

THE MOST IMPORTANT AWARDS IN SPORTS®

T H E  
**Musial**  
A W A R D S®

PRESENTED BY



MARYVILLE  
UNIVERSITY

**SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 23, 2024**

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# WELCOME

FROM THE ST. LOUIS SPORTS COMMISSION

Welcome to the 2024 Musial Awards presented by Maryville University! Thank you so much for attending tonight's event and supporting our annual celebration of sportsmanship in America.

Every year, I wonder if we can match our previous event, and each year, I am more impressed and gratified by the incredible people and acts of sportsmanship that we find. 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 around us. We salute all our honorees for uplifting us through their extraordinary sportsmanship.

It is a true privilege for us to honor this year's award recipients. Bob Costas is a model of class, decency, respect for his craft, and respect for the game. Larry Fitzgerald, Jr., is synonymous with integrity, philanthropy, kindness, and excellence. Salvador Perez is a humble champion and a friend to all. And as always, the stories and the people you aren't already familiar with will make you laugh, make you cry, and dazzle you with their sportsmanship and their goodness. Get your Musial Awards tissues ready; we're in for another special night.

There are heroes on the stage, and for the Musial Awards, we have our own heroes in the seats. Among them is retiring Maryville University President Mark Lombardi. He's the guardian angel of the Musial Awards and the person who, along with Maryville, has allowed this event to grow and thrive. Mark and the school have 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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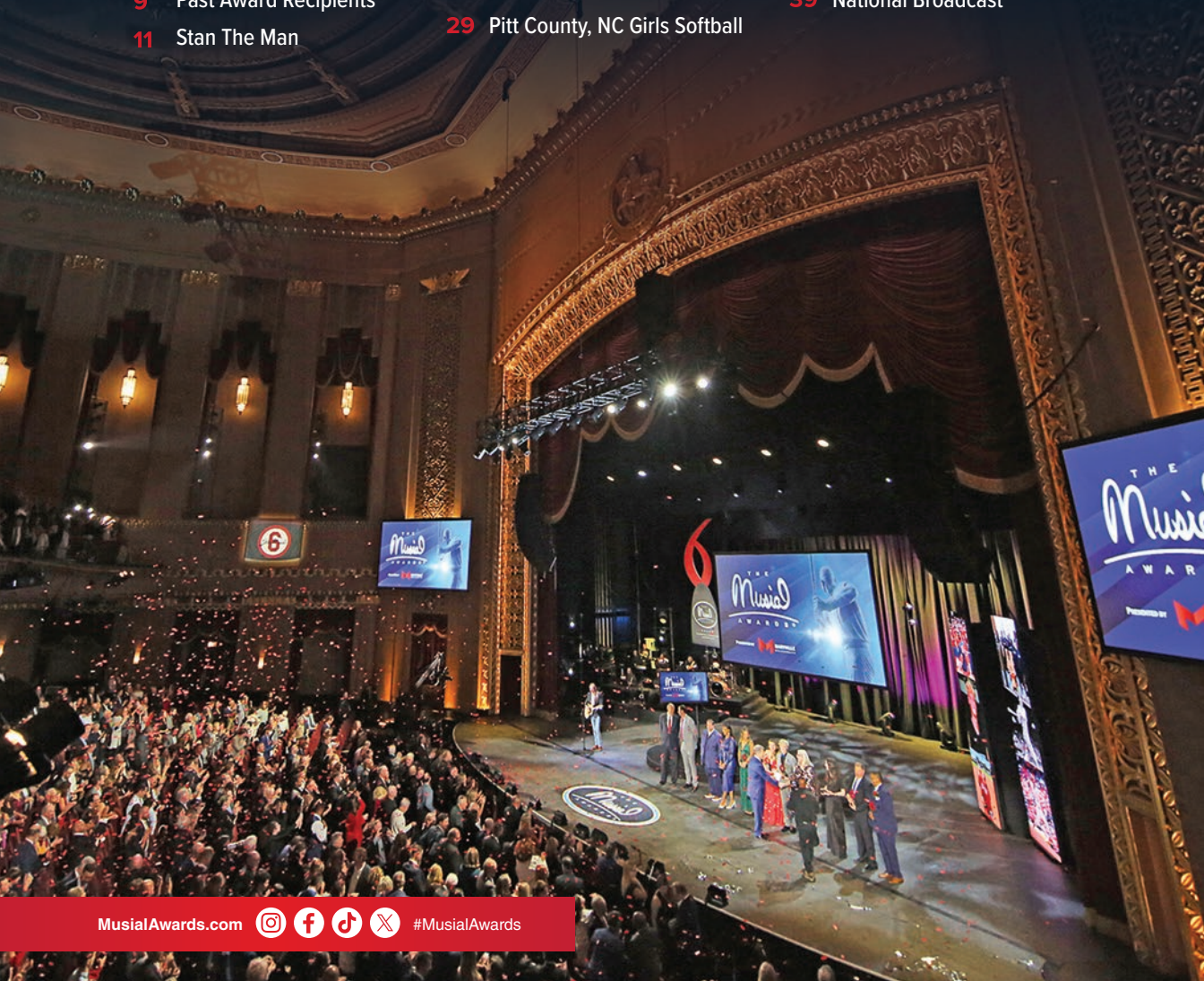
Thrilling performance comes standard. Bow is optional. The December to Remember Sales Event is here. Offers on select models, now through January 2.



