



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

3rd Annual SFIAC San Francisco High School Awards Banquet - Press Release

On May 13th at 6:00 PM, the San Francisco Italian Athletic Club (SFIAC) will host the 2nd Annual San Francisco High School Awards Banquet in its North Beach clubhouse located on Washington Square at 1630 Stockton Street. The SFIAC is 101 years old and is one of the oldest Italian Athletic Clubs in the Country. The awards program is modeled after the Downtown Athletic Club's Heisman Trophy but will recognize the top high school athletes and coaches in the City of San Francisco. Each of the Awards has been named after an Italian-American or Club Member with ties to San Francisco and high character that makes them a great role model for our recipients. The event is a fundraiser that will support high school sports in the City.

Charities:

The event is a fundraiser for High School Sports in San Francisco. The tickets and donations to the event will go to the SFIAC Foundation (401c3 non-profit) which after paying the event expenses will contribute the net proceeds to organizations that support high school sports in San Francisco. Last year's event raised over \$5,000. The primary beneficiary will again be the Academic Athletic Association (AAA) which was founded in 1912 and runs the public school leagues in San Francisco. The funds are expected to primarily go to purchase new uniforms and equipment. A portion of the net proceeds will also be donated to Dante's Boys Foundation which supports High School baseball in the memory of Dante Benedetti. Other charities that support San Francisco High School Sports may be considered too.

Tickets:

Tickets cost \$50 for high school families, \$65 for SFIAC members and \$80 for the generous public. The price of admission will cover a spaghetti dinner with wine. A portion of the ticket price will be tax deductible. Tickets can be purchased by going to www.sfiac.org and clicking on "Buy Tickets Now"

Sponsors:

San Francisco Italian Athletic Club - one of the oldest and most respected Italian Clubs in the country with a beautiful clubhouse on Washington Square in the North Beach Neighborhood of San Francisco. SFIAC is celebrating its 100th anniversary in 2017-18. You can find more information at www.sfiac.org

We are thrilled to have the **San Francisco Giants** as our lead sponsor and a member of our team. The Giants are great supporter of youth sports in San Francisco community and three time World Champions since they moved to San Francisco in 1958.

Original Joe's - Original Joe's since 1937 has been one of the best Italian-American restaurants in San Francisco. Currently with two locations including one in North Beach at 601 Union Street, half a block from the SFIAC. You can find more information at www.originaljoessf.com

Toast Eatery - One of the best breakfast and lunch spots in San Francisco, Toast Eatery has four locations in the City: 160 W. Portal; 1748 Church; 3991 24th Street; and 1601 Polk Street. More information at toasteatery.com

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The Awards in the 2nd Annual SFIAC Awards Banquet will include the following:

The Vince Tringali Football Trophy - awarded to the best High School Football player in the City of San Francisco. Vince Tringali grew up in North Beach and played football at Galileo and USF. He was a starter on the 1951 USF Team that was “undefeated, untied and uninvited”. Tringali coached football at St. Ignatius High School from 1962 to 1968 and led the Wildcats to a 54-14-1 record including a 19 game winning streak in 1962 and 63. Tringali and his teams won three AAA Championships, the first WCAL Championship and his 1962 team was elected National Champions. Tringali passed away in 2010 but is still fondly remembered by his former players including NFL Hall of Fame quarterback Dan Fouts. Past winners include Ronald Phelps (Lincoln) and Yarvell Smith (Galileo).

The 2018-19 Recipient is **Jovan Baker** of Lincoln High School. Jovan as a 5’10” 180 pound quarterback and defensive back led the Lions to the AAA Championship and Division 6-A State Championship. Jovan was named AAA Player of the Year rushing for 1,172 yards and 16 touchdowns while throwing for 7 touchdowns (just one interception). On defense Jovan had 58 tackles and four interceptions and two block punts. He was best when it counted most, rushing for 155 yards and 3 TDs in the 24-13 State Title Game and 122 yards on 4 carries in the AAA Championship Game.

The Kevin Restani Basketball Trophy - awarded to the male and female players of the year in High School basketball players in the City of San Francisco. Kevin Restani starred at Archbishop Riordan High School (Class of '70), USF and played in the NBA (Bucks, Spurs, Kings and Cavaliers) and overseas in Italy. After his playing career Kevin returned to San Francisco to coach and teach until he passed away in 2010. Past Recipients include: Niamey Harris (Mission), Spencer Spivy (University), Iimar'I Thomas (SHCP) and Miyah Lewis-Hampton (Leadership).

The 2018-19 male recipient is **Max Fried** of University HS. Max as four year Varsity player scored 1,134 career points and set a program record with 941 career rebounds. During his 4-year Varsity Career the Red Devils won 108 games and won two BCL-West Championships. This season Max averaged a double double with 14.0 ppg and 10.3 rebounds per game and added 5.3 assists per game while leading University to a NCS D5 Championship and a Northern California D3 Championship. Max was the SF Examiner Co-Player of Year. Max will play college basketball next season at Emory University in Atlanta.

