemized for 2021-22 to include bandanas, beads and hair clips. “I was a little angry,” Diamond says. But mixed with the anger was “shame, a little bit. I kind of felt humiliated, like I was being picked on in a way.”

“THEY COULD HAVE EASILY JUST LET ME SIT THERE AND HAVE TO DO IT BY MYSELF AND PROBABLY MISS MY NEXT LIFT... BUT THEY PUT EVERYTHING ASIDE AND HELPED ME.”

- DIAMOND CAMPBELL

A teammate and coach came to Diamond’s aid, but news spread quickly to her competitors, including Jorja Roberson of East Union. The issue of beads hadn’t surfaced in earlier meets, “so I was surprised by the decision,” she says. “It’s not fair for her not to compete over something so small.”

Jorja wasn’t the only one with the same idea. Competitors Cara Robertson, Demeria Moore, Jasmyrn Stamper and Syrianna Jones joined in furiously removing the beads so Diamond could make it to the stage for her next lift within the time limit. “I was motivated to help her compete as soon as possible,” Jorja says. “We all just jumped up and helped and then moved right on with our contest.”

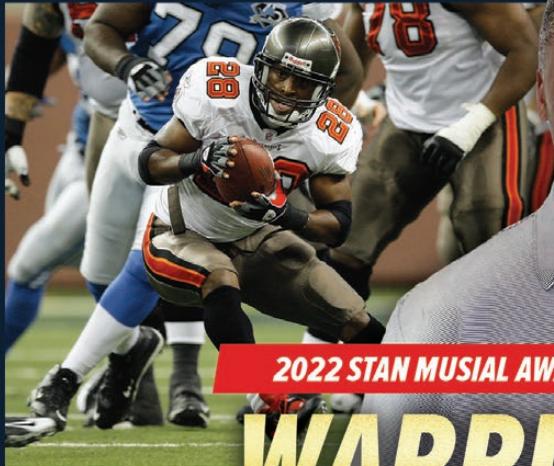
So, no big deal, right? Not exactly. In the short term, their quick actions allowed Diamond to make it on stage in time. She ultimately finished fourth in her weight class and set a personal record in the dead lift.

“They could have easily just let me sit there and have to do it by myself and probably miss my next lift,” Diamond says. “But they put everything aside, and they helped me.” The story got better the next day, when a video of the girls helping Diamond was shared on Facebook. The video has received more than 500,000 views and highlights a rule that Diamond says singles out African Americans. “The clips, the beads, that’s in our culture,” she says. “When they wrote the rules, they weren’t writing it for white people or other people, they were writing it for my people.”

The video of the competitors and Diamond’s response gave a face and a voice to the issue, causing the Mississippi High School Activities Association to change the rules for this year to allow beads and other hair accessories in competition. “I can only imagine the backlash they received after this,” Jorja says. “I think the amount of publicity from what we did definitely influenced the administration. It really is a sweet moment, but I never would have thought that it got as much attention as it did.”

The attention has moved beyond Mississippi’s borders. Since 2019, 18 states have passed versions of the CROWN Act, which would make it illegal to discriminate against someone for their hair texture or hairstyle. CROWN is an acronym for Create a Respectful and Open World for Natural Hair. This spring, a national version of the law passed the House of Representatives and awaits action in the Senate.

When – not if – it becomes the law of the land, people can thank Diamond for raising a voice, and her opponents for supporting her, in the face of inequity.



2022 STAN MUSIAL AWARD FOR EXTRAORDINARY CHARACTER

WARRICK DUNN

The Musial Award for Extraordinary Character is one of two special honors bestowed at the Musial Awards. It recognizes an individual who demonstrates remarkable class, perseverance and overall sportsmanship.

- Home Sweet Home.
- Be it ever so humble, there's no place like home.
- Home is where the heart is.
- Charity begins at home.

Tired? Cliché? Trite? Never for Warrick Dunn. Those quaint expressions have hit home for the former NFL running back more than 200 times.

A record setter at Florida State and nominee for the Pro Football Hall of Fame, Warrick has left his mark more indelibly through his mission to house single parents than he has on the field. Through excellence, humility and perseverance, he harnessed the platform that football offered to transform the lives of hundreds of families: a body of work worthy of the Musial Award for Extraordinary Character.

His journey to the award was born out of tragedy. Warrick is the oldest of six children raised by his mother, Betty Smothers, a police officer. He became the head of the family suddenly at age 18, when Betty was killed while escorting a businesswoman to make a night deposit. “In that moment, I knew my life changed forever,” he says. “We were renting a house, and I was still in school. I couldn’t pay rent.”