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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 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 2024 Musial Awards throughout the country as a one-hour special on Sunday, December 29 (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 sixth 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

**Michael Loynd**  
Chair

**Marc Schreiber**  
President  
Musial Awards Executive Producer

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Director, St. Louis Sports Foundation

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**Cici Jamison**  
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# 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-Kersee
2018	Jim Thome
2019	Nadia Comaneci & Bart Conner
2020	Hank Aaron
2021	Wayne & Janet Gretzky
2022	Albert Pujols
2023	Bill Bradley

### THE 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
2023	Adam Wainwright

### 2023

Noah Bjerke-Wieser  
Cody's Wish & Team Godolphin  
Chapel Cunningham & Leah Gonzalez  
Emilia Rossatti  
Southern University Athletics  
University of Dayton Flyer Pep Band

### 2022

Brittany Bowe  
Isaiah Jarvis  
Mike Lanzillotta  
Demeria Moore, Jorja Roberson,  
Jasmyrn 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 Hoefler  
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



Bill Bradley & Adam Wainwright (2023)



Albert Pujols (2022)



Wayne & Janet Gretzky (2021)



Hank Aaron (2020)



Nadia Comaneci & Bart Conner (2019)



Jackie Joyner-Kersee (2017)



## PAST RECIPIENTS

### 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

### 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



From top down: Jim Thome & Sister Jean Dolores Scmidt (2018); Cal Ripken Jr. (2016); Arnold Palmer (2015); Ernie Johnson with Taelor & Sydni Scott (2015); Joe Torre & Mo'ne Davis (2014)

**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  
 Geoffrey 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 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 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

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# THE MAN



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.

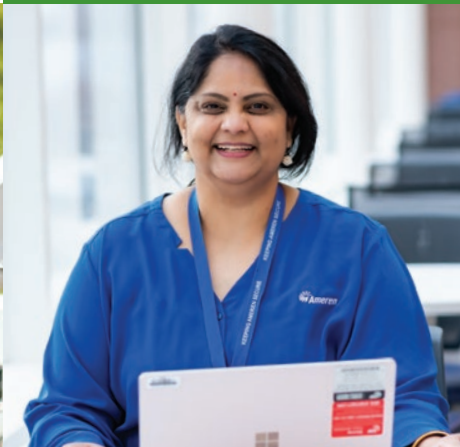


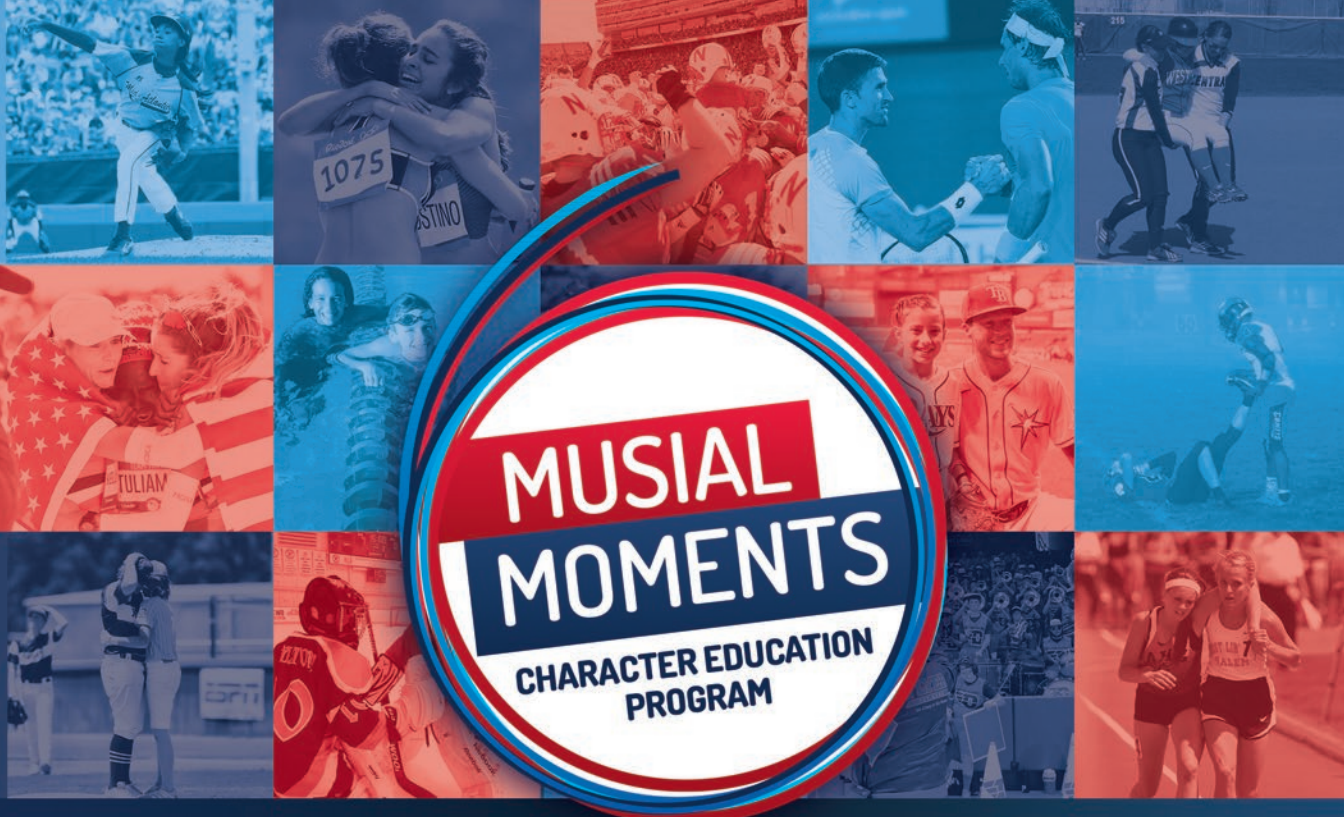
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## INSPIRE SPORTSMANSHIP IN YOUR GROUP AS PART OF STAN THE MAN'S LEGACY

