

Annual Salute to

WOMEN IN SPORTS®



Thursday, October 12, 2023

A FUNDRAISING BENEFIT FOR THE

**WSF Women's Sports
Foundation®**



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WELCOME

It has been another blockbuster year for women's sports! From the NCAA Women's Basketball March Madness Tournament's 9.9-million, record-breaking viewership and the FIFA Women's World Cup setting a new benchmark for all-time attendance with more than 1.5 million tickets sold to the Nebraska Cornhuskers volleyball team breaking a world record by drawing a crowd of 92,000 fans, women's sports have continued to smash records — and outdated assumptions.

Welcome to our Annual Salute to Women in Sports! We are here to celebrate another tremendous year and a group of individuals who, each in their own way, have worked to expand access and opportunities for girls and women in sport and paved a path towards true equity on and off the field of play. Stacey Allaster has been a passionate and long-time determined advocate for gender equality in tennis; Jon Patricof and Jonathan Soros have introduced an innovative new model of professional sports that places power in the hands of women athletes; and Rosalie Fish is using sport as a platform to advocate for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women (MMIW).

We at the Women's Sports Foundation (WSF) believe that sport is life's greatest teacher. The life-long benefits that come with sport participation lay a solid foundation for girls and women that transcends the playing field, including confidence, character, teamwork and self-discipline. An enlightening stat shows that 94% of women in the C-suite played sports, with 52% having played at the collegiate level. The data clearly show that sport is building up a generation of leaders; and, even if girls and women do not go on to become professional athletes, the societal and cultural benefits help open many doors for them.

These progressive strides towards equity would not be possible without Title IX, the landmark law that has empowered girls and women in sport and education since 1972. Look around high school gymnasiums, collegiate stadiums, professional arenas and boardrooms, and you will find girls and women reaping the benefits of its 37 words. But while Title IX's impact has been transformational, its full promise has yet to be met. Our research shows that girls' participation in high school sports — while almost 12 times higher than it was 51 years ago — has still not reached



WELCOME

the same level of boys' participation pre-Title IX. Today girls miss out on an estimated 1 million sport participation opportunities in comparison.

To level the playing field once and for all, it is vital for everyone — especially younger generations — to understand their rights to equal access and opportunity and to be vigilant in ensuring those rights are upheld. Equality in sport equals equality in life; and, for everyone in society to win, we must fight for it and invest in it at all levels.

If this year has taught us anything, it is that women's sports are emerging as an investment goldmine and there is tremendous value in women's leagues, teams and athletes that can positively impact the bottom line. Women's sports, deservedly, should have a significant place in the business strata. It is encouraging to see the growing groundswell of organizations, corporations and brands investing in women's sports in recent years — through our Foundation and beyond.

As we approach our 50th anniversary in 2024, we celebrate the more than \$100 million we have invested in communities throughout the country. This extraordinary accomplishment would not be possible without the support of our exceptional group of stakeholders — WSF Founder Billie Jean King, our Board of Trustees and Trustees Emeriti, our National Partners, corporate supporters, athletes, fellow advocates and individual donors whose charitable gifts allow us to make the greatest impact. It will take us all to continue to fuel our work throughout our milestone year, and into the next 50.

The pipeline and access for girls and women to play is critical to the entire ecosystem for women's sports. Whether girls dream of competing on the world's greatest stage, coaching the next generation of athletes or running Fortune 500 companies, together we can help them get there — one kick, volley, serve and pass at a time.

Yours in Sport,



Danette Leighton
Women's Sports Foundation CEO



Meghan Duggan
Women's Sports Foundation President

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*See In Memoriam on p. 42 and 43





GALA SCHEDULE

Red Carpet Arrivals

Cocktail Reception

Annual Salute Begins

Star-Gazing Show

CEO Remarks

Dinner

Hype Video

Awards Begin

Billie Jean King Leadership Award

Sportswoman of the Year – Team

President Remarks

Impact Moment

Champion for Equality Award

Sportswoman of the Year – Individual

Wilma Rudolph Courage Award

PRESENTING PARTNERS



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Mayer Brown

Jayma Meyer and Bruce Hack

Becky and Jim Morgan

Morgan Stanley Wealth Management

Jill Nash and Jana Rich

National Hockey League

NBC Sports

NCAA

New Jersey Devils and Blitzer

Family Foundation

Rabid fans of Stacey Allaster

Mindy and Jesse Rogers

Larry and Cybille Scott / Cooley, LLC

She's Connected by AT&T

The Sherry Paul Group at

Morgan Stanley Private

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Joe and Clara Wu Tsai

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Kelley Wirth and her Yale Teammates

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Donations

\$10,000 and up

Mindy and Jon Gray
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\$5,000 to \$9,999

Kyra Tirana Barry
 Kelley Cornish
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 Maddie Weinstein
 Women's Sports Network

\$2,500 to \$4,999

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Collegiate Women Sports Awards
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Up to \$499

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 Celia Vidad

as of October 9, 2023

OUR FOUNDER

Billie Jean King

Sports Icon and Equality Champion

Named one of the “100 Most Important Americans of the 20th Century” by *Life* magazine and the first female athlete to receive the Presidential Medal of Freedom, Billie Jean King is the founder of the Billie Jean King Leadership Initiative, the Women’s Tennis Association and the Women’s Sports Foundation, and part of the ownership groups of the Los Angeles Dodgers, Angel City FC and the Los Angeles Sparks.

In her legendary tennis career, King captured 39 Grand Slam singles, doubles and mixed doubles titles, including a record 20 Wimbledon championships. Her historic win over Bobby Riggs in the 1973 Battle of the Sexes, is one of the greatest moments in sports history. In June 2022, she received France’s highest order of merit, the Ordre national de la Légion d’honneur, from President Macron, and was inducted into the United States Olympic & Paralympic Committee Hall of Fame as a special contributor.

In 2020, Fed Cup, the world cup of women’s tennis, was renamed the Billie Jean King Cup, making it the first global team competition to be named after a woman. In 2019, King’s Southern California roots were recognized with the opening of the Billie Jean King Main Library in her hometown of Long Beach, Calif. In 2006, the home of the US Open was renamed the USTA Billie Jean King National Tennis Center in honor of her accomplishments on and off the court. In 2017, Fox Searchlight released the critically acclaimed film, *Battle of the Sexes*, which depicts the cultural and social impact of the groundbreaking match.

In 2018, King received a Lifetime Achievement Award as part of the prestigious BBC Sports Personality of the Year Awards. In 2021, she received the Laureus Lifetime Achievement Award and the *Sports Illustrated* Muhammad Ali Legacy Award. King serves on the board of the Women’s Sports Foundation, is an adidas Global Ambassador and is the Honorary Lifetime President of the Elton John AIDS Foundation and a past member of the President’s Council on Fitness, Sports and Nutrition. King is a New York Times best-selling author, and her memoir, *ALL IN: An Autobiography*, was published by Knopf in 2021 and released in paperback in 2023.





50 YEARS OF MILESTONES: A TRIBUTE TO BILLIE JEAN KING

Picture this: you are not allowed to apply for a credit card or a mortgage in your own name; you have no legal infrastructure to take action against workplace sexual harassment; and if you are a woman starting a family, you could be fired for being pregnant. Astonishing, right? That is what 1973 looked like for women — limiting and stifling.

During a time when women were expected to be happy with the “crumbs,” Billie Jean King was determined to use her platform to challenge and change the status quo so that one day women could have “the cake, the icing and the cherry on top.” Fifty years ago, her fortitude and sheer determination led to three epic milestones within the sports world that had a seismic impact in society: equal prize money at the US Open, the creation of the Women’s Tennis Association (WTA), and her victory over Bobby Riggs in the iconic “Battle of the Sexes.”

Billie Jean was the driving force behind the US Open’s move to equalize prize money for women and men competitors. Following her women’s singles title victory at the tournament in 1972, she was dismayed with her \$10,000 earnings compared to the \$25,000 the men’s winner received. Her dream of parity quickly turned into protest when she rallied her fellow women players to threaten to boycott the next year’s tournament unless they were rewarded equally. Thanks to Billie Jean’s insistence coupled with her business acumen to raise the sponsorship dollars that would bridge the pay gap, the US Open announced in the summer of 1973 that it would become the first Grand Slam tournament to offer equal prize money. It took 34 more years for all four Grand Slams to reach that level of equity.

50 YEARS OF MILESTONES: A TRIBUTE TO BILLIE JEAN KING

Though Billie Jean dreamed of a unified players' union for both women and men, male tennis players dismissed her ideas, leading her to forge ahead and form the WTA. Under her tenacious leadership, a group of about 60 players gathered in a room at the Gloucester Hotel in London on June 21, 1973, where Billie Jean's "now or never" mentality gave way to the formation of a players' association — a revolutionary new way for women tennis players to receive long-overdue recognition, prize money and endorsement deals. Fast-forward to today, and the WTA has more than 50 top-level tournaments around the globe offering more than \$180 million in prize money each season.