With help from his grandmother, Warrick balanced the time demands of college recruiting with providing a home for his siblings. He used the proceeds from his mom’s life insurance to buy a house for his brothers and sisters, then accepted a scholarship to Florida State. There, he became the first back in school history to record three 1,000-yard rushing seasons. He also managed to graduate on time with a degree in information studies.

“THE REASON I STARTED THE PROGRAM WAS BECAUSE OF WHAT I EXPERIENCED WITH MY MOM, WHAT SHE WENT THROUGH TO PROVIDE A STABLE ENVIRONMENT, TO MAKE SURE WE COULD HAVE A PLACE TO HAVE MEMORIES.”

- WARRICK DUNN

Drafted 12th overall by the Tampa Bay Buccaneers in 1997, Warrick was named rookie of the year. He also accepted a life-changing challenge that year from Bucs coach Tony Dungy, who said, “If you want to live in this community, you want to give back,” Warrick recalls. “I thought of my mom’s dream of home ownership, and I understood the pain and sacrifice families make.”

So, he founded Homes for the Holidays, which partners with local organizations to provide furnishings and down payment assistance for single-parent families. In 25 years, the program has

furnished more than 200 homes, provided approximately \$1 million in down payments and served more than 450 single parents and children.

“The reason that I started the program was because of what I experienced with my mom, what she went through to provide a stable environment, to make sure that we could have a place to have memories,” Warrick said at a ceremony in Tampa in October, when he turned over the keys to his charity’s 204th house. Every home also includes a fresh-baked apple pie on the dining room table. “My mom’s favorite,” he says.

After six seasons with the Buccaneers and six with the Falcons, Warrick retired in 2009 ranked 14th all-time in all-purpose yards with 15,306 and 19th in rushing yards with 10,967. The Walter Payton Man of the Year in 2005, Warrick joined the Falcons front office and purchased a minority ownership stake in the franchise in 2010.

Since then, Homes for the Holidays has flourished and inspired Warrick to develop three additional programs. Count on Your Future offers financial workshops to children, teens and adults, who receive up to \$500 for completing the course. SCULPT provides resources to help families make healthier lifestyle and nutrition choices through cooking classes and fitness activities. Hearts for Community Service Scholarships provide \$5,000 in merit-based awards to support students who volunteer in their community and attend – or plan to attend – a post-secondary institution.

A dozen seasons of excellence on the field combined with a quarter-century of giving back: “It never gets old,” Warrick says. “Over the years, I’ve been able to use the program as therapy. I think my mom would be happy that I was strong enough to handle the pressure but also to take something and make something positive.”





MIKE LANZILLOTTA

The seeds for Mike Lanzillotta’s Musial Moment were planted decades ago and continents apart. As a youngster, Mike attended Toronto Blue Jays games with his grandfather, Robert Anderson. And one day, Grandpa ensured that Mike lived every kid’s dream, holding the youngster by the ankles to retrieve an errant ball, which Mike has kept. “Those games and that ball mean so much to me, you look for a chance to give that experience to someone else,” Mike says.

Meanwhile, in Venezuela, Cesar Rodriguez nurtured a love of the game. Above all, he loved the Yankees and Derek Jeter, naming his firstborn son after the Hall of Fame shortstop. Since the family moved to Toronto five years ago, Cesar and Derek seldom miss a Yankees game at Rogers Centre – except Derek wears the jersey of HIS favorite player – Aaron Judge.

Father and son sat a row behind Mike at a Yankees game early this season and struck up a conversation. Their story touched Mike’s heart, who asked, “Would you like a ball?” Receiving a “yes,” Mike called to the pitchers in the bullpen and the outfielders between innings, “Hey, how about a ball for a kid? But we got nothing,” he says. Then came the sixth inning, when Derek’s favorite player was up to bat. “I

Immediately you could see he was looking for Derek,” Cesar says. Mike handed the ball to Derek, who tearfully hugged Mike.

“I had my chance, and I just did it,” Mike says. “But if Derek hadn’t reacted, I don’t think the moment would have blown up. I don’t know how I didn’t cry myself.” Derek had to convince himself it wasn’t a dream: “It was so overwhelming. I don’t know if it was shown, but I pinched myself after I got the ball to make sure I was awake.”