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!

To bring Musial Moments to your school or organization, contact Solomon Alexander at 314-345-5130 or [salexander@stlsports.org](mailto:salexander@stlsports.org).

LEARN MORE AT [SPORTSMANSHIP.ORG/MUSIAL-MOMENTS](http://SPORTSMANSHIP.ORG/MUSIAL-MOMENTS)

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

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

*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





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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 19 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 19 Mid-America Emmy Awards, nine regional and two national Edward R. Murrow Awards, the Associated Press Award for best TV sports story, and the 2023 and 2024 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.

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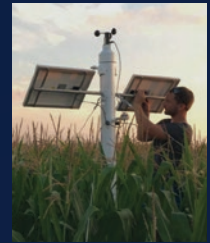
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# DAVE MISLAN

In basketball, scoring 1,000 points is a milestone, a cause for celebration. But when rivals reached the goal six seconds apart, it was more than a coincidence. It was magic, thanks to a little Musial pixie dust from Coach Dave Mislán.

West Allegheny's Brandon Bell and South Fayette's Mike Plasko have known each other since playing AAU basketball together in the Pittsburgh area. Although they found themselves playing for rival high schools, Brandon still refers to his opponent as "Mikey." In a spectacular twist of fate, before the final meeting of their senior years, each player was achingly close to 1,000 points. Neither, however, knew about the other's point total. "Mikey" needed 24 points but had two more games the following week. Brandon needed 13 in the final game of his high school career. Neither South Fayette's Mislán nor West Allegheny Coach Ben O'Connor knew, either.

"I knew how close Mike was, but we couldn't think about it because the score was close," Coach Mislán says. "We had two great student sections in a packed house." When South Fayette stretched the lead to 8 in the final 15 seconds, "that was the first chance to breathe." Brandon still needed two points; Mike needed three. With 8.2 seconds remaining, Mike hit a 3-pointer that put South Fayette ahead 60-49. After the shot fell, Brandon's teammates quickly inbounded to him. He was blocked, though, by jubilant South Fayette fans storming the court. "I realized then that Mikey was in the same place as I was, only he had made his 1,000th point," Brandon says. Coach Mislán wanted to apologize to the officials and Coach O'Connor and explain why he attempted a 3 with a comfortable lead. Only then did O'Connor reveal that Brandon was two points shy of the mark. And, as Coach O'Connor says, "Dave is a class act."

As the court was cleared, Coach Mislán gathered his team: "Being our rival, we played Brandon eight times and double-teamed him every time. I thought about how that double-team prevented him from getting so many points. So, the best thing we could do is let him have

his moment. The team understood." With order restored, Brandon got the ball, then made a layup with 1.9 seconds remaining. Once again, chaos ensued; this time, jubilant West Allegheny fans stormed the court.

On the one hand, Brandon says, "It was surprising that he'd give me the opportunity. But all my career, nothing was handed to me. I had to work hard. So, it was special to get the 1,000 points. At first, the attention from others was surprising. But then, I realized it really wasn't. We don't really see acts of kindness like Coach Mislán did too often. And we all need it more often."

**"WE DON'T REALLY SEE ACTS OF KINDNESS LIKE COACH MISLAN DID TOO OFTEN. AND WE ALL NEED IT MORE OFTEN."**

- BRANDON BELL

Even though both players have graduated, they remain in touch. Mike was recruited to play at Washington and Jefferson College, a Division III program in Washington, Pennsylvania. Brandon plays at Division III La Roche University in Pittsburgh. Coach Mislán's son just finished his playing career at LaRoche, so he continues to be amazed at the coincidences. Among them: South Fayette is just 40 miles from Stan Musial's boyhood home in Donora. Though he and his dad were die-hard Pirates fans, his dad's second favorite team was the Cardinals, and his favorite player was Stan. "We watched so many Cardinal games together," he says. "I even have a signed ball from Stan." So, he is even more humbled that doing the right thing set in motion so many coincidences and garnered so much good will. "I believe this is what a lot of people would do," he says. "It wasn't just me, but the whole team. It's what should happen, especially with good kids." And good coaches.



