

THE MOST IMPORTANT AWARDS IN SPORTS®

# THE Musical AWARDS®

PRESENTED BY



MARYVILLE  
UNIVERSITY

**SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 2023**

STIFEL THEATRE | ST. LOUIS



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# WELCOME

FROM THE ST. LOUIS SPORTS COMMISSION

Welcome to the 2023 Musial Awards presented by Maryville University! Thank you so much for attending tonight's event – our 10th show at Stifel Theatre! – and supporting our annual celebration of sportsmanship in America and around the globe.

The recipients of the Musial Award not only represent all that's right in sports, they embody the human spirit. And in times like these, when the world may seem so broken, it's meaningful to come together and be reminded of the good in humanity. We thank all of our honorees for uplifting us through their extraordinary sportsmanship.

It is a true privilege for us to honor this year's Musial Award recipients. And what a lineup we have, from Bill Bradley, a model of selflessness and civility... to hometown favorite Adam Wainwright, who has exemplified class and character... to Emilia Rossatti, to whom we extend a special welcome for coming all the way from Bologna, Italy to accept a Musial tonight. We even go where the Musial Awards have not gone before: we are thrilled to recognize a thoroughbred champion in Cody's Wish – and celebrate the magical bond between the horse, Team Godolphin and Cody Dorman. Get your Musial Awards tissues ready; we're in for a special night.

There are heroes on the stage, and for the Musial Awards, we have our own heroes in the seats. Among them is Maryville University President Mark Lombardi. Mark is wrapping up his sixth and final year as chair of the St. Louis Sports Commission. And while he will remain on the board and very much part of the organization, it's a good time to reiterate how grateful we are for the incredible support Mark and Maryville provide. They've enabled us to build a homegrown event into a world-class production that has national reach and widespread impact. Our dream to do that has come true thanks to Mark's commitment and his belief in all the good the Musial Awards can do.

We also and always extend our gratitude to the entire Musial family for entrusting us to honor Stan in a manner that matches the excellence he embodied. They make us feel like family, and we share a collective joy in being able to further Stan's legacy while inspiring people across the country to be good sports.

Finally, as we say each year... 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.

Thank you all for attending and supporting the Musial Awards. Enjoy the show!



Marc Schreiber  
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](http://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  
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## 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 2023 Musial Awards throughout the country as a one-hour special on Sunday, December 24 (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 fifth 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

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Chair

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President  
Musial Awards Executive Producer

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Director, St. Louis Sports Foundation

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# THE *Musial* 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 | Nadia Comaneci<br>& Bart Conner |
| 2020 | Hank Aaron                      |
| 2021 | Wayne & Janet Gretzky           |
| 2022 | Albert Pujols                   |

### 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           |
| 2022 | Warrick Dunn                |

### 2022

Brittany Bowe  
Isaiah Jarvis  
Mike Lanzillotta  
Demeria Moore, Jorja Roberson,  
Jasmyn Stamper, Cara Robertson  
& Syrianna Jones  
Brett Phillips & Chloe Grimes  
Nadia Popovici  
Frank Viverito

### 2021

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

### 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



Albert Pujols (2022)



Wayne & Janet Gretzky (2021)



Hank Aaron (2020)



Nadia Comaneci & Bart Conner (2019)



Jackie Joyner-Kersey (2017)



Arnold Palmer (2015)

## PAST RECIPIENTS

### 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  
Jodie 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

### 2014

David Belisle  
Cari Hampton  
James Hawkins  
Derek Herber  
Jason Millard  
Olivet (Mich.) Youth Football  
Nathane Simniok  
Malik Stewart  
Josh Zuchowski  
Marc Schreiber  
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



From top down: Jim Thome & Sister Jean Dolores Schmidt (2018); Cal Ripken Jr. (2016); Ernie Johnson with Taelor & Sydni Scott (2015); Joe Torre & Mo'ne Davis (2014); Meghan Vogel with Maryville University President Dr. Mark Lombardi and Jackie Joyner-Kersey (2012)

## 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 Hasenfratz, 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 Schettler & 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



Mallory Holtman, Liz Wallace & Sara Tucholsky (2008)

## 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  
Reva 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



**Steve Flesch** 2023 winner,  
Ascension Charity Classic



The Ascension Charity Classic would like to recognize and congratulate **ANANDRA CHANEY**, member of the PGA Junior League of St. Louis. She is a shining example of good sportsmanship!

# Congratulations to this year's Musial Award Winners

And thank you, St. Louis, for making the **Ascension Charity Classic** a huge success!

Join us next year, **September 3-8, 2024**, when professional golf legends return to Norwood Hills Country Club, with all proceeds benefiting charities serving North St. Louis County.

For more information, visit  
**[AscensionCharityClassic.com](https://AscensionCharityClassic.com)**





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.

# Because of today, more beautiful tomorrows

Proudly supporting the Musial Awards for shining a light on moments of sportsmanship and those individuals who embody class and character. Thank you for making a difference.