Billie Jean went on to sweep singles, doubles and mixed doubles championships at Wimbledon that summer, yet the job was far from over. On September 20, she was set to play in the highly publicized, epic "Battle of the Sexes" match against Bobby Riggs. More than 30,000 fans filled the Houston Astrodome and an estimated 90 million people from around the world tuned in to the \$100,000 winner-takes-all match. Feeling incredible pressure, Billie Jean said the match wasn't about her pride or reputation. She felt, if she lost, it could set women back 50 years, saying, "I imagined that our tour could be threatened or might disappear, Title IX could be damaged, and so many causes that we were still working for — starting with equal prize money and equitable treatment — would

falter." Though Riggs got out to an early first-set lead, Billie Jean's skillful rallies had him beat, and she won in convincing fashion, showing Riggs — and the world — that women athletes are, and always will be, just as exciting and competitive as their male counterparts. The win had a profound impact on women and men alike; women say it gave them the confidence to ask for pay raises, and men say it influenced them to raise their daughters to be equal to their sons.

Billie Jean King did not just change tennis. She changed the future for girls and women by showing them what is possible when they use their platforms to speak out and fight for inclusion, equality and equity. She envisioned what we all now know: when the playing field is level, everybody wins.



Matthew Stockman/Getty Images



SALUTE HOSTS

Julie Foudy

Three-time Olympic Medalist, Soccer

One of sport's most recognized personalities, Julie Foudy has leveraged an accomplished soccer career into a leading role as a women's sports advocate and respected sports reporter and commentator. Foudy, a four-year All-American at Stanford University, played for the U.S. National Women's Soccer Team (USWNT) for 17 years, serving as captain for 13 years. She won two World Cup Championships, two Olympic gold medals and one Olympic silver medal. Foudy also served as the Women's Sports Foundation President from 2001-02 and was a member of the Board of Trustees for seven years. In 2003, she was appointed by President Bush and Secretary of Education Rod Paige to the Commission on Title IX.

In 2006, Foudy and her husband founded the Julie Foudy Sports Leadership Academy, a camp that teaches leadership and soccer skills. She is currently a reporter and analyst for ABC/ESPN and a contributor and writer for espnW. In 2018, Foudy published her first book, *Choose to Matter: Being Courageously and Fabulously You*. In 2019, she launched her own podcast series, *Laughter Permitted with Julie Foudy*, which aired its 100th episode earlier this year. In 2020, alongside some of her former USWNT teammates, Billie Jean King and other leaders in sport and business, Foudy became one of the founding co-owners of Angel City FC, the National Women's Soccer League franchise based in Los Angeles.

SALUTE HOSTS

LaChina Robinson

WNBA Host/Analyst

An award-winning basketball analyst for ESPN in her 16th WNBA season, LaChina Robinson has provided her expert coverage of women's professional and collegiate basketball since 2009. During her tenure as an analyst and reporter, Robinson has covered all of the sport's major events, including WNBA and NBA games during the regular seasons; NCAA Tournaments; and WNBA playoffs, finals, and draft coverage. She is the host of espnW YouTube show *Around The Rim*, which was chosen as one of the best sports podcasts of 2017 by *Sports Illustrated*, and of SiriusXM's award-winning podcast *Huuuge Fan*, a weekly series that provides a platform for today's biggest stars to talk about their favorite team. Robinson has also been a member of the Women's Sports Foundation's Board of Trustees since 2020.

In 2008, Robinson became Founder and CEO of her own consulting company, Stretch Beyond, through which she serves as a Transition Coach for women and athletes. Robinson received high honors as the recipient of the Dawn Staley Excellence in Broadcasting Award in 2018 and the Mel Greenberg award in 2021 by the Women's Basketball Coaches Association. In 2020, Robinson was recognized with the Giving Gracefully Award as a nod to her work as co-founder of a nonprofit, Rising Media Stars, which is a mentorship and training program for young women of color who want to start a career in sports broadcasting.



Bee Trofort-Wilson

ATHLETES & SPECIAL GUESTS

Laila Ali, Boxing

Four-time undefeated boxing world champion; International Boxing Hall of Fame member^{PP}

Dani Aravich, Para Nordic Skiing, Track & Field

Two-time Paralympian, 2020, 2022; world champion, mixed relay para nordic skiing, 2023^{TT}

Femita Ayanbeku, Track & Field

Two-time Paralympian, 2016, 2020; women's 100m T64 American record holder; world championship bronze medalist, 2019; six-time U.S. 100m women's T64 national champion

Scout Bassett, Track & Field

Paralympian, 2016; seven-time U.S. Paralympic national champion; six-time global medalist; American record holder in 200m T63^{B, C, TT}

Toni Breidinger, Auto Racing

Highest finishing debut racer in NASCAR Truck series by a female; first Arab American female to compete in NASCAR

Lexie Brown, Basketball

WNBA champion, 2021; 9th overall pick in 2018 WNBA Draft; member of Athletes Unlimited's Player Executive Committee

Kim Clijsters, Tennis

Four-time Grand Slam singles champion, 2005, 2009, 2010, 2011; former world No. 1 in both singles and doubles, 2003; International Tennis Hall of Fame Class of 2017 member

Natasha Cloud, Basketball

WNBA champion, 2019; Dawn Staley Community Leadership Award recipient, 2019; All-WNBA Defensive team member, 2022; member of Athletes Unlimited

McKenzie Coan, Swimming

Four-time Paralympic gold medalist, 2016, 2020; 10-time world champion; two-time world record holder (800m freestyle S7, 1500m freestyle S7)

Sabré Cook, Auto Racing

Top American in W Series (2019) and only American to qualify in 2020-21; two-time national shifter kart champion — SKUSA & US Open, 2012, 2016; Kellymoss Porsche Carrera Cup North America Scholarship Winner, 2022

Sonya Deville, WWE

WWE Women's Tag Team Champion, 2023; former WWE official

PP – Past President, Women's Sports Foundation; B – Current Member, Board of Trustees; C – Current Member, WSF Captains Team; TT – Grantee, Travel & Training Fund; CCG – Grantee, Child Care Fund; WR – Wilma Rudolph Courage Award, past recipient

ATHLETES & SPECIAL GUESTS

Meghan Duggan, Ice Hockey

Three-time Olympic medalist, 2010, 2014, 2018; seven-time world champion, 2008, 2009, 2011, 2013, 2015, 2016, 2017; WSF President ^{B, C, WR}

Grete Eliassen, Free Skiing

Two-time X Games gold medalist, 2005, 2006; world record holder for women's hip jump; freeskiing pioneer ^{C, PP}

Marlen Esparza, Boxing

Olympic bronze medalist, 2012; World Boxing Association, World Boxing Council, World Boxing Organization and *Ring Magazine* flyweight champion

Andrea Filler, Softball

Olympian, 2020; Athletes Unlimited professional softball player and Player Executive Committee member; CoSIDA Academic All-American at Northwestern University, 2016

Rosalie Fish, Cross Country

Four-time state champion, 2018-19; Truman Scholar, 2022; distance medley relay national champion, 2021 ^{WR}

Diana Flores, Flag Football

IFAF World Games gold medalist, 2022; Under Armour's first flag football athlete; AFC Offensive Coordinator at the 2023 NFL Pro Bowl Games

Julie Foudy, Soccer

Two-time Women's World Cup champion, 1991, 1999; two-time Olympic gold medalist, 1996, 2004; former captain of U.S. National Women's Soccer Team (USWNT); current commentator and reporter for ESPN, Turner Sports and NBC ^{PP}

Rachel Garcia, Softball

Olympic silver medalist, 2020; two-time Honda Cup winner, 2019, 2021; NCAA national champion with UCLA, 2019; member of Athletes Unlimited ^C

Kimi Goetz, Speed Skating

Olympian, 2022; ISU Speed Skating World Cup winner, 2022-23; nine-time World Cup medalist in the 2022-23 season; multi-time U.S. national champion ^{TT}

Adeline Gray, Wrestling

Olympic silver medalist, 2020; six-time world champion, 2012, 2014, 2015, 2018, 2019; qualified for her 10th world championship team 10 months postpartum ^{CCG}

Ashlyn Harris, Soccer

Two-time Women's World Cup champion, 2015, 2019; plaintiff for the fight for equal pay for USWNT; current Global Creative Advisor for NJ/NY Gotham FC

ATHLETES & SPECIAL GUESTS

Isabelle Harrison, Basketball

12th overall pick in 2015 WNBA Draft; sixth-ranked University of Tennessee player in career double-doubles with 31; third player in WNBA history to have 20+ points, 8+ rebounds and 4+ steals off the bench; member of Athletes Unlimited

Sophia Herzog-Gibb, Swimming

Two-time Paralympic medalist, 2016, 2020; two-time world champion, 2017; six-time world championship medalist, 2017, 2022; Team USA team captain, 2020^{TT}

Wendy Hilliard, Rhythmic Gymnastics

Three-time world championships competitor, 1979, 1981, 1983; first Black American to compete in international rhythmic gymnastics competition; member of USA Gymnastics Hall of Fame Class of 2008^{TT, PP}

Anna Johannes, Swimming

Paralympic bronze medalist, 2012; TedX speaker; former member of United States Olympic and Paralympic Committee Social and Racial Justice Task Force

Shilese Jones, Gymnastics

World champion (team), 2022; world championship silver medalist (all-around and uneven bars), 2022; two-time national champion (uneven bars), 2022, 2023; national champion (floor), 2022; national championship silver medalist (all-around), 2022, 2023