# LINDY NOEL

Given her last name, Lindy Noel, who works for the Columbus Blue Jackets, has heard her share of holiday and gift-giving puns. None was as heartfelt as the one for Aaron Portzline, who has covered the Blue Jackets since 2000. Lindy gave Aaron the gift of life.

“Lindy has handed me a microphone during press conferences probably hundreds of times,” Aaron says. “I never thought she’d hand me an organ.” In this case, Lindy turned out to be a perfect match when Aaron needed a kidney.

Even after receiving dialysis for months, Aaron didn’t want to become the story. Reluctantly, he turned to his followers on social media to share that he needed a transplant and became an advocate for others in need of organ donation. In response, many people volunteered to be tested. His message deeply touched Lindy, who still carried a sense of helplessness from losing her father to esophageal cancer in 2018. “There was no donation to save his life. This felt like something I could do to make a difference in someone else’s life.”

After four rounds of testing, she learned that out of the scores of people tested for Aaron, she was the perfect match. Aaron learned only that a donor had been found. “I wanted to tell him privately, but I also realized it would be a big story,” she says. “I thought if we recorded something, we could decide later if we wanted to share it.”

**“IT’S ABOUT HUMAN KINDNESS, A PERSON STEPPING FORWARD TO SACRIFICE SOMETHING SO THAT ANOTHER MAY LIVE. PURE, HUMAN KINDNESS.”**

- AARON PORTZLINE

So Lindy and the Blue Jackets video team came up with a ruse. She asked Aaron to participate in a video about how the 5th Line, the nickname for the team’s fan base, had supported his search for a donor. Lindy hadn’t decided when to tell him that she was the donor. But when he revealed his family history and that a donor had been found, “I looked at the videographer as if to say, ‘Yes, we’re doing it now.’”

Ever the journalist, Aaron was suspicious: “The whole time, I expected somebody to walk through the door behind the camera, and I was worried about not being able to see them clearly with the camera glare. When she said, ‘I’m your donor,’ I almost fell out of the chair.”

Following the surgery April 26, the two shared updates multiple times a week as Aaron passed tiny milestones. And their story blew up across social media, which didn’t surprise Aaron: “It’s about human kindness, a person stepping forward to sacrifice something so that another may live. Pure, human kindness.”

Aaron returned to covering the Blue Jackets in June. As the months passed, he has needed fewer tests and medications. The NHL honored Lindy for her selfless act in June, but even six months later she remains uncomfortable with the accolades.

“My initial approach to the testing was that everyone was doing this. It wasn’t until much later that I realized that not everyone thinks like that,” she says. “Then and now, I don’t see myself as a hero. But I realize it’s rare.”

And for the first time in a while, Aaron can get excited about the future. He and his wife, Kate, “are already looking forward to Lindy’s wedding next summer.” Just like the rest of Lindy’s family. “We’re bonded for life,” she says.



# LAKE MARY, FL LITTLE LEAGUE ALL-STARS



Like many international competitions, the Little League World Series and Little League Softball World Series produce highlight reels. Unlike other big-time events, one of their videos is devoted entirely to sportsmanship. This year's 5-minute montage features more than a dozen moments of empathy, compassion and fair play. For example:

- Teams representing the Southwest and Latin America, formed a circle, arm in arm, before their game.
- A catcher from Canada tied the shoes of a batter from Puerto Rico, followed by the catcher from Puerto Rico paying it forward to an opponent from Germany because ... have you ever tried to tie a shoe while wearing batting gloves?
- A batter from Canada gave a high five to a pitcher from Chinese Taipei, who nabbed his hot line drive for the third out of an inning.
- An injured player from Colorado, unable to play, helped the professional grounds crew water the infield dirt and tend the grounds. He received the groundskeeper's award that the pro crew normally bestows on one of its own.

"Those moments are such a big deal," Coach Jonathan Anderson of Lake Mary, Florida, says. "We want these kids to be competitors, but we emphasize that we share the experience of a lifetime and that we're all in this together."

The two moments garnering the most attention, though, were strikingly similar and came from the top of the heap – the winners of the baseball and softball tournaments. Before celebrating their victory in the baseball tournament, players from Lake Mary embraced and consoled their competitors from Chinese Taipei, who had just lost in heart-breaking fashion.

With the score tied 1-1 after regulation, the bottom of the eighth inning began with a Lake Mary runner on second. The first batter bunted to the pitcher, who wheeled and threw to an unmanned first base. The ball sailed into foul territory, and the runner on second scored the game-winner. Stunned players from Chinese Taipei dissolved into tears.

Lake Mary recognized their disappointment and honored it. Ignoring the language barrier, players reached out to their rivals, embracing and consoling them. "You want to say something, then realize the players might not speak English, so you just give them a shoulder," Coach Anderson says. "Seeing the kids do that was a great feeling." A nearly identical scene played out at the Little League Softball World Series after the team from Pitt County, North Carolina, defeated the team from Sterlington, Louisiana, 1-0 in the final. Before relishing their own victory, the champions first gathered around Louisiana's catcher to give her a group hug, then embraced the rest of their opponents.

"You're trying to instill in them to be good people," Pitt County Coach Brad Medhus says. "It's something that makes you very proud."