# WHAT'S YOUR MUSIAL MOMENT?

## INSPIRE SPORTSMANSHIP IN YOUR GROUP AS PART OF STAN THE MAN'S LEGACY

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](mailto:salexander@stlsports.org).**

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

Musial Moments is a program of the St. Louis Sports Commission's affiliated 501c3 St. Louis Sports Foundation. The program is conducted in conjunction with the Musial Awards, produced by the Sports Commission and the National Sportsmanship Foundation. For more information, visit [sportsmanship.org](http://sportsmanship.org) and [MusialAwards.com](http://MusialAwards.com).



#MusialMoments





# ST. LOUIS ARTS

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# COOPER ALAN

FEATURED MUSICAL ARTIST



The Musial Awards is pleased to have recording artist Cooper Alan perform at tonight's show. The up-and-coming country star has independently built a fanbase of more than 10 million followers and has earned over 200 million streams on his music. Originally from Winston-Salem, North Carolina, Cooper spent his high school and college years playing bars, college campuses and Honky Tonks all across the Carolinas. He and his band became the "go to" for great music and a high energy, all night throwdown performance.

After graduation, Cooper packed up his guitar and moved to Nashville, where he had the incredible luck of meeting hit songwriter and producer Victoria Shaw who signed him within weeks to a publishing deal. He has been fortunate to have the opportunity to write songs with folks like Rivers Rutherford, Seth Mosley, Matt Nolen, Skip Black, Kent Blazy, Desmond Child, Jeffrey Steele, and Victoria Shaw.

Cooper's hit singles include "New Normal", "Tough Ones", "Colt 45 (Country Remix)", "Can't Dance", and many more.

His songs have reached #1 on the iTunes Charts multiple times.

In 2021, Cooper started his own record label (Cooped Up Records) and began to translate his social media audience of over 10 million followers into high energy live shows, selling out venues all across the country. Because of his streaming and live touring success, he was named a "Next Big Thing" artist by Music Row Magazine.

In 2022, Cooper sold more than 40,000 tickets during his Cooped Up Tour, while amassing 38 sold out shows. Keeping the momentum going in 2023, Cooper launched his spring tour consisting of 21 dates across the United States and Canada. He ended the spring tour with a performance at Stagecoach in Indio, California.

Cooper Alan is still touring throughout the fall across the country. To learn more, visit [cooperalanmusic.com](https://cooperalanmusic.com).

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# 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 emceed the event all 18 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 17 Mid-America Emmy Awards, eight regional and one national Edward R. Murrow Awards, the Associated Press Award for best TV sports story, and the 2023 Sigma Delta Chi Award for Excellence in Journalism presented by the Society of Professional Journalists.

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 three 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  
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A black and white photograph of Stan Musial, a St. Louis Cardinals player, in a batting stance. He is wearing a dark baseball cap with the "SL" logo and a light-colored uniform. The background is a blurred baseball field.

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# THE *Musical* AWARDS®

# **HONOREES**

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23





A year ago, no one would have guessed that Noah Bjerke-Wieser was the right messenger with the right message in the right place. He was too young, too bold, and he picked the wrong platform. Given that his plea for respect and sportsmanship extended beyond his hometown and across the nation proves that we all would have guessed wrong.

As in cities large and small, Noah's basketball team at La Crescent-Hokah High School in southeastern Minnesota has a passionate fan base. Residents of La Crescent, population 5,000, cheer when the Lancers win, commiserate when they lose. And when a questionable call doesn't go their way, they let the refs know it – maybe a little too harshly at times. To be fair, La Crescent's fans are not alone. Nearly 20% of referees nationwide quit every year because of taunting and abuse. But in a smaller town like La Crescent, a shortage of officials can be especially acute. The fans and players know the refs and their tendencies. And vice versa. The first home game of the 2022-23 season, for example, ended in a victory, yet officials heard jeers over calls from some La Crescent partisans. "We weren't happy as players about some of the calls, but it was getting rowdy from the fans, over and over," Noah says. "It was disrespectful."

Coach Ryan Thibodeau wasted no time, addressing the team in the locker room. "We spoke about needing to be better as a team in how we handle things that don't go our way," he says. As captain, Noah felt responsible for setting the tone and preventing the ill will from escalating. So, he took the coach's message a step further, composing a

social media post. "At first, my mom tried to talk me out of it," Noah says. "After she read it, she changed her mind a little, asking 'Are you really sure you want to do this?'" He was so sure that he bypassed TikTok and Instagram, where his teammates and friends would see it, and posted on Facebook. "I knew it would reach the most people, especially adults in the stands," he says. It read, in part: "As a captain of the varsity team I would like to come out and say we need to stop yelling at the refs, us as players, and as spectators in the stands...As players and spectators, we need to let the players play, the officials officiate and the fans cheer. I know I am not perfect in this too but we need to change. I hope we can all come together as a community and change for the better."

Noah has a relatively modest 170 friends on Facebook, but the post has been shared by five times that many people. Among them are school districts, sports teams and athletic associations across the country. "I was hoping our local community would read it," he says. "But it blew up and kept going." He suspects that his message carried more weight because he is so young. "If a parent or the school had sent it out, it wouldn't have been such a big deal."