After Blue Jays staff arrived in their section and heard the story, they asked the trio to sit behind home plate the next day and watch batting practice on the field. Only then did they realize that their split-second moment had captured the sport’s heart and imagination. “There’s media, cameras, all there for us. We felt like movie stars,” Mike says. “I didn’t expect that at the time, but now I realize that after a few years of negativity and challenges, people were ready for a feel-good story.”

Aaron Judge among them. The Yankees staff escorted the Rodriguez and Lanzillotta families to the dugout, where Aaron was waiting to meet his biggest fan. He signed the homerun ball for an overcame Derek, whom Aaron referred to as “my man,” and gave him a pair of batting gloves.

Since then, the families have been invited to games at Yankee Stadium and in Pittsburgh. The Lanzillottas have received offers of trips and dinners. Cesar and Mike text frequently. And Derek keeps the ball in a case in his room, grateful for a chance to meet his hero. Correction: heroes. “When people ask me about being thankful for meeting Aaron Judge and I explain it, it’s the same feeling for Mike,” Derek says. “I think he knows I’m talking to him, too.”

Mike hopes the moment carries a legacy, not for him but for all sports fans. “I hope it created a change of outlook,” he says, “where people pay it forward.”

“I HOPE IT CREATED A CHANGE OF OUTLOOK WHERE PEOPLE PAY IT FORWARD.”

- MIKE LANZILLOTTA

joked to Derek that Aaron was going to hit a home run right to us,” says Cesar. “As soon as he hit it, I could tell it was headed straight for us.” Cesar tried to grab it but was blocked by a wall of hands. Two of them were Mike’s. The ball hit him and landed softly at his feet. In a plate of hot dogs.



This is a story of Mutual Musials. Say that three times fast. Or, instead, savor the story of Brett Phillips and Chloe Grimes. She inspires him to spread kindness. He inspires her to keep up the fight against cancer. They've turned this simple synergy into Musial magic.

Even before they met, Brett was Chloe's favorite player with the Tampa Bay Rays. She loved his motto, "baseball is fun," and his signature airplane celebration, which he famously displayed after delivering the winning hit in Game 4 of the 2020 World Series. They met in April, when Chloe was honored as a Rays Tuesday Hero following a relapse of cancer. A softball pitcher, she came prepared to deliver the ceremonial first pitch with a good luck wristband, a softball and note, hoping to give them to Brett. Not knowing Chloe was a fan of his, Brett volunteered to receive the pitch because, "I've been blessed with this platform. Let me bless someone whose circumstances are not good right now."

"THERE'S NO REASON WHY I CAN'T CONTINUE PLAYING BASEBALL AND GO THROUGH MY STRUGGLES WITH A SMILE ON MY FACE."

- BRETT PHILLIPS

So, imagine his surprise when, after displaying her "cannon of an arm," Chloe ran from the mound to meet him with multiple presents. "This is someone who is battling cancer, showing up with such good energy," Brett says, adding of the wristband, "I'll never forget her giving it to me and saying, 'This will bring you good luck.'" Three innings later, as Chloe and her mom, Jacquie, were interviewed on TV, Brett hit the longest home run of his career – so high and so far that the ball got stuck on a catwalk. He found out after the game that Chloe was being interviewed when he hit the dinger.

"I was so emotional," he says. "For me, my relationship with God solidified another moment in my career. There's no questioning there's something better and greater for us." The Rays later retrieved the ball; Brett signed it and gave it to Chloe in a surprise visit to her house. "I was like, 'What in the world is going on here?'" Chloe says. "I hop off my bike and he comes out and I run up to him and jump on him."

Brett and the team also helped pay her medical bills, and his glove sponsor, Wilson, was so moved by their story that it invited Chloe to design a glove for herself. It includes her name and signature phrase: Princess Warrior. Brett liked it so much that he uses the identical model. "I thought she was going to go crazy with the rainbow colors, but she didn't want to embarrass me. And my heart melted," he says. "It's close to the way I would customize a glove. This is a really cool glove."

Both traveled a rocky road through the season. Chloe underwent surgery to remove her thyroid but notes, "He gave me the spirit to beat the butt out of cancer." Brett was traded to Baltimore, then assigned to the Class AAA Norfolk Tides. But he has maintained ties with Chloe and her family, even joining them on a fishing trip. "I have been very bad at baseball," he says with a glance at Chloe's wristband, "but every day I wake up and look down at this and regardless of what I'm going through, you have a girl that's 9 years old, battling cancer for the second time. She shows up every day with love and energy. There's no reason why I can't continue playing baseball and go through my struggles with a smile on my face." Each also takes inspiration from the other about a brighter future. Brett is thinking in the short term, saying of his Chloe-designed glove: "It's going to make a lot of great plays for me next year. If I get razzing, (teammates) will have to know the story, and I'm sure they'll knock it off real quick." Chloe is thinking bigger picture. "When I have kids," she says, "I'll show them the ball."