# PITT COUNTY, NC GIRLS SOFTBALL

Pitt County's show of compassion and empathy, he says, stems in part from the sting of last year, when six girls on this year's team lost in the series final. "Last year was a difficult moment, but a big growth moment," he says. "As a manager, you try to prepare them to do their best, win or lose."

The girls from Pitt County also were at their best when holding a vigil the night before the start of this year's World Series. A team from the Philippines had endured numerous travel delays, forcing them to miss the pre-tournament hoopla and even putting their participation in jeopardy. So Pitt County created signs and organized well-wishers to welcome the team when it finally arrived after 10 p.m. on the eve of the series opener.

"Our girls felt bad that the team from the Philippines missed the fun part," Coach Medhus says. "They decided to be their greeting party and let them know how excited we were that they made it. It was a cool thing, because the girls were there in their pajamas. They rounded up as many girls as they could from other teams. But they came up with this all on their own."

By winning this year, Pitt County earned the distinction of serving as champions for the tournament's golden anniversary. Organizers honored players from the first championship during the "fun part" of the pre-Series celebration. "The landscape in athletics for women and girls has changed so dramatically," Coach Medhus says. "It was good for our girls to meet those ladies, to see where they've come from and where we can go."

In one sense, both girls and boys teams already have reinforced where Little League is headed, carrying the torch of sportsmanship to pass on. "They have brought inspiration to so many," Coach Anderson says. "As 11- or 12-year-olds, they are role models for so many little ones that are coming right up behind us."



**"THEY HAVE BROUGHT INSPIRATION TO SO MANY. AS 11- OR 12-YEAR-OLDS, THEY ARE ROLE MODELS FOR SO MANY LITTLE ONES THAT ARE COMING RIGHT UP BEHIND US."**

**- COACH JONATHAN ANDERSON**

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THAN A HUNDRED TEACHING IT.”*

– Knute Rockne

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# JAYDIN BLACKWELL

Citius, altius, fortius (faster, higher, stronger). That’s the Olympic motto. But the original values of the Games were expressed in a document known as the Olympic Charter: encourage effort, preserve human dignity and develop harmony. Over time, they have evolved to:

- Strive for excellence and encourage others to do the same.
- Respect yourself, the rules, your opponents, the environment and the public.
- Celebrate friendship by setting aside rivalries, and realize that there is more that unites us than divides us.

Does any of this sound familiar? The overlap of Olympic and Musial ideals is total and complete. Perhaps no one embodied the Olympic/Musial duality better this year than Paralympian Jaydin Blackwell.

A native of Little Rock, Arkansas, Jaydin competes in sprints in the T38 class, for athletes with impaired coordination. At his first Paralympics this summer, he crushed the world record in winning the 100 meters, then matched his own world record in taking gold in the 400. But Jaydin was a champ before he even left the blocks in Paris. He was preparing for the 100m final in the lane next to Peng Zhou of China, who was having difficulty securing a strap to his upper leg. Jaydin left his lane to help Zhou secure the strapping. After Zhou expressed his thanks, Jaydin patted him on the chest, as if to say, “You’ve got this.” Just 10.64 seconds after this simple act of kindness, Jaydin earned a gold medal and a world record. Talk about instant karma and rapid rewards. He repeated both accomplishments days later in the 400. “It feels really good to get the double gold,” he said, “like I promised myself all those years ago.”

Born premature after just 26 weeks, Jaydin was diagnosed at age 6 with cerebral palsy, a disease that affects a person’s ability to move and maintain balance and posture. He didn’t let that stop him from playing football after moving to Detroit and dreaming of NFL stardom, even

though his mom, Rochelle Davis, says he wasn’t cut out for it. “He was faster than anyone else,” she told The Independent, “but he was just too kind and polite.” So, he joined the AAU’s Motor City Track Club and competed in high school on a relay team that qualified for the state finals in 2021. He continued running in college, competing at Purdue University Northwest. “Cerebral palsy has not affected my hopes and dreams,” he told the Detroit News. “It just makes my muscles tight, and I have to try more than the regular person.”

**“DON’T LET ANYONE TELL YOU WHAT YOU CAN OR CANNOT DO. YOU ARE YOUR BIGGEST ADVOCATE, YOUR BIGGEST STRENGTH.”**

- JAYDIN BLACKWELL

He earned gold in the 100 and 400 at his first international meet, the 2023 World Para Athletics Championships. And despite his acclaim, he has remained humble and continued to train near his home in Detroit, staying close to family. “It means a lot to hear my mom cheering for me,” he said after his victories in Paris. “She’s been to every track meet since middle school, AAU, high school, collegiate level and now here. It means she’s really dedicated, and she really loves me. And I appreciate that.”

Along with the acclaim has come the realization that Jaydin is a role model, embracing his position as an advocate for Paralympians and inspiration for youngsters. “Don’t let anyone stop you from what you want to achieve in anything you do,” he says. “Don’t let anyone tell you what you can or cannot do. You are your biggest advocate, your biggest strength.”



# LARRY FITZGERALD, JR.

2024 MUSIAL AWARD FOR EXTRAORDINARY CHARACTER

*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 17-year career, Larry Fitzgerald, Jr. appeared just twice on the NFL's daily briefing of signings, releases, waivers and frings known as the Transaction Report: the day he was drafted, and the day he retired.

