Women's Sports Foundation

ANNUAL SALUTE TO WOMEN IN SPORTS®

Wednesday, October 21, 2026

Cipriani Wall Street®, New York City

CONTENTS



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ANNUAL SALUTE TO WOMEN IN SPORTS®

Welcome	3
Board of Trustees & Trustees Emeriti	5
Presenting Partners	7
Award Sponsors	8
Event Partners	9
Benefactors	10
Salute Hosts	12
Athletes & Special Guests	13
Salute Honorees	15
Spotlights	18
Acknowledgements	20
Commemorative Messages	22

WELCOME

On behalf of Billie Jean King, Ilana Kloss and the Board of Trustees of the Women's Sports Foundation (WSF), it is our pleasure to welcome you to our 2026 Annual Salute to Women in Sports, the premier celebration of women's sports since 1980.

What a moment this is.

Women's sports are commanding bigger stages, reaching more fans and redefining what is possible. Tonight, we celebrate the extraordinary women helping lead that transformation, including our 2026 honorees, Clara Wu Tsai, Nneka Ogwumike and Oksana Masters. Their vision, leadership and courage have changed their sports and created an impact that will live on for generations.

But the true measure of this moment is not only what we see on the biggest stages. It is whether the girls watching today have the opportunity to become the athletes, leaders and changemakers of tomorrow.

That question is at the heart of our inaugural WSF Sport Report™, groundbreaking research examining the full pipeline of girls' and women's sports, from youth participation through the collegiate and professional levels. Its findings reveal both tremendous progress and persistent gaps, giving us a clearer picture of where sport stands today and what it will take to move it forward.

For more than 50 years, WSF has worked to close that gap. We turn research into action, advocate for systemic change and invest directly in athletes and communities. Tonight, you will see that mission come to life through athletes supported by our Travel & Training Fund, organizations creating access through Sports 4 Life and the many women whose journeys demonstrate what can happen when talent meets opportunity.

This is our moment to make sure the momentum at the top reaches every level of the game.

And we cannot do it alone. To every partner, supporter, athlete and advocate standing with WSF, thank you. Your commitment gives this work its power and helps ensure more girls and women can discover everything sport can make possible.

Tonight, we honor how far women's sports have come. Tomorrow, we keep pushing them forward.

Thank you for being part of what comes next.



Danette Leighton
Women's Sports Foundation CEO

ANNUAL SALUTE TO WOMEN IN SPORTS®

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as of October 19, 2026

HOSTS

Julie Foudy



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

LaChina Robinson



Emmy-winning WNBA Analyst and Host

ANNUAL SALUTE TO WOMEN IN SPORTS

ATHLETES & SPECIAL GUESTS

Katrina Adams, Tennis
Laila Ali, Boxing [PP]
Scout Bassett, Para Track & Field [PP, C, TT]
Katherine Bell, Volleyball
Cheri Blauwet, Para Track & Field
Cole Brauer, Sailing
Toni Breidinger, Auto Racing [C]
NiJaree Canady, Softball
Tina Charles, Basketball
Kate Delson, Para Snowboarding
Tori Dilfer, Volleyball
Meghan Duggan, Ice Hockey [PP, C]
Ashley Dyce, Para Powerlifting
Grete Eliassen, Free Skiing [PP, C]
Shelly Fanning, Volleyball
Benita Fitzgerald Mosley, Track & Field [PP]
Diana Flores, Flag Football [B]
Camryn Hannah, Volleyball
Ashlyn Harris, Soccer [B]
Tobin Heath, Soccer
Morgan Hentz, Volleyball
Wendy Hilliard, Rhythmic Gymnastics [PP, TT]
Kaitlyn Hord, Volleyball
Sarah Hughes, Figure Skating [C, SOY]
Kaillie Humphries, Bobsled [TT]
Shawnti Jackson, Track & Field
Anna Johannes, Para Swimming
Breezy Johnson, Alpine Skiing
Bea Kim, Snowboarding
Billie Jean King, Tennis, WSF Founder
Ilana Kloss, Tennis [B]
Phaidra Knight, MMA; Rugby [PP, C, TT]
Logan Lednicky, Volleyball
Evy Leibfarth, Canoe/Kayak [TT]
Grace Loberg, Volleyball
Kami Miner, Volleyball
Marlie Monserez, Volleyball
Gloria Mutiri, Volleyball
Chiney Ogwumike, Basketball
Kelsey Pfendler, Ocean Rowing
Karen Polle, Equestrian
Christen Press, Soccer
Dawn Riley, Sailing [PP]
Jocelyn Rivas, Marathon Running
Angela Ruggiero, Ice Hockey [PP, C]
Melissa Ruiz, Para Climbing
Steph Samedy, Volleyball
Taylor Sandbothe, Volleyball
Sarah Spain, Host of "Good Game with Sarah Spain"
Lyn St. James, Auto Racing [PP]
Kathrine Switzer, Marathon Running
Chyna Taylor, Ice Hockey [TT]
Ali Truwit, Para Swimming
Amy Tucker, Former Stanford Associate Head Coach, Basketball
Layne Van Buskirk, Volleyball
Tara VanDerveer, Former Stanford Head Coach, Basketball
Kerri Walsh Jennings, Beach Volleyball [SOY]
Kiona (Ki'Lolo) Westerlund, Flag Football
Emma Weyant, Swimming [TT]
Lauryn Williams, Bobsled, Track & Field [C]
Lindsey Zurbrugg, Wheelchair Basketball