Mutual Musials. Mutual Musials. Mutual Musials. That's hard. Chloe and Brett. That's perfect.



2022 STAN MUSIAL LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD FOR SPORTSMANSHIP

ALBERT PUJOLS





The Stan Musial Lifetime Achievement Award for Sportsmanship is the pinnacle honor bestowed at the Musial Awards. It recognizes iconic sports figures who exemplify sportsmanship and embody the class, dignity, generosity, excellence, civility and integrity for which Stan The Man was known.

Albert Pujols has known all along that it takes a lifetime to equal Stan Musial's achievements. Perhaps that's why he has politely rejected comparisons between himself and The Man – all the while exuding the traits Stan was known and loved for.



When fans in St. Louis wanted to bestow the nickname El Hombre, Spanish for “The Man,” he told reporters in St. Louis, “There is one man that gets that respect, and that’s Stan Musial. He’s The Man. He’s The Man in St. Louis.” If you were paying attention, though, you know that his first stint with the Cardinals was filled with moments of compassion and grace, aka Musial Moments. He won the Roberto Clemente Award in 2008 for his community involvement and sportsmanship and received a National Sportsmanship Award in 2009, when a Cardinals fan injured himself on a railing while reaching for a foul ball. Albert arrived before paramedics to comfort the man, then calmed the man's son, born with Down syndrome, while his dad was treated.

But again, when the Angels put up El Hombre billboards to promote his move to Anaheim in 2012, he reiterated: “I’m not comfortable with that, because I believe there’s one Man and, believe it or not, it’s God. God is the Man, and there’s another Man, Stan “The Man” Musial in St. Louis.”



Yet he continued to display his kindness. Just before his return to St. Louis as an Angel in 2019, he made the day of another child with Down syndrome, who was wearing his jersey. Albert spotted him after a game, took off his own game jersey and signed it as well as the jersey the boy was wearing, then took a picture with him.

With his return to St. Louis, his affinity and respect for Stan moved to the forefront. The comparisons became unavoidable, especially because both would retire after 22 seasons and as Albert passed Stan on the all-time MLB lists in total bases, games played and extra base hits.

The joy and verve Albert displayed this season became infectious, and reminiscent of Musial as well. It was obvious as teams showered him and Yadier Molina with official farewell gifts. But his smile and warmth filled the fleeting

“THERE IS ONE MAN THAT GETS THAT RESPECT, AND THAT’S STAN MUSIAL. HE’S THE MAN. HE’S THE MAN IN ST. LOUIS.”

- ALBERT PUJOLS



moments, too: greeting umpires before a game, sharing a handshake and laugh with an opposing second basemen after a force out, obliging home and road crowds with a curtain call after his home runs. Yadi, his “brother for life,” said after their final game together, “It was a great season. Albert was fun to watch. To watch him come back and do his thing, it was fun.”

His next stop is Cooperstown, where he and Stan will share another home because of their superlative careers. In the end, Albert’s included:

- 703 home runs
- 6,211 total bases, second all-time to Musial Award winner Hank Aaron
- 2,218 runs batted in, second to Hank Aaron
- 3,384 hits
- 11 All-Star appearances
- 3 NL MVP awards
- 2 World Series rings

But, like Stan, he knows the mission to spread compassion and love continues. He has never forgotten his roots in the Dominican Republic, “shining shoes, throwing trash every Saturday to bring home some food for my grandma and grandpa and my dad.” And he has experienced the challenges of raising a child with Down syndrome. So the Pujols Family Foundation was launched in 2005 with dual goals: Promote awareness and provide hope for children with Down syndrome and their families, and improve the quality of life for the poor in the Dominican Republic. It continues to thrive. Since 2012, the foundation has organized at least 120 events a year: medical missions, proms, holiday parties, music therapy, martial arts, sign language and life skills classes, golf clinics and literacy programs.

“Becoming a great baseball player is important to me, but it is not my primary focus. Because I know the Hall of Fame is not my ultimate, final destination,” he says on the foundation’s website. So, finally, the time is right – no, make that perfect – for Albert to accept the comparisons, as well as the Stan Musial Lifetime Achievement Award for Sportsmanship.



Special thanks to the Pujols Family Foundation and the St. Louis Cardinals for photos of Albert Pujols



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