Billie Jean King, Tennis

Recipient of Presidential Medal of Freedom; one of *Life Magazine's* 100 Most Important Americans of the 20th Century; one of *Sports Illustrated's* Top 100 Greatest Female Athletes of the 20th Century; winner of 39 Grand Slam titles, including a record 20 titles at Wimbledon; part of ownership groups of LA Dodgers and Angel City FC; board member of new Professional Women's Hockey League; founder of Women's Tennis Association; founder of Billie Jean King Leadership Initiative; founder of Women's Sports Foundation

ATHLETES & SPECIAL GUESTS

Ilana Kloss, Tennis

Former world No. 1 doubles player; U.S. Open doubles champion and U.S. Open and French Open mixed doubles champion; two-time Wimbledon over-35 doubles champion; member of Jewish Sports Hall of Fame; former CEO and Commissioner of World TeamTennis; co-founder of Billie Jean King Leadership Initiative; CEO of BJK Enterprises; part of ownership groups of the LA Dodgers and Angel City FC; board member of new Professional Women's Hockey League

Phaidra Knight, Rugby, MMA

USA Rugby Player of the Decade, 2010; only African American in World Rugby and USA Rugby Halls of Fame; will make her MMA professional debut at age 49 after a 5-0 amateur career ^{B, C, PP, TT}

Erika Lawler, Ice Hockey

Olympic silver medalist, 2010; two-time world champion, 2008, 2009; three-time NCAA national champion with University of Wisconsin, 2006, 2007, 2009

Cassidy Lichtman, Volleyball

Two-time Pan American Games medalist, 2011, 2015; member of Team USA from 2011-16; current Athletes Unlimited Director of Sport, Volleyball

Jessica Long, Swimming

29-time Paralympic medalist; 54-time world championship medalist (37 gold); four-time ESPY Award winner; featured athlete in Super Bowl LV commercial ^C

Ilona Maher, Rugby

Olympian, 2020; MA Sorenson Award winner, 2017; 22-time competitor for USA Rugby's Sevens Team and two-time competitor for Fifteens Team

Alysia Montaña, Track & Field

Seven-time national champion; seven-time global medalist in world championships, Pan American Games and Olympic Games; trailblazer and advocate for mothers competing in sports, competed while eight months pregnant; founder of &Mother

Taylor Moreno, Lacrosse

Athletes Unlimited champion, 2022, 2023; NCAA champion, 2022 with the University of North Carolina; University of North Carolina's all-time leader in saves (667)

Benita Fitzgerald Mosley, Track & Field

Olympic gold medalist, 1984; two-time Olympian, 1980, 1984; eight-time national champion; 15-time All-American at University of Tennessee ^{PP}

ATHLETES & SPECIAL GUESTS

Alana Nichols, Skiing, Wheelchair Basketball, Canoeing
Three-time Paralympic gold medalist, 2008, 2010; five-time Paralympian; first female American to win gold in the summer and winter Paralympic Games ^{C, PP}

Aleshia Ocasio, Softball
Two-time Central American and Caribbean Games gold medalist, 2018, 2023; Athletes Unlimited champion, 2021; NCAA champion with the University of Florida, 2015

Melissa Ortiz, Soccer
Olympian, 2012; former NWSL and international soccer player; analyst and broadcaster for Fox Sports

Cat Osterman, Softball
Athletes Unlimited champion, 2020; three-time Olympic medalist, 2004, 2008, 2020; two-time world champion, 2006, 2010; three-time USA Softball Collegiate Player of the Year, 2003, 2005, 2006

Marissa Papaconstantinou, Track & Field
Paralympic bronze medalist, 2020; two-time Paralympian, 2016, 2020; two-time world championship medalist, 2023; Canadian record holder in the 100m and 200m T64; first Canadian female para athlete sponsored by Nike

Olivia Pichardo, Baseball
First female to play NCAA Division I baseball; first female to hit a home run in Hamptons Collegiate Baseball League history; member of Team USA Baseball, 2023

Nzingha Prescod, Fencing
Two-time Olympian, 2012, 2016; first American woman to win a foil Grand Prix, 2018; first Black American woman to win an individual medal at the Senior World Championships, 2015; USA Fencing Hall of Fame Class of 2024 member ^{TT}

Dawn Riley, Sailing
Four-time America's Cup competitor; two-time Round the World competitor, including Maiden; National Sailing Hall of Fame and the international America's Cup Hall of Fame member; Executive Director at Oakcliff Sailing ^{PP}

Jocelyn Rivas, Running
World record holder for youngest Latina and youngest woman to run 100 marathons; UNLIMITED WOMEN's 340-mile relay finisher; 100-miler finisher

Angela Ruggiero, Ice Hockey
Four-time Olympic medalist, 1998, 2002, 2006, 2010; 10-time world champion, 1999-2009; all-time leader in games played for USA Hockey (256 games) ^{C, PP}

ATHLETES & SPECIAL GUESTS

Kendall Coyne Schofield, Ice Hockey

Olympic gold medalist, 2018; two-time Olympic silver medalist, 2014, 2022; captain of the U.S. Women's National Hockey team; six-time world champion, 2011, 2013, 2015-17, 2019; first female development coach for Chicago Blackhawks; one of the first free agents signed by Minnesota team of new PWHL, 2023^{WR}

Mira Shane, Lacrosse

Co-Chairperson of Athletes Unlimited Lacrosse's Player Executive Committee; University of Michigan's all-time leader in saves (360), wins by a goalkeeper (24), and highest save percentage (.451)

Kate Shoemaker, Para-Equestrian

Paralympic medalist, 2020; four-time world champion in para-dressage; ranked No. 1 in the FEI Para Dressage Individual World Rankings — Grade IV; 94-time international winner in para-dressage from 148 starts

Minna Stess, Skateboarding

Women's park skateboarding national champion, 2021; third-place finisher at Oi STU Open Park, 2022; current member of the USA National Skateboard Team

Trish Stratus, WWE

Seven-time women's championship winner; WWE Hall of Fame Class of 2013; one of the greatest WWE Superstars of all time

Kathrine Switzer, Running

First woman to officially register and run the Boston Marathon, 1967; New York City Marathon winner, 1974; pioneer who led the drive to make the women's marathon an official Olympic Event, 1984^B

Sheryl Swoopes, Basketball

Four-time WNBA champion, 1997-2000; three-time gold Olympic medalist, 1996, 2000, 2004; three-time WNBA MVP; first player to sign with the WNBA; Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame Class of 2016 member; Women's Basketball Hall of Fame Class of 2017 member; Athletes Unlimited color commentator, 2022, 2023

Jasmine Thomas, Basketball

Five-time WNBA All-Defensive Team, 2016-19, 2021; WNBA All-Star, 2017; Kay Yow Foundation Ambassador

Brenda Villa, Water Polo

Four-time Olympic medalist, 2000, 2004, 2008, 2012; four-time Olympian, 2000, 2004, 2008, 2012; three-time world champion, 2003, 2007, 2009^{B, C, TT}

Mallory Weggemann, Swimming

Five-time Paralympic medalist, 2012, 2020; three-time Paralympian, 2012, 2016, 2020; 15-time world champion^{TT}

ATHLETES & SPECIAL GUESTS

Lauryn Williams, Bobsled, Track & Field

Four-time Olympian, 2004, 2008, 2012, 2014; three-time Olympic medalist, 2004, 2012, 2014; first American woman to medal in summer and winter Olympic Games^C

Lindsey Zurbrugg, Wheelchair Basketball

Paralympic bronze medalist, 2020; two-time national champion at the University of Alabama, 2022, 2023; Most Valuable Player of national championship, 2023

Award Presenters

Laila Ali
Toni Breidinger
Diana Flores
Ashlyn Harris
Shilese Jones
Billie Jean King
Olivia Pichardo
Minna Stess
Sheryl Swoopes
Mallory Weggemann

Community Partners & Young Athletes

Inspirational Triathlon Racing International (i-tri)

Theresa Roden, Founder and Chief Visionary Officer
Shaina Danett Rodriguez Erraez, Participant
Sabina De la Cruz Recinos, Participant

Kings County Tennis League

Grace Cullert, Participant
Jennifer Cullert, Parent

PowerPlay NYC

Brandi Daniels, Senior Program Manager
Annie Correa, Participant
Ariana Melo Efferson, Participant
Alexandra Moran, Participant
Giselle Pineda, Participant

The Prescod Institute for Sport, Teamwork, and Education (PISTE)

Madison Duckett, Coach
Chrystie Cloud, Participant
Julia Dinar, Participant
Addison Douglas, Participant
Neveah King, Participant

Run4Fun

Nicoletta Nerangis, LMSW, Executive Director & Founder
Max Allen, Participant
Leah Forrester, Participant

as of October 9, 2023

PP – Past President, Women's Sports Foundation; B – Current Member, Board of Trustees; C – Current Member, WSF Captains Team; TT – Grantee, Travel & Training Fund; CCG – Grantee, Child Care Fund; WR – Wilma Rudolph Courage Award, past recipient

AWARDS

Wilma Rudolph Courage Award

The Wilma Rudolph Courage Award is presented to a woman athlete who exhibits extraordinary courage in her athletic performance, demonstrates the ability to overcome adversity, makes significant contributions to sports, and serves as an inspiration and role model for others. The award is named in honor of Wilma Rudolph, the first American woman to win three gold medals in an Olympic Games. Rudolph overcame many childhood diseases, including polio, to become a world champion. Rudolph died in 1994 of brain cancer.