As of October 19, 2026

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; RKG – Grantee, Rusty Kanokogi Fund; SBG – Grantee, Scout Bassett Fund;
WR – Wilma Rudolph Courage Award, past recipient; BJK – BJK Leadership Award, past recipient; SOY – Sportswoman of the Year, past recipient

Women's Sports Foundation

ANNUAL SALUTE TO WOMEN IN SPORTS®

Our 2026 Honorees Are...

BILLIE JEAN KING LEADERSHIP AWARD



Clara Wu Tsai

Businesswoman and philanthropist Clara Wu Tsai is making a transformative impact on the growth and future of women's sports, from leading the New York Liberty to the 2024 WNBA championship as Governor and owner to ensuring female athletes are front and center in scientific research through the Wu Tsai Human Performance Alliance.

Learn More

RE-WRITING THE GAME AWARD



Photo Credit: Nailah Howze

Nneka Ogwumike

An 11-time WNBA All-Star, WNBA MVP and Champion, Nneka Ogwumike has continually redefined leadership on and off the court. As WNBPA President and a powerful advocate for equality and opportunity, she is helping shape the future of women's basketball and inspiring the next generation to lead with purpose.

Learn More

WILMA RUDOLPH COURAGE AWARD



Photo Credit: Getty Images/Alex Livesey

Oksana Masters

The most decorated U.S. Winter Paralympian of all time, Oksana Masters has continually redefined what's possible. Across eight Paralympic Games, four sports and 24 medals, including four more gold medals in Milano Cortina, her remarkable journey is a testament to resilience, determination, and courage.

Learn More

WSF TRAVEL & TRAINING SPOTLIGHT

Chyna Taylor

Talent can only go so far without the opportunity to pursue it.
WSF's Travel & Training Fund helps promising athletes overcome the financial barriers of training and competition so they can keep moving toward their biggest goals. This year, we spotlight ice hockey player Chyna Taylor, representing the next generation of women athletes and the possibilities that open when we invest in their potential.



Photo Credit: Dioptik Media

WSF COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT

Laru Beya Collective

Access to sport can change the trajectory of a young person's life. Through WSF's Sports 4 Life grant, we invest in community organizations creating those opportunities where they are needed most. This year, we spotlight Laru Beya Collective, which uses surfing, mentorship and community to help historically excluded youth discover confidence, connection and a sense of belonging through sport.



Photo Credit: Adam Reist, Dare to Be Films

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Laru Beya

Music & Footage

Video Footage
1st Look on NBC
Adam Reist
Boardroom
Brooklyn Nets
CBS Mornings
Clara Wu Tsai
CNN
ESPN
Good Morning America

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In Depth with Graham Bensinger
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Volunteers

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Faith Stluka
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Kaitlyn Takeuchi
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as of October 19, 2026


Congratulations to those who opened up the field
Bank of America is proud to be a national partner of the Women's Sports Foundation. Across our company — from The Private Bank to Merrill to our Global Commercial Bank — we celebrate its mission to not just open up the field, but to transform what's possible for generations of women.
What would you like the power to do?®
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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

ESPN

FUEL TOMORROW

Congratulations to the 2026 Women's Sports Foundation Annual Salute honorees and award recipients.

