

Annual Salute TO WOMEN IN SPORTS.®



Wednesday, October 22, 2025

Cipriani Wall Street®, New York City

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WELCOME



On behalf of Billie Jean King, Ilana Kloss and the Board of Trustees of the Women's Sports Foundation (WSF), we are proud to welcome you to our 2025 Annual Salute to Women in Sports – the premier celebration of women's sports since 1980.

Each year, we bring together athletes, industry leaders, team owners, leagues and brands to honor the transformative power of sport and to spotlight WSF's ongoing commitment to equality in sport and life. Tonight, it is our honor to celebrate Michele Kang, Herb Simon, Alysia Montano and Diana Flores for their trailblazing leadership, vision and courage. Each has expanded opportunity, elevated women's sports and inspired future generations in extraordinary ways.

We also proudly recognize our first-ever Sports Culture Spotlight, honoring TOGETHXR for powerfully amplifying women's stories at the intersection of sports, lifestyle, activism and culture, and our Community Spotlight, Turnstone, for breaking down barriers for athletes with disabilities.

What Billie Jean began in 1974 with a \$5,000 check has grown into a movement that has invested over \$115 million to empower girls and women to play, compete and lead. We are proud of five decades of impact, but we also know there is urgent work ahead. That is why WSF continues to fight for equality, protect Title IX, invest in groundbreaking research and drive systemic change across the women's sports ecosystem.

Our work and impact would not be possible without the exceptional support of our National Partners, corporate supporters, athletes, fellow advocates, generous individuals, and of course, our Board of Trustees and Trustees Emeriti who have made our 2025 Annual Salute another financial success. Your support is vital to the research, advocacy, community grantmaking and programs that are helping more girls and women thrive – in sport, in classrooms, in workplaces and in communities.

For more than 50 years, the Women's Sports Foundation has changed the game. With your continued support, the next 50 years will change the world.



Danette Leighton

Women's Sports Foundation CEO

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Salute Partners



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COACHES

LaChina Robinson



WNBA Host
and Analyst

Julie Foudy



2x FIFA Women's
World Cup Champion,
2x Olympic Gold
Medalist, Broadcaster
and Podcaster

SIDELINE REPORTERS

Sarah Spain



Author, TV
Personality,
Host of "Good
Game with
Sarah Spain"

Arielle Chambers



Multi-media
Journalist, and
women's sports
commentator for
ESPN & Andscape

ATHLETES & SPECIAL GUESTS

Katrina Adams, Tennis
Femita Ayanbeku, Track & Field ^{SBG}
Scout Bassett, Para Track & Field ^{B, C, TT}
Cole Brauer, Sailing
Toni Breidinger, Auto Racing ^C
Swin Cash, Basketball ^B
Tamika Catchings, Basketball
McKenzie Coan, Para Swimming
Kendall Coyne Schofield, Ice Hockey ^{WR}
Caryn Davies, Rowing
Meryl Davis, Ice Dancing ^{C, SOY}
Grete Eliassen, Free Skiing ^{PP, C}
Benita Fitzgerald Mosley, Track & Field ^{PP}
Diana Flores, Flag Football, 2025
Re-Writing the Game Award Honoree
Elizabeth Galloway-McQuitter, Basketball
Ashlyn Harris, Soccer ^B
Elle Hartje, Ice Hockey
Wendy Hilliard, Rhythmic Gymnastics ^{PP, TT}
Charlene Jackson, Basketball
Anna Johannes, Para Swimming
Billie Jean King, Tennis, WSF Founder
Ilana Kloss, Tennis ^B

Phaidra Knight, Rugby/MMA ^{PP, B, C, TT}
Sam Landry, Softball
Jessica Long, Para Swimming ^C
Simone Manuel, Swimming
Alysia Montaño, Track & Field, 2025
Wilma Rudolph Courage Award Honoree
Kgothatso Montjane, Wheelchair Tennis
Alana Nichols, Multi-Sport ^{PP, C}
Sharlize Palacios, Softball
Nzingha Prescod, Fencing ^{TT}
Dawn Riley, Sailing ^{PP}
Jocelyn Rivas, Marathon Running
Lyn St. James, Auto Racing
Minna Stess, Skateboarding
Gabby Thomas, Track & Field ^B
Ali Truwit, Para Swimming
Abby Wambach, Soccer ^{SOY}
Lora Webster, Sitting Volleyball ^{CCG}
Lauryn Williams, Bobsled, Track & Field ^C
Lindsey Zurbrugg, Wheelchair Basketball