His coach was most impressed with Noah's leadership and fearlessness. "It's easy when you know that a lot of people are on your side," Ryan says. "But when you know you're going to get pushback, and still put it out there, that's a sign of character." Noah's post "sparked a better conversation with our activities director, and as the year went on, the behavior got better, from players and fans."

This year, Noah is playing basketball at Western Technical College in nearby La Crosse, Wisconsin, but his former coach carries Noah's message. "You hope that players leave the program having learned a few things from you," Ryan says. "But I've also learned from him how to be a better coach. Things we can learn from 16-, 17- and 18-year olds are things you don't forget."

**"WHEN YOU KNOW YOU'RE GOING TO GET  
PUSHBACK, AND STILL PUT IT OUT THERE,  
THAT'S A SIGN OF CHARACTER."**

**- COACH RYAN THIBODEAU**



The similarities are scary. Scary good, that is. Fifteen years ago, Mallory Holtman and Liz Wallace crafted a signature moment in sportsmanship. Teammates on Central Washington University's softball team, the duo came to the aid of their opponent, Sara Tucholsky Bradley of Western Oregon. Sara hit a homerun, the first of her college career, but collapsed rounding first with a knee injury. Realizing that none of Sara's teammates could help, Mallory and Liz carried Sara around the bases. The video has become a foundational Musial moment of which Southeastern University teammates Chapel Cunningham and Leah Gonzalez were blissfully unaware this spring. "It's so awesome," Chapel says. "But at the time, I didn't know about them."

"The time" was the fifth inning of a game in Lakeland, Florida, between Southeastern and Grand View University of Des Moines, Iowa. Trailing 4-1, Grand View loaded the bases, when catcher Kaitlyn Moses hit the go-ahead grand slam. "As soon as she hit it, we knew it, and she knew it," says Chapel, now a junior, who played shortstop. "She hit it so hard, I had to turn and watch the ball." When Chapel finally turned to face the infield, she saw Kaitlyn on the ground between first and second base. Leah, now a junior who was playing first base, says, "We ran to her, saw her in pain and wanted to do something."

Chapel was vaguely aware of the rule, which states that neither teammates, coaches, trainers nor the umpires could help Kaitlyn, who was unable to crawl back to first. "I wasn't 100 percent sure if we could help, so I asked the umpire. He said yes. Leah and I didn't say anything but knew what we wanted to do. We just nodded to each other, then asked Kaitlyn if that was OK with her." Leah recalls that Kaitlyn was surprised and apologetic when the two lifted her and headed towards second base. "We said, 'Girl, do not apologize. You hit that ball, so you deserve this.' In the moment, there's so much adrenaline and we were so focused on not touching her injured ankle. But BANG! When she got emotional, we got emotional, too." As the trio rounded third,

Kaitlyn's teammates gathered at home, and Chapel noticed people in the stands taking video with their phones. "To that point, we thought we were just doing the right thing. Then, we realized we were doing something to make a difference."

A day or so later, Leah and Chapel started hearing from friends that ESPN had shared one of those videos on its Instagram account. Soon, the requests flooded in: a Tampa TV station, CBS Nightly News, Inside Edition. News even spread to Australia, home of second baseman Karah Schultz, who said her parents had seen the story. The global response stems from "a glimpse of hope and humanity," Leah says. "People have this idea about sports and competition as bad guy-good guy. This gives everyone a moment to reflect that not everything has to be win or lose."

**"WE THOUGHT WE WERE JUST DOING THE RIGHT THING. THEN, WE REALIZED WE WERE DOING SOMETHING TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE."**

**- CHAPEL CUNNINGHAM**

Only weeks later did Leah and Chapel learn about Mallory and Liz. "After everything happened, they started comparing what we did to what they did," Leah says. "I saw it and was kind of shocked at how similar they were. It was funny and surreal." Chapel adds: "I think Leah and I are huge competitors. We hate losing, but the moment was so much bigger. I think we set a precedent for what healthy competition in sports could be like." They may not have established the precedent, but they surely solidified it, and carved out their own legacy. "Now Southeastern is known for good sportsmanship. It's not just me and Leah," Chapel says. "We also came to an agreement that as a team, we want to be known as disciples of good sportsmanship."



How's this for a Musial twist on "Southern" hospitality – from the truest of rivals? The annual football matchup between Southern and Grambling State universities dates back to 1932, when the two teams vied for the best Black football players in Louisiana and the winner first claimed state bragging rights. Since being dubbed the Bayou Classic a half-century ago, the annual meeting has staked its claim as the most celebrated rivalry among Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs). The teams meet each year at Caesars Superdome in New Orleans, in the only NCAA Division I Football Championship Subdivision game to be regularly televised by a major network. The series can't get much closer. Before this year's game, scheduled for the Saturday after Thanksgiving, Southern holds a 25-24 advantage at the Superdome. Even the bands duke it out. Grambling's "World Famed" Tiger Marching Band and Southern's Human Jukebox try to one-up each other with music and choreography. But this year's edition has added an extra layer: Southern upped the ante on sportsmanship by visiting a seriously injured Grambling player in the hospital – as a surprise for his birthday.