Gatorade Fuel Tomorrow proudly partners with the Women's Sports Foundation to break down barriers and unlock potential for girls and women in sport. Together, we celebrate those driving lasting impact on and off the field.



Congratulations

2026 HONOREES

NBC Sports and On Her Turf are proud to partner with WSF
to celebrate the transformative power of sports.

NBC Sports | ON HER TURF

WSF Women's Sports Foundation®

Those that stepped up to the plate, changed the game.

We are proud to stand beside the Women's Sports Foundation and those who have changed the game for the next generation.



FANDUEL | Women's Sports Foundation®

CONGRATULATIONS

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

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

&

TAMPA BAY BUCCANEERS



PANINI

PROUD SUPPORTER OF WOMEN'S SPORTS

Panini is honored to connect fans with the athletes they admire through trading cards – from the stars of the WNBA/WNBPA, NWSL/NWSLPA, U.S. Soccer and U.S. Women's National Team Players Association to college standouts, professional stars and legendary athletes.

Bringing girls and fans closer to their idols and celebrating the athletes who paved the way...

So someday those same girls can pave their own way and be the athletes that other young girls can look up to and collect...

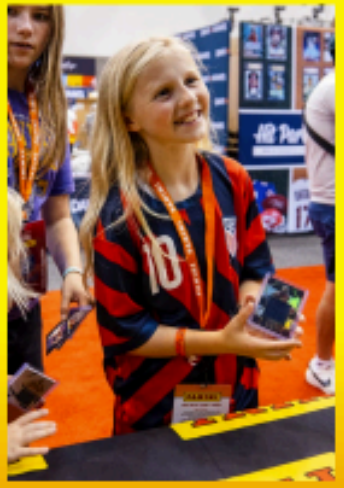
CONGRATULATIONS

2026 Women's Sports Foundation Award Winners & Nominees.

Panini America is a Proud Supporter of the Women's Sports Foundation.

WSF Women's Sports Foundation®















Congratulations to
Clara Wu Tsai, Nneka Ogwumike, and Oksana Masters!

Your trailblazing accomplishments are inspiring and making a difference for women and girls in sports. Thank you for leading the way!

Wu Tsai Human Performance Alliance

Stanford University · EMORY UNIVERSITY · salk. Where cures begin. · UC San Diego · KU THE UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS · UNIVERSITY OF OREGON · WOMEN'S HEALTH, SPORTS & PERFORMANCE INSTITUTE

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 all of tonight's honorees and athletes.



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Women's Sports Foundation®



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

GAINBRIDGE

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Congratulations to the Women's Sports Foundation and this year's honorees for championing a future where every girl can participate, lead, and belong in sports.

Laurie M. Tisch

Laurie M Tisch
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CHAMPIONS OF THE GAME

The NBA and WNBA proudly congratulate
Nneka Ogwumike and Clara Wu Tsai for their extraordinary leadership
and dedication to the Women's Sports Foundation.



NNEKA OGWUMIKE

President, WNBPA
2016 WNBA Champion

CLARA WU TSAI

Vice Chair, Brooklyn Sports & Entertainment
Governor, New York Liberty
2024 WNBA Champion
Founder, The Joe and Clara Tsai Foundation



THE NFL FOUNDATION

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

Congratulations to this year's honorees,

Clara Wu Tsai, Oksana Masters and Nneka Ogwumike

and to all the women and men who continue to support girls and women who want to participate in women sports.

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

Michelle Choo and Alexander Popov

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SIXTH STREET

Sixth Street and Bay Collective proudly support the

Women's Sports Foundation

and celebrate its unmatched legacy of game-changing leadership and impact for women, girls, and our communities.





CONGRATULATIONS

NNEKA OGWUMIKE

For 13 seasons, Nneka Ogwumike represented the very best of the Sparks. Excellence on the court. Leadership in the locker room. Grace, strength and an unwavering commitment to the women beside her.

Nneka, you have broken barriers, expanded what's possible and helped build a better future for the women who follow. This honor reflects what you have always stood for: leaving the game better than you found it.