As of October 20, 2025

Annual Salute TO WOMEN IN SPORTS®



**Our 2025
Honorees Are...**

BILLIE JEAN KING LEADERSHIP AWARD



Michele Kang

Revolutionizing women's sports as the founder of Kynisca, the first global, multi-team organization dedicated to professionalizing women's soccer. A trailblazing investor and visionary leader, she is breaking barriers and building a sustainable future for women's sports across soccer, rugby, and beyond.

[Learn More](#)

CHAMPION FOR EQUALITY AWARD



Pacers Sports &
Entertainment

Herb Simon

Owner and chairman of Pacers Sports & Entertainment, who brought the Indiana Fever to the WNBA in 2000, leading the team to its 2012 championship. As the longest tenured WNBA and NBA owner, Simon is a dedicated champion of women's basketball and a leader in civic and philanthropic efforts throughout Indiana.

[Learn More](#)

WILMA RUDOLPH COURAGE AWARD



Alysia Montano

Transforming the landscape of women's sports through fearless advocacy for mom athletes. A seven-time national champion and Olympic bronze medalist, she became a global symbol of strength and defiance when she raced while eight months pregnant — shattering outdated norms and igniting a movement for maternal rights in sport.

[Learn More](#)

RE-WRITING THE GAME AWARD



Diana Flores

Captain of Mexico's National Flag Football Team and an ambassador for both the NFL and the International Federation of American Football (IFAF), Flores led Mexico to a gold medal at the 2022 World Games and a repeat victory over the United States this year. In so doing, she has elevated flag football on the global stage all while inspiring a worldwide reimagining of women's sports.

[Learn More](#)

SPORTS CULTURE SPOTLIGHT

TOGETHXR

WSF's new Sports Culture Spotlight, celebrates the brands, creators and storytellers that don't just reflect culture, but shape it. This year, we are recognizing trailblazing media and commerce company TOGETHXR for its powerful amplification of women's stories at the intersection of sports, lifestyle, activism and culture.



TOGETHXR

COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT

Turnstone Center

This year's Community Spotlight highlights WSF's commitment to breaking down barriers for athletes with disabilities, recognizing Indiana nonprofit Turnstone Center, an organization dedicated to supportive services addressing the unique needs of people with disabilities and driving change at the community-level.



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Presenting Partners

Bank of America
Delta Air Lines
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Michelob ULTRA
NBC Sports

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Billie Jean King Foundation
Darcie Glazer Kassewitz and Joel Kassewitz
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Photography

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Photo Credits

Diana Flores
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Michele Kang
Alysia Montaña
Herb Simon
TOGETHXR
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Service Contributors & Vendors

Awards

Hero's Salute Awards & Engraving

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Lauren Amsterdam, Amsterland
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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Video Production

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Kevin Carcich
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Alex Whang
Christine Wilt

Dare to Be Films

Adam Reist
Anne Peltier

Music & Footage

Video Footage

ABC News
ACC Network
Alysia Montaña
Altra Running
The Associated Press
Barclays Women's Super
League 2
Bleacher Report
Brock TV
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CBS Sports
Cronkite News

Diana Flores
ESPN
FABR Highlights
FIBA Basketball
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Herb Simon
Highlights of HER
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Kendall Crean
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LPGA
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Michele Kang
MLB
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NBA

NBC Sports
Netflix Sports
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Olympique Lyonnais Féminin
Orlando Pride
Pacers Sports & Entertainment
Paralympic Games
PBS
Play Football
Pro Football Hall of Fame
PWL
Simple Session
Sky Sports News
SPORTSNET
Team USA
TOGETHXR
Turnstone Center for Children
& Adults with Disabilities
U.S. Soccer
University of Indiana
USA Gymnastics
USA Volleyball
Volleyball World
Washington Spirit
Wimbledon
Women's Lacrosse League

Wood Family
World Rugby Women
WNBA
X Games

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Volunteers

Shana Aparicio
Nickeela Austin
Devon Cafaro
Julia Cuttone
Abigail Davis
Sierra Davidson
Simran Dave
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Maria Trivelpiece
Jade Walker
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Play Rugby USA

as of October 20, 2025

CREATING A WORLD WORTH TRAVELING.