Champion for Equality Award

The Champion for Equality Award is presented to an individual or organization that has shown an unwavering commitment to gender equality and to the advancement of girls and women in sports. Through their personal and professional example, the recipients have inspired others to advocate for diversity and inclusion, to hire, support, mentor, and elevate women, and to strive for equality because it's the right thing to do.

Billie Jean King Leadership Award

The Billie Jean King Leadership Award, presented with the Billie Jean King Leadership Initiative, honors an individual or group who has demonstrated outstanding leadership and made significant contributions to the advancement of women through achievements in sports and the workplace. Through their personal and professional example, the recipients have inspired women and girls and demonstrated a lasting commitment to the growth of sports and physical activity for all women and girls. The Leadership Award is presented with the Billie Jean King Leadership Initiative, a non-profit dedicated to promoting equality and inclusion in the workplace. Founded by Billie Jean King in 2014, the organization advocates for equal pay for equal work, and partners with leaders who are making positive change.

Sportswoman of the Year® Award

Every athlete has at least one crowning moment in their career when they feel completely invincible. A truly exceptional athlete has many such moments throughout her athletic career. When a series of high points comes in a particular year, the athlete earns a special distinction of being eligible for the Women's Sports Foundation Sportswoman of the Year Award. Two champions — one individual and one team sport athlete — are honored for extraordinary performances that distinguish them from their peers.

Annual Salute to

**WOMEN
IN
SPORTS®**



OUR 2023 HONOREES ARE...



Tyler Tjomsland/The Spokesman-Review

WILMA RUDOLPH COURAGE AWARD

Rosalie Fish

University of Washington long-distance runner and Indigenous people's advocate

"Running with the paint changed my life." Long-distance runner and activist Rosalie Fish first made international headlines when she ran a high school track and field event with a red handprint painted over her mouth, symbolizing the Indigenous women who were silenced by violence, and "MMIW" painted on her leg to raise awareness of the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women epidemic impacting her community and the country. What makes her deserving of the Women's Sports Foundation's Wilma Rudolph Courage Award are her persistence, resilience and bold determination to get society to pay attention to a crisis often cast to the shadows, as well as her desire to be a face of change for a safer, more just world.

Born in Auburn, Wash., Fish is a member of the Cowlitz Tribe, of Muckleshoot heritage, who grew up on the Muckleshoot Reservation. She first began running in middle school

WILMA RUDOLPH COURAGE AWARD

and quickly discovered its unique power to connect to her surroundings and ancestral roots. Running also helped her cope with the violence ravaging Indigenous women in the United States — with murder being the third leading cause of their death, acts of violence reported at alarming levels, and perpetrators often not being held accountable. Fish is a survivor of violence who attempted to take her own life when she was 14. She credits her family's love for helping her through that difficult time and running for giving her a sense of purpose to live for others when she didn't have the strength or confidence to live for herself.

Inspired by Boston Marathon runner and Lakota activist Jordan Marie Daniel, Fish first donned the handprint and MMIW lettering at her state championships in 2019, where she dedicated all four of her races to Indigenous women who have gone missing or have been murdered, providing photos and information about them on a poster. One of them was her aunt, Alice Ida Looney, who disappeared when Fish was 2 years old and was found dead 15 months later. Fish won each of her races that day. Though her victories did not change what happened to the women she chose to honor, it did place a national spotlight on an issue that receives minimal visibility.

Over time, racing for MMIW has become a form of empowerment for Fish, who is now more comfortable and confident using her platform to bring attention to this epidemic that has directly impacted her and her loved ones.

Fast forward to today and 22-year-old Fish has a long list of accomplishments to be proud of. In 2019, she became the first member of her tribe to sign a National Letter of Intent for college athletics when she committed to Iowa Central Community College following numerous Washington state track titles at the 1B level. In 2021, she was recruited by the University of Washington's (UW) track and field team, and in 2022 she became the first Husky student-athlete to win a Truman Scholarship, awarded nationwide to students based on leadership skills and who have demonstrated civic engagement, academic potential and a desire to pursue a career in public service.

From the track to the classroom, she plans to continue her advocacy for all Indigenous people at UW by pursuing a Master of Social Work and graduate certificate in American Indian Studies.

Learn more about the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women MMIW epidemic and take action. Visit and support the Urban Indian Health Institute at www.uihi.org.

CHAMPION FOR EQUALITY AWARD

Jon Patricof and Jonathan Soros

Co-founders of Athletes Unlimited

"What would happen if we started with a blank sheet of paper?" So began the genesis of a revolutionary new approach to professional women's sports leagues. Jon Patricof and Jonathan Soros sought to put the power in the hands of athletes by building an innovative platform for women's sports when they co-founded Athletes Unlimited (AU). Tossing the traditional sports model aside, these bold business disruptors have built an extraordinary partnership with pro athletes that puts individual players in control of the game — taking head coaches, club owners and locked rosters out of the equation. From player-led executive committees to unprecedented pathways for long-term equity and ways to give back to athletes' chosen nonprofits, Patricof and Soros have truly created something transformative. For their unwavering commitment to elevating the voices of women athletes by building a more equitable and inclusive model for professional sports, they are the Women's Sports Foundation's 2023 Champion for Equality Award honorees.



Jon Patricof (L) and Jonathan Soros (R)

CHAMPION FOR EQUALITY AWARD

Patricof and Soros launched AU's cutting-edge model with softball in 2020, adding volleyball and lacrosse in 2021 and basketball in 2022. The leagues consist of a never-before-seen competition format, scoring system and player-led organizational structure. Forgoing bouncing back and forth between cities and stadiums, players compete in one place throughout a five-week season. At the beginning of each season, four captains are appointed to draft the first week's teams; and the one-of-a-kind scoring system rewards players for peak performance: they can earn points (and monetary bonuses) for winning as a team, their individual stats and being voted MVPs of the game. At the end of each week, the top four players become the new captains and draft a team from scratch for the next week. This model is tailored towards sports fans who follow athletes and not teams, providing a unique experience for them each week.

From Patricof's experience growing the Disney, ESPN and ABC brands across emerging channels and leading the Tribeca Film Festival then the NYC Football Club to Soros' experience founding JS Capital, co-founding Give Lively LLC and sitting on the boards of the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund and GivingTuesday; these co-founders have demonstrated a visionary approach throughout their careers. AU's game-changing model was built on this solid foundation, and from

day one, Patricof and Soros were prepared to dive in and disrupt the women's sports ecosystem, and it is paying off. In just three years, AU has had 13 seasons across four sports involving over 350 world-class athletes and announced it had secured more than \$30 million in new capital from investors both inside and outside of the sports ecosystem. Other notable milestones include becoming the first pro sports league to organize as a Public Benefit Corporation (PBC) and becoming carbon-neutral in the United States. These are a few of the reasons why Fast Company recognized AU as one of the "world's most innovative companies" in 2023, making them the first women's sports organization to receive the tribute.

Through AU, Patricof and Soros are out to prove that women's sports, which have historically been undervalued in our society, can be successful by doing things differently. By striking deals with consumer brand powerhouses like Nike, Gatorade and ESPN, they are helping give some of the world's best athletes a platform to thrive like never before. It is their hope that AU's model provides a roadmap for the future of all sports and shows what is possible when we upend conventional power structures and center athletes as decision-makers and stakeholders, ultimately reshaping attitudes and expectations around women as professional athletes and establishing new norms for how businesses show up in the world.



Photo courtesy of USTA

BILLIE JEAN KING LEADERSHIP AWARD

Stacey Allaster

Chief Executive of Professional Tennis at the USTA and
Tournament Director of the US Open

"I have always found a way. No matter what the challenge is." For over 30 years, Stacey Allaster has demonstrated that no obstacle is too great for her to overcome. Despite never having played professional tennis, she is one of the most competitive, visionary, and successful leaders in the sport. Allaster has helped grow tennis on an international level while advocating for equality and has paved a path to the C-suite that other women can follow. For her dedicated advocacy and achievements on behalf of women athletes in one of the world's most popular sports, she is being honored with the Women's Sports Foundation's 2023 Billie Jean King Leadership Award.

A native of Canada, Allaster began working in tennis at age 12, cleaning red clay courts for pocket change at a community club. By 16, she became a certified teaching professional to pay for her own lessons, eventually competing at the University

BILLIE JEAN KING LEADERSHIP AWARD

of Western Ontario while earning her bachelor's degree (and where she later received an MBA and Honorary Doctor of Laws). After being rejected three times for positions at Tennis Canada, she finally got her foot in the door in 1991, and became VP of Sales & Marketing, and the Tournament Director of the Canadian Open.

Joining the Women's Tennis Association (WTA) as president in 2006, she became Chairman and CEO in 2009. Under her leadership, the WTA grew its brand globally: doubling prize money, securing over \$1 billion in revenue and creating one of the largest media rights and production ventures in women's sports history. Allaster also ensured women athletes received equal prize money at 11 events, including the Grand Slams.