Which is appropriate. In all matters personal and professional, Larry is not a transactional guy. He's a relationship guy. His roots run deep, both in Phoenix and his hometown of Minneapolis. His connection to the quarterbacks who tossed his 121 touchdown passes was fleeting compared to the bonds Larry has nurtured in the community and in business.

For his commitment to excellence, sportsmanship and class on and off the field, he is most worthy of the Musial Award for Extraordinary Character.

As a youngster, those traits were instilled by his father, Larry, a journalist, and his mom, Carol, an advocate for youth education, breast cancer support, and caring for those living with HIV/AIDS. He also soaked up lessons as a ball boy for the Minnesota Vikings, "an opportunity of a lifetime to be around Cris Carter, Warren Moon, Joey Browner, Randy Moss and Robert Smith," Larry said in 2015. "To see their work ethic and dedication to their craft was really an eye-opening experience for a 14-year-old, 15-year-old."

After two years at the University of Pittsburgh, Larry was drafted third overall in 2004 by the Arizona Cardinals, where he spent his entire career building an unparalleled resumé.

- He was the youngest player to reach 1,000 receptions.
- His 1,432 receptions and 17,492 yards rank second all-time in the league.
- A 3-time All-Pro and 11-time Pro Bowler, Larry also was a member of the NFL 100th Anniversary All-Time Team.

Yet even as a rookie, he was laying the groundwork for his philanthropy. To honor his mom following her death while being treated for cancer, he founded the Larry Fitzgerald Foundation and Carol Fitzgerald Memorial Fund. The organization funds research, awareness and resources for breast cancer patients and families, particularly in underserved communities. He later added the First Down Foundation, which supports programs for young people in Phoenix and Minnesota that focus on reading proficiency, after-school services, sports camps and bridging the technology gap. For this, he received the 2016 Walter Payton Man of the Year Award.

**FOR HIS COMMITMENT TO EXCELLENCE, SPORTSMANSHIP AND CLASS ON AND OFF THE FIELD, HE IS MOST WORTHY OF THE MUSIAL AWARD FOR EXTRAORDINARY CHARACTER.**

Despite the gaudy stats and spectacular catches, Larry avoided showboating, preferring to simply hand the ball to the official. That small gesture of sportsmanship was just one hallmark of his respect for the game and made him the obvious recipient of the inaugural Art Rooney Sportsmanship Award in 2014. He now serves as a judge, nominating finalists for the annual honor that is voted on by the players.



“I’ve never caught a touchdown by myself,” he said in accepting the award. “It’s the offensive line protecting the quarterback, the quarterback throwing the ball. It’s me doing my job. . . . So, I would be wrong to take singular credit for that.”

He still dabbles in sports, as an analyst for ESPN and cohost of the “Let’s GO!” podcast with Jim Gray and Tom Brady. A two-time winner of the Pebble Beach Pro-Am, Larry also works with PGA Reach to increase diversity in golf. He’s also a longtime chess aficionado and serves on the board of First Move Chess, which brings the game into the classroom and home for kids.

But much of his passion is directed to the corporate world, where Larry Fitzgerald Enterprises has invested in more than 150 companies focused on sustainability, technology and lifestyle. He also speaks to groups, ranging from youth camps to business executives, about the impact of mindset, mentorship, perseverance and community service, and relishes any opportunity “bringing people together, collaborating, or helping them with their confidence.”





# BREASHA PRUITT

As a former gymnast, Breasha Pruitt knows a thing or two about flips. She flipped the script on her own experiences to provide a nurturing environment for athletes at Breasha Pruitt Elite Gymnastics in Evansville, Indiana. And when another team suddenly needed a coach, Breasha vaulted to a perfect score in kindness, class and empathy. Just two weeks before a major state competition in March, the coach at a nearby gym was injured and unable to coach or make the meet. So, in addition to 15 of her own athletes, Breasha stepped up to coach nine of her rivals.

“I agreed to take on anyone that needed a place, because I remember my own coach being unable to go to elite nationals,” Breasha says. “So, I looked past the girls as rivals. It was more a case of just helping someone in need.” For two weeks, the athletes trained together, then competed for their respective gyms, all under Breasha’s guidance. They seemed to bring out the best in each other. Among the girls from Breasha’s gym was a state champion and two who finished second in their divisions. All nine girls she “adopted” improved on their scores from the year before.

“Both groups did amazing,” Breasha says, “I was happy for them.” But perhaps most gratifying was that her original athletes “were welcoming and took the girls in as part of our team. They trusted me enough that it would work out.”

Breasha appreciates the joy of gymnastics and wants to pass it on. She was USA Gymnastics’ Indiana and Regional all-around champion and a Junior Olympic national champion on uneven bars. A two-time elite national team member, she represented the U.S. in competitions in France and Australia.

But her path was pockmarked with adversity. She left her home, school and family in Kentucky as a 6th grader to train hundreds of miles away. Living with a series of host families, she was home-schooled and trained up to eight hours a day. Coaches could be unfair

and cruel: berating her, using racial slurs and harshly punishing small mistakes and tardiness. She later earned multiple college scholarships but returned home after a year at the University of Georgia because of injury.