Proud to support the Women's Sports Foundation's
Annual Salute to Women in Sports.



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YOUTH SPORTS MOVEMENT

POWERED BY Disney

ESPN is proud to support Sports 4 Life through *Take Back Sports* to get and keep girls playing sports

Since 2014, ESPN is proud to have provided nearly 95,000 girls access to sports and fuel the next generation of leaders.

TakeBackSports.org

The ESPN logo, consisting of the word "ESPN" in a bold, italicized, sans-serif font. It is positioned at the bottom center of the image, flanked by horizontal lines on either side.

FUELING THE NEXT GENERATION OF WOMEN'S SPORTS FOUNDATION HONOREES



Gatorade is proud to support the Women's Sports Foundation

Congratulations

2025 NOMINEES

NBC Sports and On Her Turf are proud to partner with WSF
to inspire sportswomen everyday



**ON
HER
TURF**

WSF Women's Sports
Foundation

We're a proud supporter
of the Women's Sports
Foundation and the
athletes, coaches and
leaders who are devoted
to inspiring girls and
women around the world.

Congratulations to Michele Kang
and all of tonight's honorees.



We are committed to keeping girls in sports with
the goal of developing 50,000 female leaders annually.

Thank you to the Women's Sports Foundation for all that you do!

DARCIE GLAZER KASSEWITZ
AND JOEL KASSEWITZ

| & |



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PROUD SUPPORTERS
of
WOMEN'S SPORTS

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FANDUEL



**Women's Sports
Foundation**

CONGRATULATIONS

TO ALL OF THIS YEAR'S HONOREES

FanDuel celebrates the significant contributions and outstanding initiatives demonstrated by women in sports.



We salute all the honorees, athletes and the great Billie Jean King, a sports icon, equality champion and Gainbridge® ambassador for helping create more opportunities for girls and women in sports.



➤ GAINBRIDGE



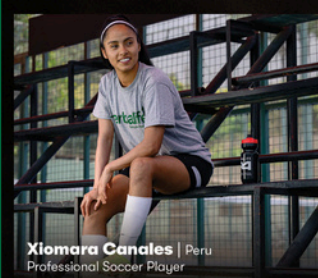
Congratulations to Herb Simon on receiving the Champion for Equality Award! Herb is a trailblazer in women's professional basketball as the longest running owner of a WNBA franchise. Gainbridge® is proud of its association with Herb and the Indiana Fever as the naming rights partner of Gainbridge Fieldhouse.

Herbalife proudly joins

the Women's Sports Foundation in celebrating the extraordinary achievements of this year's honorees, athletes and the legendary Billie Jean King.

As passionate supporters of women in sport, we are honored to stand alongside a movement that uplifts and empowers. Around the world, we sponsor over 50 women's teams, athletes and events, each one a testament to the strength, dedication and impact of female athletes everywhere.

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Live your best life



Xiomara Canales | Peru
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Leani Ratri Oktita | Indonesia
Para Badminton



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Fencing



Sofia Malko Georgiou | Greece
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Professional Soccer Team

Heather Jackson | United States
Ultra Trail Running and Gravel Bike



EMPOWERING FEMALE ATHLETES. ELEVATING THE GAME.

For over 50 years, the Women's Sports Foundation and Billie Jean King have paved the way for equality in sport, championing opportunity, and advancing access.

At Kynisca, we believe women's sports are not just about competition. They are a catalyst for leadership, innovation, and transformation. We are proud to stand with the Women's Sports Foundation in shaping a future where every girl and woman can thrive, compete, and lead.

kynisca 



LAUNCHBREAK, THE NETWORKING PLATFORM OF 2.5K+
WOMEN ATHLETES IS PROUD TO SUPPORT THE WOMEN'S
SPORTS FOUNDATION TONIGHT.