For these achievements, she was named one of the "most powerful women in sports," a "50 over 50 Visionary" by *Forbes*, and a "Top 50 Hero in the past 50 years" by *Tennis Magazine*. In 2022, Allaster was named Companion of the Order of Canada, her native country's highest civilian honor, for her trailblazing contributions to women's equality in professional sport and for her dedicated mentorship.

Allaster now serves as Chief Executive of Professional Tennis at the U.S. Tennis Association (USTA) and Tournament Director of the US Open, becoming the first woman director in its 140-year history. Only four years after her USTA tenure began, her leadership and crisis management skills were tested by the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020 when, with focus and determination, Allaster was a driving force helping to put the entire tennis industry back to work, not only in New York City but around the world. The 2020 US Open became a blueprint for how professional tennis could stage events during the pandemic. Most recently, Allaster was part of the team that staged the hugely successful 2023 US Open, celebrating Billie Jean King and the USTA's commitment to awarding equal pay for 50 years.

Allaster has often reflected on the role that Billie Jean King played in her life and has often said that the best way she can express her gratitude and honor Billie Jean King is to "pay it forward," to serve as a role model and inspire the next generation of women to accept no limits on their dreams and to become leaders in the male-dominated world of sports business.

INDIVIDUAL SPORTSWOMAN OF THE YEAR

Claressa Shields

Boxing, Mixed Martial Arts – USA

“My goal is to go down as the best women’s fighter in history.” Since stepping into the professional ring in 2016, Claressa Shields has proven to the world she is a formidable force and can excel in the squared circle with confidence, power and dominance no matter what combinations are thrown her way. At only 28 years old, Shields has a long list of accomplishments to be proud of. Largely considered one of the best pound-for-pound women boxers in history, her impressive brawling style — paired with her agility to move from the ring to the Mixed Martial Arts (MMA) fighting cages, all while adding wins to her undefeated boxing record — has earned her the Women’s Sports Foundation’s Individual Sportswoman of the Year Award.

Shields is determined to go the distance and continues to show her opponents she is a qualified contender by clinching 14 wins (two by knockout) and zero losses since going pro. This past year, she showcased



Photo courtesy of PFL

INDIVIDUAL SPORTSWOMAN OF THE YEAR

her prowess by participating in some of the most significant fights in women's boxing history, including her bout against Savannah Marshall in October 2022, which sold out the O2 Arena in London and drew 2 million viewers on Sky TV, and her one-sided fight in June 2023 against Maricela Cornejo at the Little Caesar's Arena in Detroit, Mich. Both were won by unanimous decision.

Shields sparred her way onto the sport's world's largest stage when she became the first American woman to win an Olympic gold medal in boxing at the 2012 Olympic Games, where for the first time the 10 men's boxing events were joined by three women's events: flyweight, lightweight and middleweight. Four years later, Shields won a second gold medal at the 2016 Olympic Games. She is the only American — male or female — to win back-to-back gold medals in boxing. She is also a two-time world championship gold medalist and a Pan American gold medalist.

Looking for a new challenge in the combative sports universe, Shields is working towards becoming a two-sport star. In 2021, while still defending her boxing titles, she made her

much-anticipated MMA debut, scoring a jaw-dropping come-from-behind knockout her first time in the octagon. Most recently, she signed another multiyear deal with the Professional Fighters League (PFL) and is expected to return to the PFL's SmartCage in 2024. To date, she holds a 1-1 record in MMA.

Shields' journey has been far from easy. From poverty to abuse to bullying, she has overcome many obstacles to get to where she is today. As she points out, "boxing saved my life," and she often thanks the strong influences who helped guide her along the way, never letting circumstances dictate her actions. She is the first member of her family to graduate from high school, and her story of overcoming adversity to become the greatest women boxer in the world fuels her advocacy work in her hometown of Flint, Mich., where she is deemed a local hero and global sports icon.

Winning titles in three weight classes, Shields has proven time and again that no matchup is too great for her as she continues to build her legacy as a pioneering athlete, inspiring young girls to keep jabbing until they reach the top.

INDIVIDUAL SPORTSWOMAN OF THE YEAR FINALISTS

Sportswoman of the Year Award recipients will be announced the night of the Salute.

Patrick Smith/Getty Images



Diede de Groot, Wheelchair Tennis
Twenty-time finalist in wheelchair singles with 17 titles, three-time runner-up over her career, 2023; has a 100%-win rate in 38 matches, 2023; back-to-back Wheelchair Singles champion at Wimbledon, 2023

Michael Steele/Getty Images



Kendall Gretsch, Para Nordic Skiing/
Paratriathlon
Six-time world champion at the International Ski and Snowboard Federation Para Nordic Skiing World Championships, 2023; shot a perfect 50-for-50 on the biathlon range at the World Championships, 2023; overall World Cup titlist for women's sitting biathlon, 2023

Francois Nel/Getty Images



Rayssa Leal, Skateboarding
Four-time Street League Skateboarding winner, the most wins of any skater, 2022; gold medalist (her second) in Women's Skateboard Street at the X Games 2023; World Street Skate League winner, 2023

Katie Ledecky, Swimming
Winner in the 1500m freestyle, 800m freestyle and 400m freestyle at the International Swimming Federation World Cup, 2022, while setting new short-course world records in the 1500 freestyle and the 800 freestyle; owner of all the top 15, 1500m freestyle times in the world according to World Athletics, adding her 15th (the new sixth-best time in the world) after her swim at the Phillips 66 National Championships, 2023



Sarah Stier/Getty Images

Sydney McLaughlin-Levrone, Track & Field
First woman to break the 51-second barrier in the 400m hurdles, 2022; world champion and world record holder in the 400m hurdles, 2022; No. 1 ranked 400m runner at the USA World Championships, 2023



Steph Chambers/Getty Images

INDIVIDUAL SPORTSWOMAN OF THE YEAR FINALISTS

Sean M. Haffey/Getty Images



Carissa Moore, Surfing

First surfer to win the prestigious AAU James E. Sullivan Award, 2022; Vans Triple Crown of Surfing champion, 2023; three-time World Surf League Championship Tour season event winner: Billabong Pipeline Pro, Margaret River Pro, and Surf Ranch Pro, 2023

Atsushi Tomura/Getty Images



Kaori Sakamoto, Figure Skating

Back-to-back International Skating Union (ISU) World Championships winner, becoming the first Japanese skater and one of only four women to achieve this accomplishment, 2023; captain of Team Japan for the 2023 ISU World Team Trophy and silver medalist, 2023

James Chance/Getty Images



Claressa Shields, Boxing

Women's undisputed middleweight champion, which she earned during the most-watched women's professional boxing fight in history, with 2 million viewers, against Savannah Marshall. The match was the first all-women's card, 2022; undefeated professional boxer with 14 wins, 2023

Mikaela Shiffrin, Alpine Skiing

Record-holder for the most wins in Alpine Skiing World Cup history (male or female) with 88 World Cup victories, 2023; 138-time World Cup podium finisher, surpassing the previous women's skiing record holder, Lindsey Vonn, 2023



David Ramos/Getty Images

Iga Świątek, Tennis

Player who posted the best performance since Serena Williams in 2013, finishing the 2022 season with a record 67-9 win/loss record and over 11,000 ranking points, 2022; fourth woman in Women's Tennis Association history to be ranked No. 1 for over 40 consecutive weeks in her first stint as No. 1, January 2023; French Open singles winner, her third title and fourth overall major grand slam singles title, 2023



Julian Finney/Getty Images



Adam Pretty/Getty Images

TEAM SPORTSWOMAN OF THE YEAR

Natalie Schneider

Wheelchair Basketball – USA

“The fast-paced action of the game and comradery with the team filled a void that I didn’t even know was there.” Throughout her professional career, Natalie Schneider has proven she is one of the “greatest threats” competing on Team USA’s Women’s Wheelchair Basketball Team. As a four-time Paralympian with her eyes set on Paris 2024, Schneider continues to prove the sky’s the limit and no goal is too great for her to achieve. From a women’s world championship victory to an MVP win, her incredible athletic performance this past year paired with her ability to push herself and her team to new heights is why she is this year’s Women’s Sports Foundation’s Team Sportswoman of the Year.

From buzzer beaters to epic free throws and assists, Schneider has been captivating audiences on the court for 15 years. Winning three Paralympic medals and seven national championships and landing on the podium at two Parapan American Games, she has shown the world what is possible when you continue to fine-tune your athletic skills and remain determined to stay at the top of your sport.

TEAM SPORTSWOMAN OF THE YEAR

Schneider's story is more than triumph, it is one of persistent perseverance. The summer following her sophomore year of high school, when she helped lead her basketball team to the state tournament, her life was quickly turned upside down when she was diagnosed with bone cancer (osteosarcoma) in her distal femur. She spent the next 10 months undergoing chemotherapy and limb-salvage surgery that replaced the bottom half of her femur and knee-joint with a titanium prosthesis. She was told she would never run, jump or play the sport she loved again, which according to her was "a million times worse than finding out she had cancer."

It took six years, but Schneider rebounded back into sport after reading an article in her local newspaper, which informed her that her implant qualified her for a local sitting volleyball league. Through that sport experience, she discovered wheelchair basketball, playing with her local team while obtaining her master's degree in statistics at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Shortly after graduating in 2007, she was invited to try out for her first USA team and had an extraordinary start to her career by assisting the team to a gold medal at the 2008 Paralympic Games in Beijing.