Southern is located in Baton Rouge, not far from Louisiana State University, whom Grambling faced in early September. About halfway through the third quarter of the LSU game, Grambling linebacker JaQuavis Richmond collided with a teammate on a punt return, breaking his neck and spine in five places. Unable to move, JaQuavis was rushed to the hospital and underwent surgery. The feeling returned to his extremities, but JaQuavis had to receive his

initial treatment and therapy in Baton Rouge, a four-hour drive from the Grambling campus.

To provide companionship and promote unity among HBCUs, members of Southern's football team and university staff visited JaQuavis for his birthday celebration, 10 days after he was injured. Southern deputy athletic director Rodney Kirschner told HBCU Sports, "Even though we are competitors, the HBCU spirit is just as big." JaQuavis, in turn, surprised the Southern delegation by rising from his wheelchair and taking a few steps. "You just love that, just to see all these people here from Southern," JaQuavis told reporters at the visit. "Even though I don't like them at all," he began jokingly, "they just had a love (coming) from them. It means a lot. It warms my heart." Southern University tight end Dupree Fuller, who visited JaQuavis, agrees that this situation was bigger than football. "You never want to hear about a football player falling," Dupree says. "Even if you might not know him or know what really happened. We all feel that way because we're all players, and you never know when it could be your last snap."

While JaQuavis's football future remains unclear, his powers of recuperation are impressive. He returned to Grambling in time for the Tigers' homecoming game in mid-October. Dressed in his uniform and wearing a neck brace, he ran, jumped and encouraged his teammates from the sidelines. "It's not about football anymore," he says. "It's about me living. I could've lost my life. Breaking your neck in five different places, you think God has a calling for me. I just thank God that I'm here." With the Bayou Classic at hand, the rivalry will heat up on the field. But after the final play, both teams will remember the kindness, empathy and class that Southern players and staff showed to JaQuavis. And he plans to be there as a reminder.

**"DOESN'T MATTER IF YOU'RE GRAMBLING, SOUTHERN, FLORIDA A&M, JACKSON STATE... WE'RE ALL FOOTBALL PLAYERS... WE'RE FAMILY." - DUPREE FULLER**

"Doesn't matter if you're Grambling, Southern, Florida A&M, Jackson State," Southern's Dupree Fuller says. "We're all football players ... we're family."



# UNIVERSITY OF DAYTON FLYER PEP BAND

The University of Dayton loves to strike up the band – anywhere and for anyone. Led by director Dr. Willie Morris, the Flyer Pep Band displayed this unselfish spirit and flair for sportsmanship in aiding the men's basketball team from Fairleigh Dickinson University to its shining moment at the NCAA Tournament in March. Dr. Morris and the band traveled from Dayton to Columbus, Ohio, to play for the Knights in their match against top-seeded Purdue. In the process, they became integral to one of the biggest upsets in tournament history.

“We found people who wanted to be part of our journey,” says Jason Young, senior associate athletics director at Fairleigh Dickinson. “You had 18-22 year olds and an instructor who could get them excited and prepared for our moment. That’s where the selflessness comes through. They spent so many hours preparing for that game and driving there, to perform for a team that wasn’t their own.” While the band’s generous spirit enjoyed a corner of the national spotlight during the Knights magical upset, Dr. Morris and the band have made a habit of helping other teams. Since 2007, they have routinely aided competitors without a band in the preliminary round of the NCAA Tournament known as the First Four, hosted annually at Dayton. Among the schools was Fairleigh Dickinson, in 2019. “It fits our Marianist character of giving back and serving,” Dr. Morris says of Dayton, founded by the Society of Mary in 1850. “You don’t have a band? That’s OK. We’ll help you out. One year we got to sub for three bands. We ended up having two groups of my students playing against each other.”

This year was different, however, when Young made two requests: First, could the Flyers play during their First Four game versus Texas Southern? Dayton was on spring break, so Dr. Morris supplemented band members who could hustle back to campus with musicians from nearby Carlisle High School. Second, could the band learn a tune on the fly? Young found piano sheet music in his desk that he suspected was the school’s forgotten fight song. Dr. Morris gave the piano music to one of his students, Jacob Slomko, to quickly arrange for the instruments of the band. They learned it even quicker and worked

with FDU’s cheer squad, who choreographed routines to the song. After defeating Texas Southern 84-61 in Dayton, the Knights headed an hour up the road to face top-seeded Purdue, and Young asked the Flyer band to accompany them. With musicians adorned in FDU’s Going Dancing shirts and brandishing plastic swords that Dr. Morris bought at a novelty store, the inspired Knights – who also had a really good game plan – held a 32-31 lead at half. The game seesawed until the final few minutes, when Fairleigh Dickinson seized momentum that led to a 63-58 victory. “The band was into it,” Morris said. “It was so intense, I kept getting closer to the court, and the ref had to tell me to back up.”

