



CALIFORNIA INTERSCHOLASTIC FEDERATION STATE MEDIA RELEASE

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WINTER/SPRING 2014-15 CIF/SUBWAY® SPIRIT OF SPORT AWARD WINNERS
Zack Bietsch (Canyon HS), Jackelyn Sanchez (Riverdale HS),
Roshni Iyer (Mission San Jose HS) and Brian Yeager (El Cajon Valley HS) are Selected

SACRAMENTO — Zach Bietsch (Canyon HS, Canyon Country), Jackelyn Sanchez (Riverdale HS), Roshni Iyer (Mission San Jose HS, Fremont) and Brian Yeager (El Cajon Valley HS) were named the recipients of the prestigious CIF/SUBWAY® Spirit of Sport Award for Winter and Spring 2014-15 respectively. The four statewide winners will receive an award, a patch, \$2,000 and be recognized at an event with their respective school.

The CIF/SUBWAY® Spirit of Sport Award recognizes student-athletes who have demonstrated the 16 principles of Pursuing Victory with Honor_{sm}, are active in school and community service and exhibit leadership qualities. The principles of Pursuing Victory with Honor_{sm} are the operating principles of the CIF and have been adopted by the 1,554 member high schools throughout the state. Additionally, the CIF selected a boy and girl Section winner from all 2014-15 submitted applications to receive \$1,000 (winners names can be located at the end of this release).

“There are many wonderful instances of sportsmanship throughout the state from our more than 760,000 student-athletes and these recipients have exemplified the Spirit of Sport both on and off the playing field,” said CIF Executive Director Roger L. Blake. “These students have demonstrated and understand that a positive attitude and teamwork is what education based athletics reinforces to all of our students across California.”

Zack Bietsch played basketball at Canyon High School has also been very active in his school participating in the Leadership Team and also as a member of the Key Club.

“Sportsmanship is not only portrayed through athletic events, but also through everyday life,” said Bietsch. “The skills that one learns through athletics are, when applied to one’s own life, help not only to spread these attributes to others, but to improve the morals of the individuals directly affected. Sportsmanship really comes down to morals, and players with them not only win on the court, but also off the court as well.”

“He is unlike most other athletes in today’s world who look for self-promotion,” stated Canyon Head Basketball coach Sean Delong. “He just wants to help the team and those around him succeed. Zack is an excellent young man who truly cares about others and works to make the lives of those around him better.”

Jackelyn Sanchez has been the captain of the soccer team for the past four years and has additionally participated in volleyball and softball at Riverdale High School. She is also involved in student government at her school and volunteers her time as a tutor.

“To fully understand what each of us is able to accomplish in life, at school, and during each game, we have to give it everything we have, commit 100%, and never expect any less if we truly want to see results,” stated Sanchez. “You have to play the game of life, ‘Con todo’.”

“Each season Jackelyn is able to display her leadership skills, honesty, the ability to cooperate with others and exhibit her drive and determination to achieve the goals she has set for her team and herself,” said Riverdale Athletic Director Ashley Sunamoto. “Selfishly I am sad to see her graduate, I am not sure if she will be replaceable.”

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Roshni Iyer has been the lead player and team captain for the Mission San Jose (MSJ) High School badminton team for the past four years. She is also involved with the MSJ Key Club and serves as a tutor in math and science at her school.

"I come from the world of athletes where every point matters and you never give up," states Iyer. "I apply the 'one point at a time' mantra and the divide-and-conquer approach to solving problems in every walk of life, be it in academics, sports, or community service. Badminton has taught me to stay committed, focused and competitive. These skills have motivated me to strive for the best in everything I do."

"What sets Roshni apart from most students who have achieved equal success is her ability to stay focused while maintaining the daily challenges and demands of school, sports, and the leadership roles she maintains in her daily life," praised Mission San Jose Athletic Director Thomas Thomsen. "Her positive mental outlook along with her unselfish nature transcends that of most student-athletes her age. Roshni is truly one of a kind."

Brian Yeager has been on the track and field team for the past three years and was the captain of the El Cajon Valley High School cross country team all four years. Additionally, he is ASB President and also served as the class vice president and treasurer for three years, along with many other activities he has been involved with at his school.

"I am satisfied with my high school career in athletics, not because of athletic achievement, but more so for the newfound confidence and being a self-advocate for myself," says Yeager. "My behavior and actions have dramatically changed for the better through discipline and experiences only taught during athletic competitions – which is why I have a love for sports."

"Brian knows about sportsmanship, but then uses his knowledge to better himself, his teammates, his coaches, and his school," states El Cajon Valley High School Athletic Director Brent Ford.

Glenn Recasner, El Cajon Valley Head Cross Country/Track and Field Coach adds, "Brian is a well-rounded individual who likes to help others when he can. He is well liked among his peers and staff members and has a very professional attitude in all of his school activities."

2014-15 Section Winners

Central (Boy)	Shane Salwasser (Washington Union High School)
Central (Girl)	Daeja Bonnette (Sierra High School)
Central Coast (Boy)	Evan Lindeman (Saratoga High School)
Central Coast (Girl)	Jessica Matthews (Pacific Grove High School)
Los Angeles City (Boy)	Mariano Reyes (Ivy Academia Charter School)
Los Angeles City (Girl)	Casey Clause (Ivy Academia Charter School)
North Coast (Boy)	Ian Bright (Middletown High School)
North Coast (Girl)	Jamie Mertle (Fort Bragg High School)
Northern (Boy)	Andrew Matheson (Weed High School)
Northern (Girl)	Summer Vercruyssen (Druham High School)
Sac-Joaquin (Boy)	Caleb Druckhammer (Rio Linda High School)
Sac-Joaquin (Girl)	Kaitlyn Solomon (Rocklin High School)
San Diego (Boy)	Cole Marting (La Costa Canyon High School)
San Diego (Girl)	Leslie Verduzco (Montgomery High School)
San Francisco (Girl)	Udval Battulga (San Francisco International High School)
Southern (Boy)	Ryan Teixeira (Arroyo Grande High School)
Southern (Girl)	Sofia Tam (Century High School)