Schneider went on to compete in the 2012, 2016, and 2020 Paralympic Games and came in and out of retirement throughout the years as she built a family with her husband. She is now the mother of three daughters, two of whom got to witness her secure her second Paralympic gold medal in the 2016 Games. Remaining a top player on Team USA, Schneider is vying to compete in her fifth Paralympic Games before officially retiring.

Between matchups and training sessions, she is working towards a personal training certification so she can coach her daughters' sports teams and other young athletes in her community. She hopes to pass along everything she has learned throughout her basketball career to help others discover their limitless potential on and off the field of play.

TEAM SPORTSWOMAN OF THE YEAR FINALISTS

International Hockey Federation



Felice Albers, Field Hockey
Fédération Internationale de Hockey (FIH) World Championships gold medalist, 2022; undefeated through the third edition of the FIH Pro League, 2023; European Hockey Federation league champion, scoring 13 goals and nine assists in all matches, 2023

Koji Watanabe/Getty Images



Ally Carda, Softball
Team USA team captain for the Japan All-Star Series, tallying three strikeouts in 4.2 innings pitched, 2022; World Games gold medalist, striking out 19 batters in 12 innings pitched while allowing a low of four hits and zero earned runs, 2022

USA Hockey



Caroline Harvey, Ice Hockey
International Ice Hockey Federation Women's World Championships gold medalist, leading Team USA to their first gold since 2019, 2023; points leader at the Women's World Championship with 14 — four goals and 10 assists — the most ever by a defender in a single Women's World Championship, 2023; National Collegiate Women's Ice Hockey Championship winner with the Wisconsin Badgers, 2023

Monique Matthews,
Sitting Volleyball

Team scoring leader with 13 points to secure a bronze medal at the ParaVolley World Championships, 2022; scored 10 kills, one block, and an ace at the Pan American Zonal Championship to secure Team USA's spot at the 2024 Paralympic Games, 2023; Most Valuable Player at the Pan American Zonal Championships, where the U.S. Women's Sitting Team became the first team in any sport to qualify for the 2024 Paralympic Games in Paris, 2023



USA Volleyball

Erica McKee, Sled Hockey

U.S. team top-scoring defender with two assists in four games during the Women's World Challenge, helping the U.S. to a perfect 4-0 record while allowing just one goal in the tournament, 2022; team captain of the U.S. Women's Development Sled Hockey Team, which defeated Canada to capture the first Para Ice Hockey Women's World Challenge championship title, 2022; first women's sled hockey player to be nominated for an ESPY, 2023



Jesse Dietzler/World Para Ice Hockey

TEAM SPORTSWOMAN OF THE YEAR FINALISTS

Athletes Unlimited



Charlotte North, Lacrosse
Second-leading scorer (tied) on Team USA with 28 points in eight games, 2022; one of eight players in Team USA history to register 20 or more goals in a single Women's World Championship, 2022; league leader for Athletes Unlimited, with 31 goals, eight two-point goals, and 50 points, 2022

Noami Baker/Getty Images



Natalie Schneider, Wheelchair Basketball
Member of Team USA's five-woman roster for the Team USA vs. College All-Star Competition, 2023; NWBA Women's & Military National Championships winner with the WASA Marquette Eagles, 2023; NWBA Women's and Military National Championship Game MVP, 2023

US Soccer/Getty Images



Sophia Smith, Soccer
National Women's Soccer League (NWSL) braces leader with four, which tied for most braces in a single season in league history, 2022; youngest player to win NWSL Most

Valuable Player, 2022; youngest United States Women's National Soccer Team player since 2000 to net a hat trick, 2023

Maggie Steffens, Water Polo
World Championship gold medalist with Team USA, winning her fourth straight world championship, 2022; World Cup winner with Team USA (also her fourth straight) and player of the game in the gold-medal final, 2023; LEN Championships League Title winner with CN Sabadell, 2023



Catharyn Haynes/USA Water Polo

A'ja Wilson, Basketball
Women's National Basketball Association (WNBA) Most Valuable Player, 2022; International Basketball Federation World Cup Most Valuable Player, averaging 17.2 points per game, 2022; four-time WNBA All-Star, 2023



Ethan Miller/Getty Images

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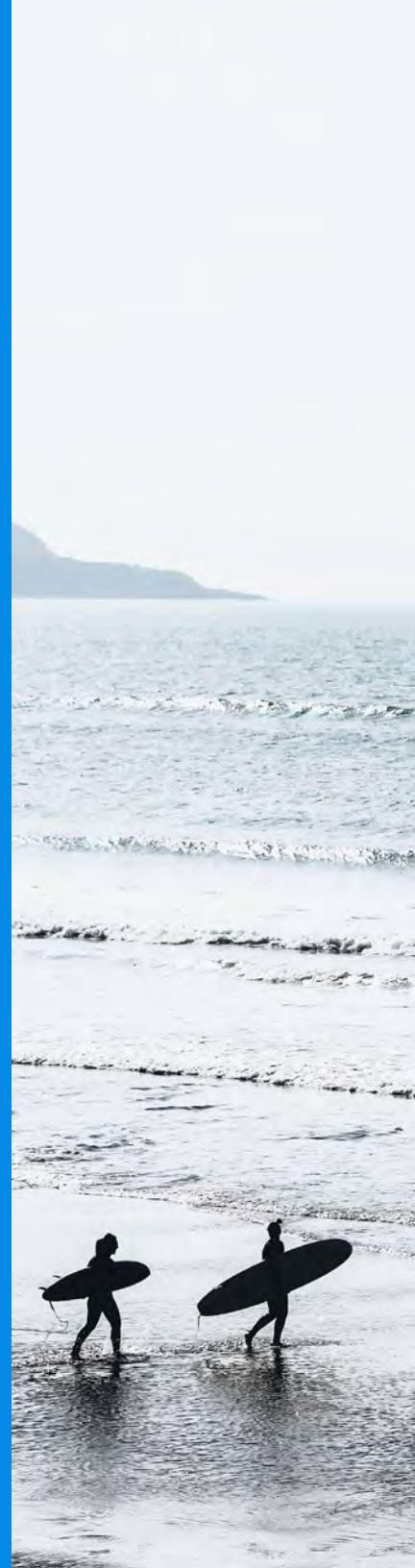
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Kandice Miller, Associate Director, Communications
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Maegan Olmstead, Senior Manager, Digital Content
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Morgan Powell, Senior Manager, Advocacy
Ingrid Ramirez, Executive Assistant
Allysia Rohlehr, Manager, Community Impact
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Chris Voelz, Steward/Ambassador



IN MEMORIAM

WSF remembers two dedicated Trustees Emeriti

This year, the Women's Sports Foundation lost two beloved members of our community and true giants in the history of this organization.

Richard Ader in 2021



Richard Ader, 81

Richard Ader's love of tennis and commitment to championing women in sports led him to a long friendship with Billie Jean King and Ilana Kloss and, eventually, the board of the Women's Sports Foundation in 1990.

Born and raised in Manhattan, Ader graduated from the University of Vermont (UVM), where he was an all-conference men's basketball player. In 2017, he was inducted into the UVM Athletics Hall of Fame. Deeply passionate about his alma mater, he served as the Chairman of the Advisory Board for the UVM College of Arts and Sciences, as well as a member of the UVM Foundation board.

A pioneer in the corporate real estate net lease industry, Ader founded U.S. Realty Advisors, LLC, in 1989, where he served as Chairman and Chief Investment Officer. In 2011, he was named Net Lease Executive of the Year and, in 2012, was selected as a Legend and Icon, respectively, by *Commercial Property News* and *Real Estate Forum*.

In addition to his successful professional career, Ader nurtured his passion for tennis. He had the honor to represent the United States tennis team at the Maccabiah Games in Israel, where he medaled and served as a co-captain for 16 years. Ader also knew he wanted to bring opportunities to play tennis to others. To this end, he was a trustee of the U.S. Tennis Association Foundation and worked closely with the National Junior Tennis and Learning network (NJTL). In 2022, he received the NJTL Founder's Service Award.

Together with his wife, Pamela, Ader was a long-time supporter of the Women's Sports Foundation. He took great pride in establishing the Rusty Kanokogi Fund for the Advancement of U.S. Judo, named for his dear friend. The fund provides grants to women training for national and international competition. After stepping off the WSF board, Ader continued to serve as an active Trustee Emeritus and trusted advisor. We are indebted to him for his outstanding commitment — for more than three decades — to furthering equality in sports.

IN MEMORIAM

Sally McKay

**Susan Morrison, 71**

As a trustee of WSF in the early 2000s, Susan Morrison brought to the organization tremendous commitment, passion, leadership and a great talent for marketing. She opened doors to all kinds of supporters — philanthropists, corporate executives and government leaders alike — doing so with

kindness and elegance. And, with her husband, Bob, she was an enormously generous donor to our mission.

Morrison's love of sport started at a young age. She grew up in Wayne, Ill., riding horses, show jumping and playing tennis. She spent two years at the Newton College of the Sacred Heart in Massachusetts and then moved to Sugarbush, Vt., where she taught tennis, trained horses and learned to ski. She continued working as a tennis professional while earning her degree at the University of California, San Diego.