Any one of these obstacles would have been enough to turn her back on the sport. Instead, she says, “I wanted to be the change. You can’t be the change if you don’t stand up for it. We need coaches that want to do things the right way, not the old way.” So, she set up her own gym, the first Black-owned gym in Indiana, based on her personal pillars of positivity, family, kindness and fun. “I wanted my girls and boys teams to be able to stay at home to get the coaching they deserve,” she says. Others have noticed. Two years ago, the Positive Coaching Alliance named her Double-Goal National Coach of the Year. She received the Kentucky Colonel Award from Governor Andy Beshear and served as 2023 commencement speaker at the University of Southern Indiana College of Science, Engineering, and Education. The most recent and personal honor came after the state competition, when all the girls Breasha coached at the state meet decided to stay with her.



**“I WANTED TO BE THE CHANGE. YOU CAN’T BE THE CHANGE IF YOU DON’T STAND UP FOR IT. WE NEED COACHES THAT WANT TO DO THINGS THE RIGHT WAY, NOT THE OLD WAY.”**

**- BREASHA PRUITT**

“The goals were to help them get to State and to keep up their skills,” she says. “It was never for them to stay with me, but I’m glad we’ll all be wearing the same uniform this year.”



# SALVADOR PEREZ

No, those bald spots on the Lard family's yard in suburban Kansas City are NOT the result of negligence or pestilence. Instead, the dirt patches are a sign that the yard has hosted countless Wiffle ball games for the neighborhood kids, who nicknamed it The Sandlot. But when Royals catcher Salvador Perez happened by and decided on a whim to join them, it became their Field of Dreams.

"He's not taking one day for granted," teammate Bobby Witt Jr. says of the player known as Salvy. "He's playing the game like it's his last day to play. It's amazing. I wish everyone would get to play with Salvy." Wish granted for Cameron Lard and his friends.

Salvy was headed home on an off day after having lunch with a friend when he spotted the kids playing. "I was in my car and thought, 'should I stop or not?' You know me. I like to make kids happy," Salvy says. "I tell myself, 'Stop and say hi to these kids.' So, I just stop, get out of my car and say, 'Hey, guys, can I play with you guys?'" Their mouths opened wide, he says, and they yelled, "That's Salvy! That's Salvy! Yeah come and play with us."

Cameron's dad, Terry, and a neighbor grabbed their phones. His mom, Lesley, shared the event with the world on social media. The videos capture the bald spots in all their glory as Salvy rounds the bases with a homer. The pitcher, young Henry Golubski, says he, "gave him one down the middle," but Salvy quickly added that he also struck out. Hitting the Blitzball the kids used, he says, "was kind of hard. That ball moves a lot."

At Salvy's request, Lesley also took a group photo, showing kids aged 7 or 8 to early teens gathered around the Royals catcher. "It reminded me where I come from," Salvy says. "It was pretty cool, one of the best moments of my career, playing with these guys and seeing all these kids happy. It means a lot to me." A few days later, Salvy sent a friend to The Sandlot with a signed bat. He then video chatted with the players, saying, "You're supposed to wait for me to play!"

The Royals didn't seem surprised in the least that their captain and this year's recipient of the Roberto Clemente Award for his humanitarian efforts would spontaneously spread joy and goodwill. World Series MVP, nine-time All-Star and five-time Gold Glover, Salvy is a member of Sarah's Soldiers, raising money to cure ALS. He also donated \$1 million to help found K.C.'s Urban Youth Academy. This summer, he hosted a baseball clinic for more than 100 kids from the city's underserved neighborhoods, then sent each one home with a backpack full of school supplies.

"There's so much respect he's garnered from everybody in the game, and I think that's from the way he treats people," Royals Executive Vice President and General Manager J.J. Picollo says. "But I think more than anything else, he connects with our fans and our community better than anybody else." In ways that mirror and honor Stan's legacy.

His projects span continents as well. He has worked with his mom, Yilda Díaz, to aid more than 10,000 families over the past decade with food and supplies in their hometown of Valencia, Venezuela, where he also set up a baseball academy. He has paid for dozens of surgeries for children with cleft lips and annually gives more than 1,000 toys to children's hospitals. "What makes me really happy is when kids say, 'I want to be like you,'" Salvy says. "I tell myself 'if all these kids are trying to be like you, you're doing a pretty good job.'"

**"THERE'S SO MUCH RESPECT HE'S GARNERED FROM EVERYBODY IN THE GAME, AND I THINK THAT'S FROM THE WAY HE TREATS PEOPLE."**

- J.J. PICOLLO



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# **BOB COSTAS**

**2024 STAN MUSIAL LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD FOR SPORTSMANSHIP**

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*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.*

No matter the subject, the persona Bob Costas projects into living rooms across America combines a rapier wit, concise insights, romanticism and leavened gravitas. The only person to win Emmy Awards for news, sports and entertainment, Bob seldom breaks character.

Stan Musial made him do it.

Bob delivered a eulogy at Stan's funeral, choking up not once, but twice. The first time, he was sharing the story of Stan asking to play cards at an All-Star game with the Black players, gathered in a corner and ignored by the other White players. The second was when he conveyed the admiration that Mickey Mantle held for Stan. He relayed Mickey's words, "Stan was a better man than me," but stopped again to collect himself.