WE ARE HONORED TO BE HERE TO CELEBRATE THE ORIGINAL
STAR AND ITS HONOREES.

LAUNCHBREAK®
unstoppable together



CONGRATULATIONS!

The NBA and WNBA congratulate Diane Flores, Michele Kang, Alysia Montaña, and Herb Simon. We are proud to support the Women's Sports Foundation.



Photo Credit: Humberto Mundo

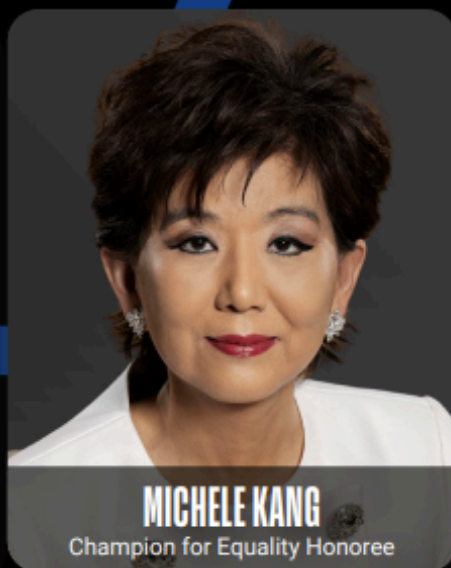


Photo Credit: Forbes

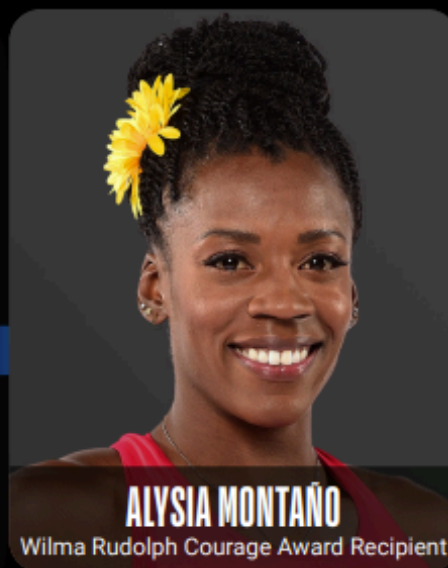


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CONGRATULATIONS!

The NBA and WNBA congratulate Herb Simon on being named the Women's Sports Foundation's Champion for Equality. We are proud to support the work of the Women's Sports Foundation.





**THE NFL FOUNDATION SALUTES
THE WOMEN'S SPORTS FOUNDATION AND
ALL OF TONIGHT'S HONOREES**

THE
NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE
IS PROUD TO RECOGNIZE

DIANA FLORES

FOR RECEIVING
THE WOMEN'S SPORTS
FOUNDATION'S INAUGURAL
RE-WRITING THE GAME AWARD



Photographer: Ernesto Campuzano



Congratulations
**MICHELE
KANG**

on your well-deserved recognition!
From Mark Wilf and your friends at the Orlando Pride.

WSF Women's Sports
Foundation®

HONORING THE LEGACY. POWERING THE FUTURE.

For over five decades, the Women's Sports Foundation and Billie Jean King have advanced opportunities for girls and women in sports, breaking barriers and opening doors.

At Pacers Sports & Entertainment, we share in the belief that empowering women in sport strengthens communities, inspires generations and drives the game forward. Because when girls play, they lead, and we all win.

PACERS SPORTS & ENTERTAINMENT



Congratulations
to tonight's honorees

and
Thank you,

Billie Jean King, Ilana Kloss,
and the **Women's Sports Foundation,**
for improving the lives of girls and women
through sports and physical activity.



The Seattle Reign | The Seattle Sounders

CELEBRATING HERSTORY

We applaud the Women's Sports Foundation for its unwavering commitment to advancing women's sports and creating opportunities for all athletes. For over half a century, the WSF has championed the path of progress, inspiring young girls to pursue their passion for sports and helping to ensure they have the support to thrive. We are proud to have partnered with you in this effort to empower future generations of female athletes, and we remain dedicated to fostering a love of tennis and sports among young girls.

Your friends and colleagues

USTA


us open®

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