National media couldn’t get enough of Fairleigh Dickinson’s historical achievement, but the Flyer Pep Band’s role was hard to miss. “We were overwhelmed by the press, but I get it,” Dr. Morris says. “It shows that sportsmanship extends off the court or field.” FDU asked Dayton to stay for the Knights next game, a 78-70 loss to the eventual regional champion, Florida Atlantic. “The crowd got into the chants, and it brought goosebumps,” Young says. “Unfortunately we didn’t beat them, but you could feel the excitement and energy building around the team.”

**“IT SHOWS SPORTSMANSHIP EXTENDS OFF THE COURT OR FIELD.”**

**- DR. WILLIE MORRIS III**

Young and Dr. Morris hope the enthusiasm continues to build, thanks in part to the band’s studio recording of the fight song that can be used for all FDU sports. The Knights cheerleaders also have devised cheers and routines to accompany it. “We don’t have words yet,” Young says. “We’ll have to make those up on our own.” But just in case, Dr. Morris says, “We’re always here to help.”



*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.*

Throughout his 18-year career, Adam Wainwright has been synonymous with the curveball. His wicked, signature pitch buckled the knees of opponents, and his X/Twitter handle, @UncleCharlie50, pays homage to the pitch that built his career. The curve helped Adam finish with 2,202 strikeouts, two Gold Gloves, three All-Star appearances and four top 3 finishes in the Cy Young voting. And 200 victories, all for the Cardinals.

The curveball also is the perfect metaphor for Adam's challenges, on and off the mound. When faced with unexpected adversity, he has responded with grace, class and perseverance to rise above. Each has revealed his extraordinary character, worthy of this Musial Award. "I think there's an opportunity in every bad thing that happens," he says. So, let's review the curveballs that have revealed Adam's extraordinary character:

2006: Groomed as a starter, he shifted gears when the team chose him to replace injured closer Jason Isringhausen. Adam didn't allow an earned run in the postseason, and his ninth-inning strikeout of Brandon Inge sealed the Cardinals' first World Series win in 24 years. "Closing out a World Series is as good as it gets," he says.

2011: After accumulating 39 wins in the previous two seasons, Adam was sidelined for a year because of Tommy John surgery

and did not appear in the Cardinals' World Series victory over Texas. To fill his hours, he took up gardening and loved it. Eventually, he founded 5 Oaks Farms on 1,600 acres near his hometown of Brunswick, Georgia, that practices and teaches sustainable farming techniques.

**WHEN FACED WITH UNEXPECTED ADVERSITY, HE HAS RESPONDED WITH GRACE, CLASS AND PERSEVERANCE TO RISE ABOVE.**

2013: Rebounding from surgery, Adam led the league in victories, shutouts, innings pitched and complete games. More importantly, he challenged himself off the field, founding Big League Impact. It started as a fantasy football league that raised more than \$110,000 for St. Louis nonprofit Operation Food Search and Water Mission, which provides clean water in developing nations. Since then, Big League Impact has engaged 100+ major leaguers and hosted more than 250 campaigns to raise over \$8 million.

2015: After 39 victories in 2013 and '14, Adam missed the bulk of the season with a torn Achilles. This time, he devoted free time to the guitar, spawning what could blossom into a second career. His passion also led to a friendship with singer, songwriter and baseball enthusiast Garth Brooks, whose Teammates for Kids

Foundation partnered with Big League Impact on the Home Plate Project to address food insecurity.

2020: The pandemic and the ensuing baseball shutdown gave Adam and Garth a chance to expand the Home Plate Project, which grew to include players from each team helping to feed kids in their cities. Later that year, Adam received the Roberto Clemente Award for his character, community involvement and contributions on and off the field. “Being mentioned in the same sentence as Roberto Clemente is the highest honor of my entire career,” he said when he learned of the award.

2023: The quest to become the third pitcher to earn 200 victories for the Cardinals proved “the toughest of times in my career,” he says. “Throughout the course of the year, I thought I was going to turn a corner and help this team win a lot of games. My arm just didn’t respond.”

He handled the criticism with grace and displayed perseverance. And finally, he earned elusive No. 200 on September 18, pitching seven shutout innings. The credit, he says, goes to his Cardinals teammates and management. “There were a lot of times this year when they could have said, ‘We tried but it didn’t work.’ Instead, they stuck with me,” he says. “I’m at peace with it. It’s been a great run. I honestly don’t have anything else to give.”

On the contrary, Adam’s history proves he has more to give: in his work with Big League Impact, as a baseball analyst, recording artist or whatever curve he decides to throw next. Even he seems to recognize it, telling the crowd on the final day of the season, “You’re going to get sick of seeing me.”





Emilia Rossatti and Gaia Traditi have stood en garde, facing their opponents in fencing competitions throughout Italy, for a decade.