"I've learned this about myself," Bob said later. "What sometimes chokes me up involuntarily isn't stuff that's sad. Decency chokes me up." Decency isn't readily marketable – for the winner of the Stan Musial Lifetime Achievement award, as are other traits that Bob shares with Stan: class, dignity, generosity, integrity and excellence.

Like Stan, Bob embraces humble beginnings. As a kid, he would listen to baseball broadcasts from the car in the driveway of his home on Long Island. The Pirates' Bob Prince, Detroit's Ernie Harwell, the Cardinals' Harry Caray and Jack Buck were his heroes, equal to Mickey Mantle. Second, Stan and Bob share an adopted hometown. Bob's first job after graduating from Syracuse was at KMOX as the voice of the ABA Spirits of St. Louis, where he proved that his polish was rooted in elbow grease.

From there, Bob blended humor, composure and sophistication to become The Guy for The Big Stuff at NBC: the NBA Finals, the World Series, six Super Bowls and 12 Olympics. He also became the network's designated sports bon vivant, appearing with Johnny Carson, Jay Leno, Conan O'Brien, David Letterman, even on "Meet the Press" and "Saturday Night Live." Eventually, he hosted his own long-format interview shows for NBC and HBO.



And he reaped the rewards, including 29 Emmys and induction into the Sports Broadcasting Hall of Fame in 2018. That same year, Bob earned the Ford C. Frick Award and a place in the National Baseball Hall of Fame.

Introducing Bob at Cooperstown, broadcast partner Joe Morgan, noted Bob's "relentless work ethic. Costas has served as one of the game's great ambassadors, leaving an indelible mark on the national pastime while inspiring a generation of media who saw in him the possibility of achieving a career in sports broadcasting."

But he's just as noted for a generous spirit away from the microphone. For more than a quarter century, Bob has supported SSM Health Cardinal Glennon Children's Hospital and its pediatric cancer center that bears his name. He has hosted fundraisers and celebrity galas as well as serving on its board of governors.

"When you see how a hospital, which can be a foreboding place for any patient, let alone a small child, is turned into a place of warmth and kindness and humanity, it's deeply touching," he says.

Like Stan, Bob makes time for everyone and everything, from hosting a charity benefit to a chat with a fan. His attention to detail in journalism matches Stan's to baseball. Bob crafts his stories to be fair to all sides, with respect for balance, integrity and the English language. A fitting example comes from his eulogy for Stan: "It's more important to be appreciated than to be glorified, to be respected than to be celebrated ... friendship is more important than fame."

So, Joe Morgan's opening words at Cooperstown are especially poignant. Joe looked past the accolades and career highlights, saying simply and directly. "I'm introducing a friend today." Nothing flashy; just plain decent.

**"IT'S MORE IMPORTANT TO BE APPRECIATED THAN TO BE GLORIFIED, TO BE RESPECTED THAN TO BE CELEBRATED... FRIENDSHIP IS MORE IMPORTANT THAN FAME"**

**- BOB COSTAS**







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

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# ST. LOUIS' TRIPLE CROWN OF NCAA CHAMPIONSHIPS



**2025 NCAA MEN'S FROZEN FOUR**  
April 10 & 12, 2025



**2026 NCAA DIVISION I MEN'S BASKETBALL 1<sup>ST</sup> & 2<sup>ND</sup> ROUNDS**  
March 20 & 22, 2026



**2027 NCAA DIVISION I WRESTLING CHAMPIONSHIPS**  
March 18-20, 2027





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# RESPECT THE REFS

**MAKE THE GAME BETTER**



*The mission of the Let 'em Play program is to remind fans, coaches, and players that referees are to be respected and unsportsmanlike behavior is unacceptable.*



Let 'em Play is a program of the St. Louis Sports Foundation, the St. Louis Sports Commission's charitable affiliate. The Sports Foundation implements programs and activities that promote sportsmanship, create positive environments for kids to play sports, and help young people lead healthier, happier lives.

## HOW LET 'EM PLAY AIMS TO HELP

- Provide simple, consistent, and widespread messaging as reminders to parents that it is just a game, referees are human beings doing the best they can.
  - 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



**LEARN MORE & JOIN THE PROGRAM!**

[sportsmanship.org/letemplay](https://sportsmanship.org/letemplay)



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

**2025**



**March 6-9** Missouri Valley Conference Men's Basketball Tournament  
Enterprise Center



**March 13-25** ACHA National Championships  
Centene Community Ice Center



**April 10 & 12** NCAA Men's Frozen Four  
Enterprise Center



**May 2025** 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Biz Dash 5K presented by World Wide Technology  
Lou Fusz Plaza at Energizer Park

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**We salute the winners of this year's Musial Awards.**



At Maryville, we believe that true champions aren't just measured by their victories, but by their commitment to integrity, respect, and doing what's right. That's why we proudly sponsor the Musial Awards, a celebration of the most inspiring and unforgettable acts of sportsmanship throughout the year.

These moments remind us all that sports are about more than competition—they're about heart, character, and the power of doing good. Together, we honor the athletes and everyday heroes who elevate the game by setting a standard of excellence both on and off the field.

**Maryville, where character always wins.**