Morrison launched her advertising career in England working in London for D'Arcy Masius McManus. In 1986, she joined DDB Needham in Chicago, where she met her husband, and eventually settled with her family in Lake Forest.

She dedicated herself to her large family of two daughters, three stepsons, and a devoted husband, and to her love of charitable work. Morrison served on the boards of Women Moving Millions, the Marine Corps Scholarship Foundation, John G. Shedd Aquarium, Chicago Council on Global Affairs, Kartemquin Films, Lyric Opera and the Women's Sports Foundation.

Morrison continued to stay active in sports, playing tennis, skiing, hiking and running marathons, including the New York, London and Marine Corps Marathons. At age 65, together with her sister Patti Lafferty, sister-in-law Wiggy Brennan and dear friend and fellow WSF Trustee Kathryn Olson, she summited Mount Kilimanjaro.

Morrison proved to be a great advocate for the empowerment of girls and women through sports. Her commitment to inclusivity, equality and opportunities for girls of all backgrounds was instrumental in advancing WSF's mission. Her legacy will forever be remembered.

IN MEMORIAM

All-American Girls Professional Baseball League

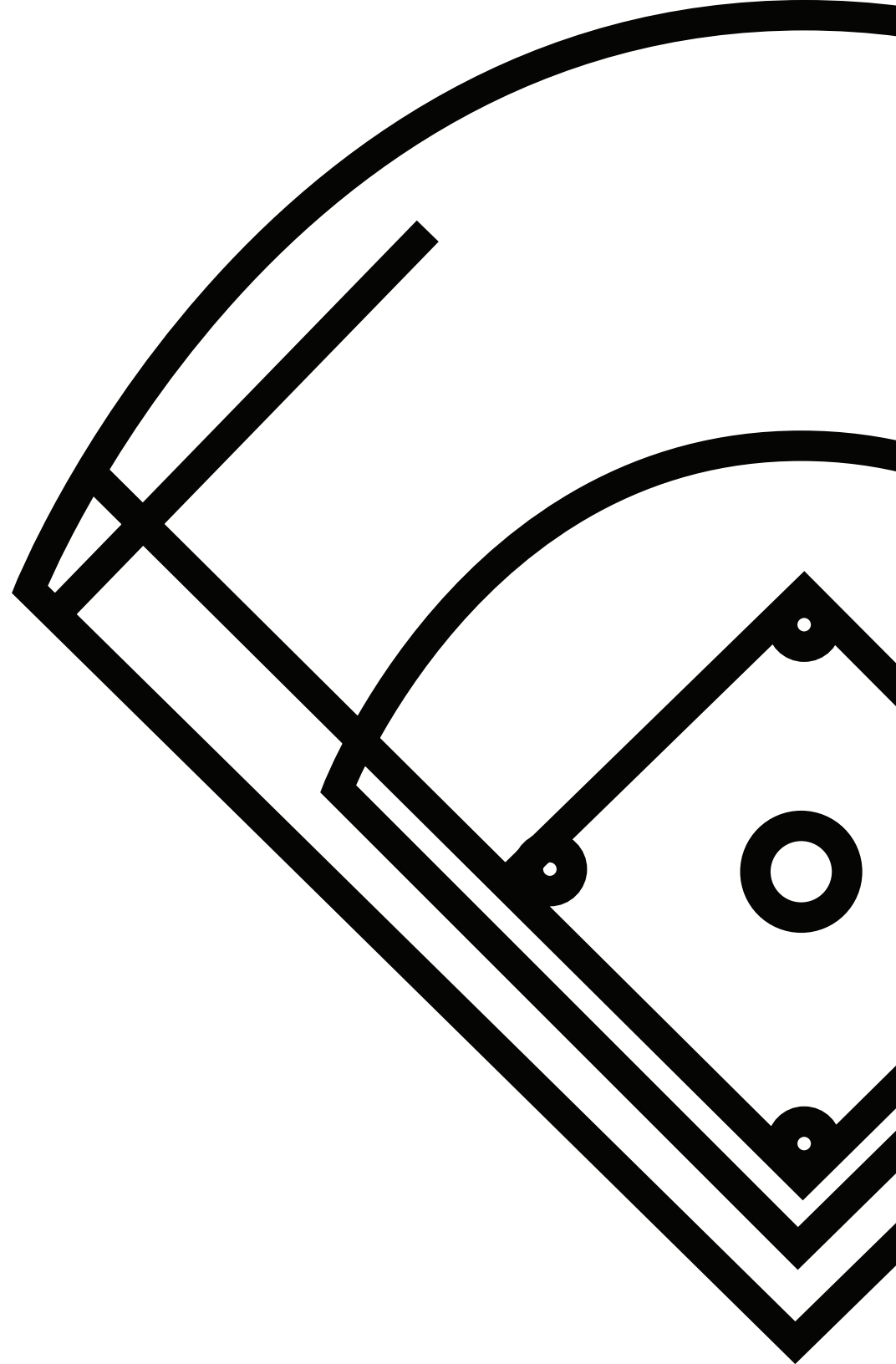
The All-American Girls Professional Baseball League (AAGPBL) was a professional women's baseball league, which was founded by Philip K. Wrigley in 1943 and existed until 1954. The AAGPBL is the forerunner of women's professional sports leagues in the United States. More than 600 women played in the league, which eventually consisted of 10 teams located in the American Midwest. In 1948, league attendance peaked at over 900,000 spectators. The most successful team, the Rockford Peaches, won a league-best four championships. The 1992 motion picture *A League of Their Own* is a mostly fictionalized account of the early days of the league and its stars.

All members were inducted into the 1988 Baseball Hall of Fame.

Wilma Hannah Briggs, 92, Baseball
Fort Wayne Daisies, South Bend Blue Sox

Virginia "Carver" Craig, 87, Baseball
Fort Wayne Daisies, South Bend Blue Sox

Jean Faut, 98, Baseball
South Bend Blue Sox



IN MEMORIAM

Tori Bowie, 32, Track & Field

Tori Bowie was a three-time Olympic medalist and world champion. Growing up, Bowie loved playing basketball and, after being encouraged to try track, she soon realized how talented she was. Bowie attended the University of Southern Mississippi where in 2011 she became the first athlete from the university to achieve an indoor and outdoor NCAA long jump title double in a single season. A few years later she was one of the best sprinters in the world, winning silver in the 100m and bronze in the 200m at the 2016 Olympic Games and gold in the relay with Tianna Bartoletta, Allyson Felix, and English Gardner.

Marlene Hagge-Vossler, 89, Golf

Marlene Hagge-Vossler was the last surviving founder of the LPGA Tour. Hagge-Vossler won 26 times on the LPGA Tour, including the 1952 LPGA Championship. In 1949, when she was only 15 years old, she won the U.S. Girls' Junior Championship and in 1949 was the youngest to be voted Female Athlete of the Year by The Associated Press. One year later, Hagge-Vossler, alongside her older sister, Alice Bauer, and 12 other women, signed incorporation papers for the creation of the LPGA Tour in 1950. Hagge-Vossler was inducted into the World Golf Hall of Fame in 2002.

Ginny Hunt, 86, Athletic Director

In 1977, Ginny Hunt became the Director of Women's Athletics at Montana State University, but her journey did not start there. She began her career at Wooster College as an instructor in the women's physical education department and quickly became an assistant professor before becoming an associate professor in 1970. At the time Wooster only had a few women's club programs, but during her tenure, the clubs moved to varsity status and she took on coaching jobs for both the field hockey and volleyball teams. In 1970, she served as the first Director of Athletics for Women at Wooster. In 1976, Hunt became the associate athletic director at the University of Michigan and, in 1977, was named the first women's athletic director at Montana State. Hunt first attended a Montana State women's basketball game as one of the 250 fans, and at her last game as women's Athletic Director there were 5,000 people, and Montana State won the program's first Big Sky championship. Hunt served as president-elect of the Association for Intercollegiate Athletics for Women (AIAW) and was very involved with the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA), as well as the U.S. Olympic Committee. She was honored by the National Association of Collegiate Women Athletic Administrators (NACWAA) as one of its Lifetime Achievement Award recipients.

IN MEMORIAM

Nikki McCray-Penson, 51, Basketball

Nikki McCray-Penson played basketball at the University of Tennessee for legendary head coach Pat Summitt from 1991 to 1995. At Tennessee, she helped her team win three SEC regular-season championships and two SEC tournament titles. After college, she was named to the U.S. national team and won gold at the 1996 Olympic Games in Atlanta and the 2000 Olympic Games in Sydney. McCray-Penson was also a three-time All-Star during her nine years in the WNBA. She was not only an incredible player, but also a successful coach; she was part of Dawn Staley's coaching staff when South Carolina women's basketball won the 2017 NCAA championship. McCray-Penson coached for 16 years, serving as the head coach at Old Dominion and Mississippi State and most recently was an assistant women's basketball coach at Rutgers. McCray-Penson was inducted into the Women's Basketball Hall of Fame in 2012.