Congratulations on receiving the Women's Sports Foundation's 2026 Re-Writing the Game Award.



The COLLEGIATE WOMEN SPORTS AWARDS
presented by HONDA

To Billie Jean King

AND THE 2026 WOMEN'S SPORTS FOUNDATION HONOREES

We proudly celebrate your leadership, dedication and accomplishments that continue to advance girls and women in sports.

FROM GENERATIONS OF CWSA HONDA CUP WINNERS

The Best of the Best

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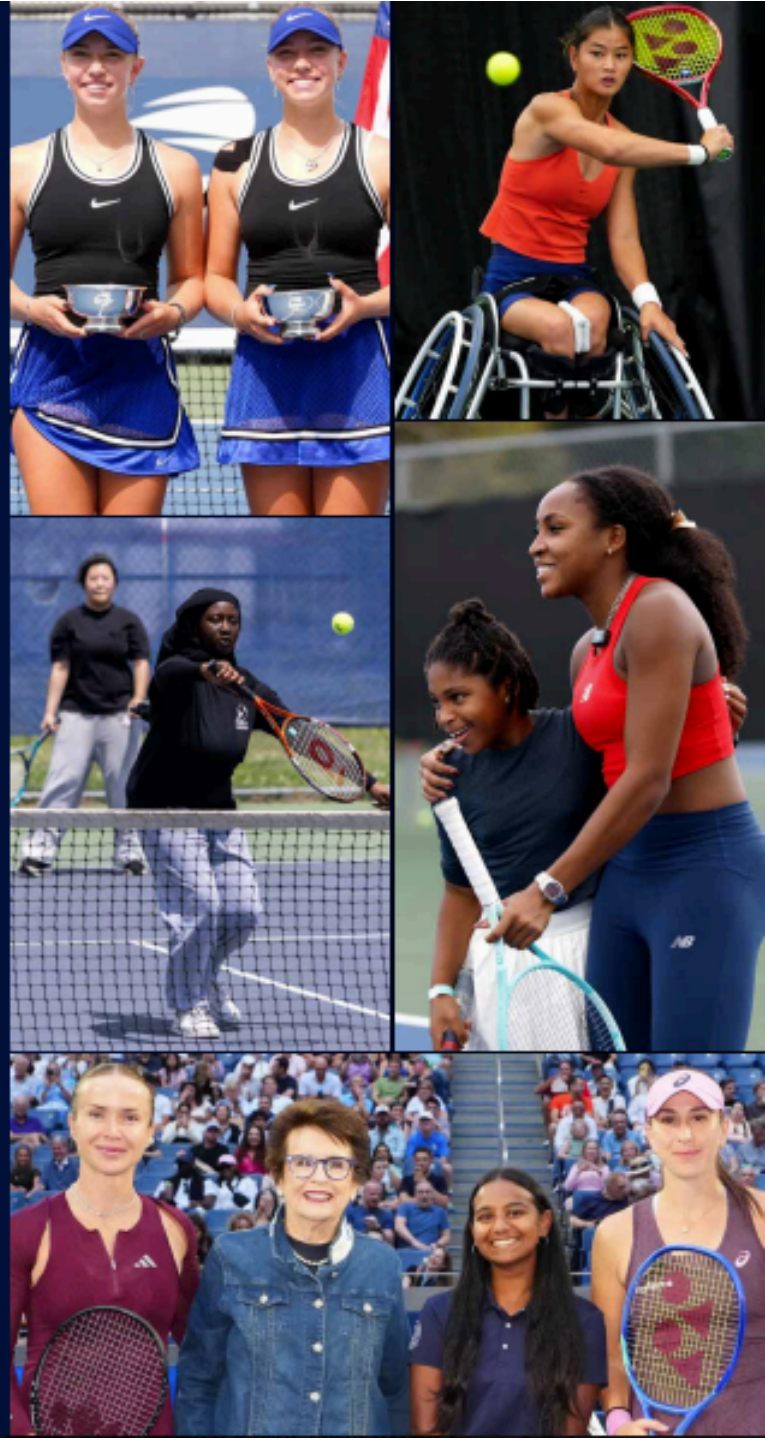
CELEBRATING HERSTORY

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.

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us open®



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