So, when they met in April at the Under 23 Italian Championships, they had a good idea what to expect. But they surprised even themselves. When presented with an opportunity to take advantage of a rival, Emilia decided to prove that familiarity doesn't breed contempt. Instead, her actions allowed respect, character and class to take center stage. Or, in this case, center strip.

Gaia and Emilia faced each other in the championship final, a close match throughout. With just 17 seconds left, though, Gaia held a 12-9 lead that seemed secure – until she took an errant step backward, turned her ankle and fell to the ground. A medical attendant rushed to her, and the clock was stopped. Gaia had just five minutes to receive medical treatment, which did little to ease the pain. At that point, she could have retired and conceded the match to Emilia. Or she could continue, taking the risk that the remaining 17 seconds could be enough for Emilia to earn the points for a victory.

While Gaia received treatment, Emilia huddled with her coach, Riccardo Schiavina. “In those five minutes, both he and I decided not to attack,” she says. “It seemed the right thing to do.”

So, when Gaia decided to carry on, the two took their positions at the center of the competition mat, known as the strip. Instead of moving

forward to attack, though, Emilia retreated slowly. Again, the two met center strip. Again, Emilia retreated, allowing the clock to wind down and assuring victory and a national title for Gaia. Once more, the two met center strip, this time for a warm embrace.

“This girl gave me something more,” Gaia said following the match. “She made me realize that in spite of everything, it's not victory that counts but friendship. And she showed that towards me so much today. There's no way to thank her. I don't care much about the victory, but her gesture was nicer.”

The victory gave Gaia the chance to represent Italy in epee in the individual competition at the European Under 23 Championships in May in Budapest, where she advanced to the round of 16. In the team competition, Emilia and Gaia joined forces as part of the four-person delegation that earned bronze for Italy.

In addition to a bronze medal, Emilia received a Fair Play award in the inaugural Young Athletes category from the Italian National Olympic Committee. “If we want (young athletes) to have an impact on future generations, it is important to educate them on sharing, brotherhood, solidarity and respect for each other,” says Cosima Guccione of Sport and Youth Policies in Florence, where Emilia received the award. “Teaching fair play is like teaching civic education.”

Emilia's sportsmanship has earned praise beyond Italy: from India to Great Britain, and now to the strip – er, stage – of the Musials. And the 17-second lesson in sportsmanship has proven its staying power. “I'd do it another thousand times,” Emilia says. “I'm very happy, indeed, even beyond the gesture. I'm satisfied with what I've done.”

**“SHE MADE ME REALIZE THAT IN SPITE OF EVERYTHING, IT'S NOT VICTORY THAT COUNTS BUT FRIENDSHIP.”**

**- GAIA TRADITI**



## CODY'S WISH & TEAM GODOLPHIN

Some might say Cody Dorman's life came to an abrupt, tragic end. After all, he wasn't even 18 when he succumbed to a lifelong battle with a disease that confined him to a wheelchair and left him unable to speak. Yet his brief life spoke volumes. Though he wasn't supposed to live more than 24 months, his perseverance and belief stunned and inspired everyone – including a four-legged friend, named Cody's Wish in his honor. The pair has formed an undefinable, unmistakable, unbreakable bond based on a foundation of pure connection between the Dorman family and Team Godolphin at Gainsborough Farm. Through their generosity, kindness and class, the bond was reinforced, bringing strength to Cody, victory to Cody's Wish, and bittersweet joy to the world. "From my view," says farm manager Danny Mulvihill, "this was orchestrated from a level higher than on Earth."

The relationship began in 2018, as a follow-up to Cody's involvement in the Make-A-Wish® program. Born with a genetic condition known as Wolf-Hirschhorn syndrome, Cody suffered frequent seizures, and underwent more than 50 surgeries. The Keeneland Association invited nearby Make-A-Wish® participants to its track and a tour of a horse farm. Cody was paired with Godolphin's Gainsborough Farm. To meet and greet Cody, Danny chose a then-unnamed, laid-back, six-month-old foal. The horse stepped forward, touched Cody's hand, then rested his nose in Cody's lap. "The foal was so relaxed," Danny says, "It was a really nice moment, very satisfying." The "nice moment" tugged at the hearts of the staff at Godolphin, especially office manager Mary Bourne, who suggested naming the horse Cody's Wish. "Easiest name decision we've ever made," Danny says.