Billie Moore, 79, Head Coach, Basketball

Billie Moore was the first coach in women's basketball history to take two different schools to national championships, California State-Fullerton and UCLA. Moore won a national championship with California State-Fullerton in her first year as a coach. At UCLA, Moore won 296 games and became the eighth coach in women's basketball history to reach 400 wins. Moore still holds the record for most wins by a women's basketball head coach in UCLA history with 296. Moore also coached the first U.S. Olympic women's basketball team and, in 1976, won a silver

medal coaching legendary players Pat Summitt, Ann Meyers Drysdale, and Nancy Lieberman. Moore was inducted into the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame and the Women's Basketball Hall of Fame in 1999.

Marilyn McReavy Nolen, 78, Volleyball Pioneer

A 1968 U.S. Olympian, Marilyn McReavy Nolen was a legendary player and coach. McReavy Nolen was a member of the U.S. Women's National Team from 1967-75, winning a gold medal at the 1967 Pan American Games and finishing eighth at the 1968 Olympic Games in Mexico City. McReavy Nolen won two USA Volleyball women's open national titles in 1972 and 1973 and was a four-time All-American. McReavy Nolen was also an accomplished coach and began her career at Sul Ross State University, where she helped establish the women's volleyball program. McReavy Nolen and her U.S. teammate Mary Jo Peppler coached the 1971 and 1972 teams to the inaugural women's volleyball college national championships. McReavy Nolen also coached at New Mexico State, Utah State (where she won another national title with Peppler), Kentucky, Florida, North Florida, and Saint Louis Universities. In 2002, she became the third NCAA Division I coach to win 800 matches. She is a member of the USA Volleyball Hall of Fame, having won the All-Time Great Coach Award in 1996 and the James E. Coleman National Team Award in 2022. She also helped develop the first U.S. Olympic national training center in Texas. McReavy Nolen is a member of the Women's Sports Foundation Hall of Fame.

IN MEMORIAM

Kathy Whitworth, 83, Golf

Kathy Whitworth won 88 titles in her career, making her the winningest golfer in history. Whitworth began playing golf at the age of 15 and won the 1957 and 1958 New Mexico State Amateur Championship. When she was just 19 years old, she turned professional and joined the LPGA in December 1958. During her nearly a quarter-century-long career she won six majors and broke Mickey Wright's record of 82 career wins when she captured the Lady Michelob in the summer of 1982. Whitworth was also the first woman to surpass \$1 million in career earnings in 1981. Whitworth was named the AP Female Athlete of the Year in 1965 and 1967, and she was inducted into the LPGA Hall of Fame in 1975 and the World Golf Hall of Fame in 1982.

Eli Wolff, 45, Paralympian and Disability Sport Advocate

Eli Wolff dedicated his life and career to pushing for more inclusion in sports. He helped establish the International Day of Sport for Development and Peace and ensured that sport was included in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. Wolff worked as a sport management instructor at the University of Connecticut and co-founded Disability in Sport International, Athletes for Human Rights, and the Olympism Project. In 2000, Wolff helped establish the ESPY Award for Best Male and Female Athlete with a Disability. Wolff also helped draft the U.S. Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights' Dear Colleague Letter of January 25, 2013, amending the requirements for equity and inclusion for students with disabilities in school-based sports. In 2019, Wolff's advocacy efforts helped lead Major League Baseball to change the name of its "Disabled List" to the "injured reserve list." Wolff was also an athlete himself and played for the U.S. Paralympic Soccer Team from 1995-2004, representing the U.S. at the 1996 and 2004 Paralympic Games and served as an athlete representative on the U.S. Soccer's Disability Soccer Committee.

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Congratulations to tonight's honorees and champions who are fueling the movement for gender equity in sports and inspiring girls everywhere. ESPN is proud to have co-founded Sports 4 Life with the Women's Sports Foundation, which has served more than 75,000 Black and Hispanic girls since 2014.

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FUELING THE NEXT GENERATION OF WOMEN'S SPORTS FOUNDATION HONOREES

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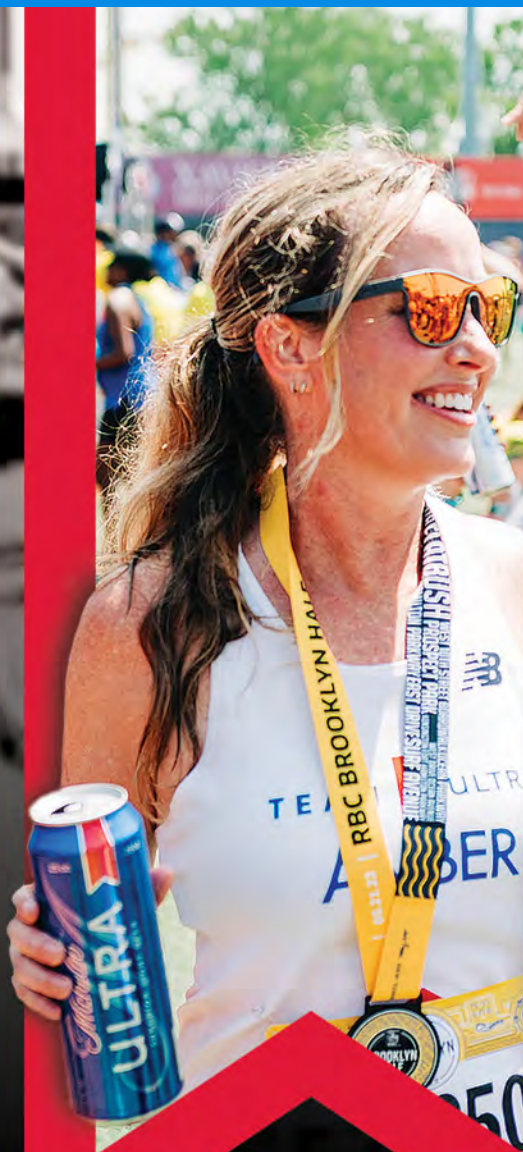
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At Citi, we salute the Women's Sports Foundation for expanding opportunities for girls and women in sports. Congratulations to all the Honorees and to founder Billie Jean King – marking incredible milestones in her remarkable career.



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The Collegiate Women's Sports Awards
congratulate the

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all of tonight's honorees, and we are
proud to support the work of the
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Photo: USTA

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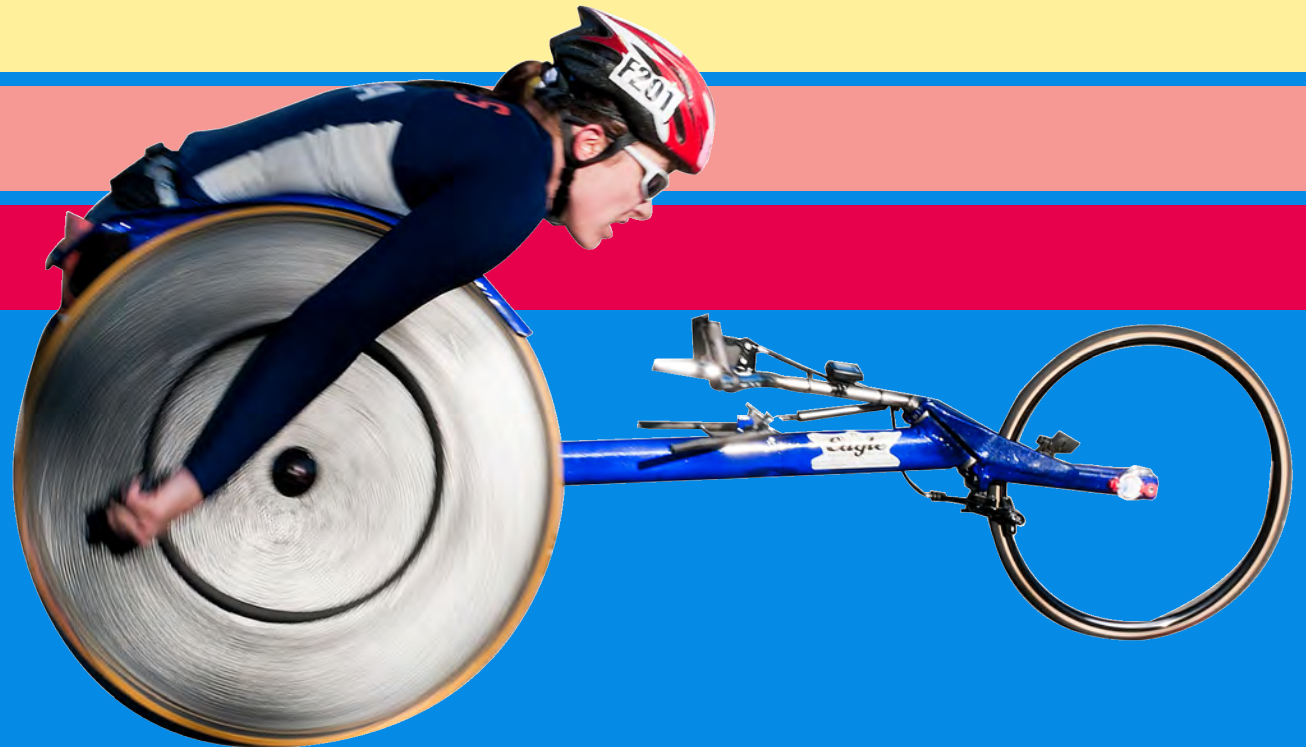
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