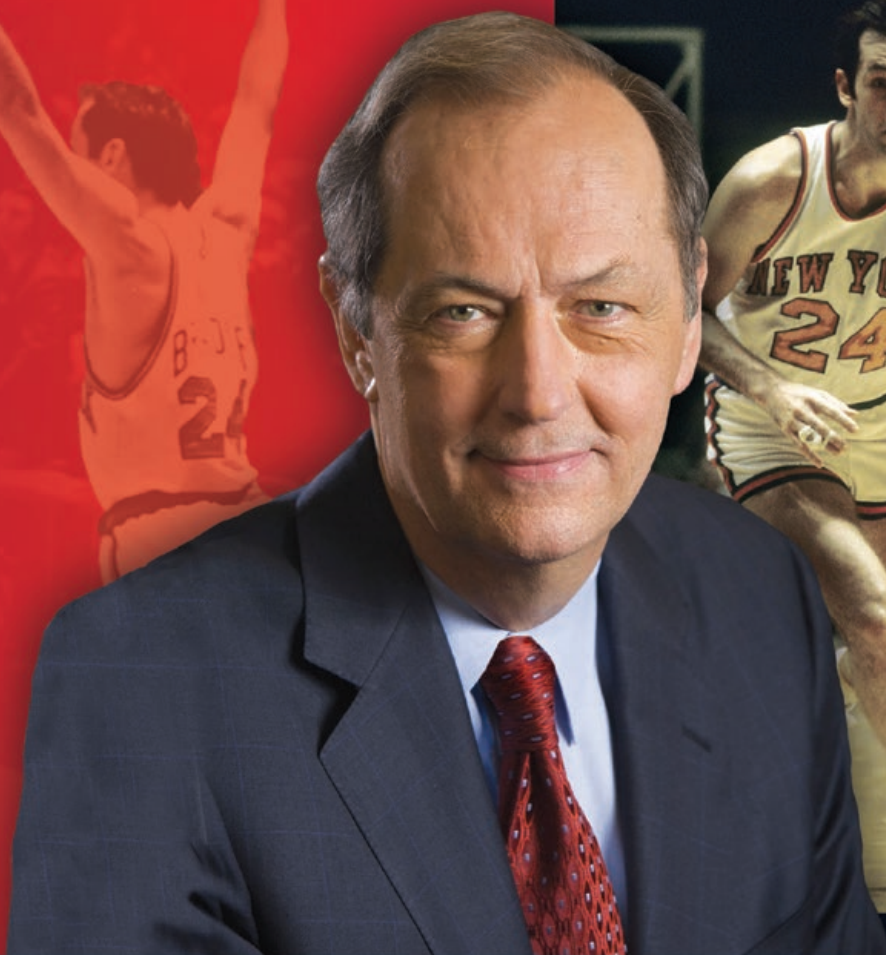
Over and over for five years, the horse uplifted Cody, and vice versa. When Cody was depressed after the death of his grandfather, a complex surgery and the onset of COVID, Cody's father, Kelly, asked Danny if Cody could visit. A full-grown thoroughbred in training, Cody's Wish again nuzzled Cody's hand. "It was like he remembered Cody, and it changed everything," Kelly says. "The horse flipped a switch and brought back the old Cody." When Cody's Wish finished third in his first three starts in 2021, Cody and his family visited the Churchill

Downs paddock before his next race. The horse saw Cody, walked to him and touched him – before his first career victory. By the time of the 2022 Breeders' Cup Dirt Mile at Keeneland, their relationship had garnered media attention, so writers and photographers gathered in the paddock to capture the reunion. Again, the colt placed his nose in Cody's lap, then rubbed it down Cody's cheek. "That was a magical, spiritual moment," Kelly says. Stumbling out of the gate, Cody's Wish had to come from nine lengths behind to win by a head. "The wish has come true. This one's for you, Cody," said announcer Larry Collmus to the cheers and tears of fans at Keeneland and around the world. The victories kept coming. Cody became a Make-A-Wish® ambassador, helping to raise enough to fulfill 50 wishes. "When we see others get their wish, we relive what Cody went through and how it impacted his life," Kelly says.

After winning three of his first four starts this year, Cody's Wish crowned his career – and his connection to Cody – with a second Breeders' Cup victory. Cody and his family flew all the way to Santa Anita in California to share what they knew were the final moments of the horse's career. Tragically, those moments were also among the last for Cody. He suffered a medical emergency on the trip home and passed away. "Cody watched his best friend, Cody's Wish, display his usual perseverance and toughness in winning," his family said in a statement. "Those are the same characteristics Cody showed time and again. Anyone who has seen him at the racetrack, especially around Cody's Wish, understands that in many ways he taught us all how to live. We have been completely amazed to experience the impact Cody has had on so many people, through the journey that this wondrous racehorse has taken us all on."

**"FROM MY VIEW, THIS WAS ORCHESTRATED  
FROM A LEVEL HIGHER THAN ON EARTH."**

**- DANNY MULVIHILL**



**2023 STAN MUSIAL LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD FOR SPORTSMANSHIP**

***BILL BRADLEY***

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**T**he 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.

Like so many kids growing up around St. Louis in the 1950s, Bill Bradley was a Stan Musial fan who just wanted an autograph. And, as with every young fan, Stan obliged Bill, according to The New York Times.

For most kids, that was that.

But Stan and Bill met again, a decade later, at a White House celebration following the 1964 Summer Olympics. Recently retired, Stan was serving as special consultant to the President on physical fitness. Bill had interrupted his academic career at Princeton to win a gold medal in basketball, and as The Times reported, “was thrilled” to shake Stan’s hand this time around.

Given Bill’s reaction to winning the Stan Musial Lifetime Achievement Award for Sportsmanship, the thrill isn’t gone. Far from it. “To be recognized in the same category as the great Stan Musial is truly an unexpected and remarkable honor that I am humbled and proud to accept,” he says.

Bill has left his mark in sports and political arenas. But before he studied in the halls of Oxford, pounded the hardcourt of Madison Square Garden, or legislated on the floor of the U.S. Senate, the foundation for his achievements was laid in Crystal City, Missouri, 35 miles south of downtown St. Louis.

“You can live in a lot of places,” Bill told the St. Louis Post-Dispatch in 2011. “But the place where you grew up never leaves you. It’s in your bones.”

His first teacher on the court was Crystal City High coach Arvel Popp, who preached hard work, resilience and discipline. Bill scored 3,068 points at Crystal City and was twice named an All-American. But he says the years with Popp were more valuable for “experiences that transferred to academics: spending the time to get the work done, giving yourself the time to develop your talents.”

Bill has taken his time, often looking past the easy way to do things the right way. After high school, he turned down 75 scholarships, instead paying to study and play basketball at



Princeton. He interrupted his college career when the Olympics came calling, returning with a gold medal, then became the 1965 AP College Player of the year and MVP of the Final Four.

Next, he put an NBA career on hold to accept a Rhodes scholarship to Oxford, then serve in the Air Force Reserve. Finally, in 1967 he began his pro basketball career, becoming an integral member of the only two NBA championship teams in New York Knicks history. Throughout the journey, he maintained his love of the game. Of that second championship season in 1973, he writes: “In plenty of games, I played simply for the joy of it, shooting and passing without thinking about points.”

But for those keeping score, Bill tallied 9,217 points in his 10-year career and was elected to the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame in 1983. By then, he was four years into his first term as a U.S. Senator representing New Jersey. “I realized this wasn’t much different than the Knicks’ locker room,” he told the Post-Dispatch. “As a legislator, you’re trying to establish a team that can get the votes.”

After three terms in the Senate, he ran for President in 2000, making Crystal City one of his first stops. When the Democratic nomination went to Al Gore, however, Bill retired from elected office.

Since then, he has shared his life lessons by authoring seven books. Among them is *Values of the Game*, a collection of essays filled with anecdotes and examples of how the lessons of sports translate to life. Among the essay topics are Selflessness, Respect, Leadership, Responsibility and Resilience: words often used to describe Musial honorees. His observations hit home, simultaneously personal to Bill Bradley and universal to all lovers of sports.

“Each time a (parent) takes a son or daughter to the playground to shoot baskets for the first time, a new world opens,” he writes, “one full of values that can shape a lifetime.”

**“TO BE RECOGNIZED IN THE SAME CATEGORY AS THE GREAT STAN MUSIAL IS TRULY AN UNEXPECTED AND REMARKABLE HONOR THAT I AM HUMBLLED AND PROUD TO ACCEPT.”**

**- BILL BRADLEY**





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  - Signage at most of the facilities where games occur
  - Parent/Coach registration pledge
  - Digital toolkit to show support and spread message
  - Referee appreciation programs
  - Sportsmanship Brigade – reward good sportsmanship

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# ST. LOUIS SPORTS COMMISSION **UPCOMING EVENTS**

## 2023

**DEC 21** Mizzou to the Lou Wrestling Dual  
vs. Illinois  
Stifel Theatre | 7 PM

## 2024

**FEB 16** Mizzou to the Lou Gymnastics Meet  
vs Florida, Illinois & Lindenwood  
Family Arena | 6 PM

**MAR 7-17** ACHA National Championships  
Centene Community Ice Center  
& Maryville University Hockey Center

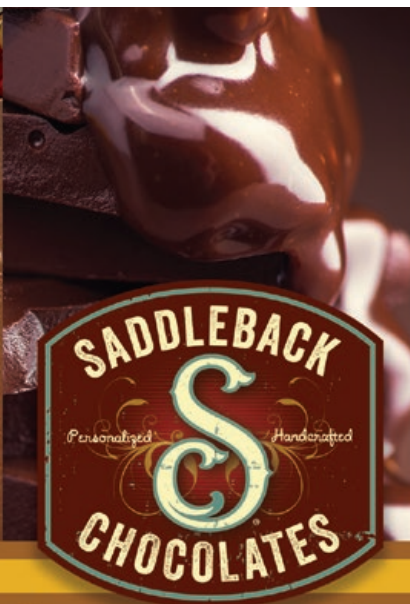
**MAR 7-10** Missouri Valley Conference  
Men's Basketball Tournament  
Enterprise Center

**MAR 29 & 31** NCAA Division I Men's Ice Hockey  
Regional  
Centene Community Ice Center

**MAY 2024** NCAA Division III Men's & Women's  
Tennis Championships  
Dwight Davis Memorial Tennis Center

**MAY 2024** Biz Dash 5K presented by  
World Wide Technology  
Lou Fusz Plaza at CITYPARK

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THAN A HUNDRED TEACHING IT.”*

– Knute Rockne

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