The 2018-19 female recipient is **Talo Li-Uperesa** of Sacred Heart Cathedral Girls Basketball – Talo is a two time All-WCAL First Team selection and SF Examiner First Team All-City. As only a junior Talo led SHCP to a Northern California D1 Championship. As a senior Talo led the Irish to a #78 in the State ranking in Maxpreps and notably an over time win over SI in the Bruce Mahoney Game. Talo has committed to play college basketball at Cal State East Bay

The Stephen Negroesco Trophy - awarded to the male and female High School players of the year in the City of San Francisco. Stephen Negroesco who recently passed away was a long time SFIAC member and coach of the SFIAC Men's Club Team that won the U.S. Open National Championship in 1976. Negroesco was also the long time Soccer Coach and former All-American player at the University of San Francisco where the Soccer Field is named after him. Negroesco is often hailed as the greatest coach in the History of US collegiate soccer winning 544 games and five NCAA Championships. He has spent a lifetime as the biggest booster of youth soccer in the Bay Area. Past recipients include: Dominic Galletti (St. Ignatius), Lizzy Wagner (St. Ignatius), Nathan Kushner (St. Ignatius) and Kiki Tucker (Lowell).

The 2018-19 male recipient is **Julio Gonzalez Ponce** of Mission HS. Julio a forward scored 44 career goals and led Mission to the AAA Championship and a D5 Northern California Championship. Julio was First Team AAA and was named the Most Valuable Forward in the AAA as both a junior and senior. He was also the SF Examiner Player of the Year

The 2018-19 female recipient is **Lauren Frohan** of St. Ignatius. Lauren led SI to the WCAL Championship dethroning perennial power Archbishop Mitty. Lauren was first team all WCAL and named the WCAL Striker of the Year. Lauren was also the SF Examiner Co-Player of the Year. The senior forward will continue her career next year at the D1 level for the University of the Pacific.

The Joe DiMaggio Baseball Trophy - awarded to the player of the year in High School Baseball in the City of San Francisco. Joe DiMaggio grew up in the North Beach neighborhood of San Francisco, attended Galileo High School and went on the play professional baseball for the San Francisco Seals and the New York Yankees. With the Yankees Joe was a three-time MVP, an All-Star in all 13 of his seasons, had a record 56 game hitting streak and was a nine-time World Series Champion. Past recipients include Marty Cole (SHCP) and Martin Chavarria (SHCP).

The 2018-19 Recipient is **C.J. Pino** of Mission HS – CJ is a 4-year Varsity player and has played a starring role in the Bears climb from AAA D2 to the top of the AAA D1. Last year CJ as switch-hitter and pitcher led Mission to its first AAA Championship game appearance in 29 years. So far this season CJ is 4-1 as a starting pitcher with a 1.24 ERA. CJ has a career batting average over .400 and career 1.84 era with a 17-7 record. CJ has been a first team all-league in the AAA all 3 years he has played at Mission. CJ also won the CIF Spirit of Sports Award.

The Dante Benedetti Coaching Trophy - recognizes lifetime achievement by High School Coaches in any sport in the City of San Francisco. Dante Benedetti was born, raised and died in North Beach. In addition to coaching baseball Dante was a long time North Beach restaurateur. Dante attended Galileo, Commerce and St. Ignatius High Schools before going on to play baseball and Football at USF. Dante was the head baseball coach at USF from 1962 to 1980 and won 373 games. The USF baseball diamond is named after Dante. Past recipients include: Ronald Isola (Riordan), John

Donohue (Lowell), Bob Drucker (St. Ignatius) and Ernie Feibusch (Lowell). The 2018-19 recipients include:

Steve Franceschi, Sacred Heart Cathedral Baseball – Coach Franceschi was born and raised in San Francisco and graduated from Balboa HS in 1966. He was an All-City baseball player at Bal and went on to star at the University of Pacific graduating in 1970. In 1968 he pitched the only perfect game in UOP history. After UOP Steve was drafted by the San Francisco Giants and spent 3 years in their minor league system. After his pro career Coach Fran has spent 43 years teaching and coaching at SHCP. Steve also spent 10 years coaching at the college level at USF, Sonoma State and SF State where he was the Head Coach his final season. Most notably Coach Fran coached at SHCP from 1977 to 92 and again in 2003 to the present. In his 16 years at SHCP as a Varsity Head Coach he won 225 games, qualified for the CCS playoffs 11 times and won the WCAL and CCS in 1978. Over 130 of his players went on to play in college and 17 have signed professional contracts. Franceschi is in the Balboa, Pacific, SHCP and SF Prep Halls of Fame. Steve has been married to his wife Rose for 49 years. They have two children and four grandchildren.

Marc Christensen, 50 years of Coaching in San Francisco – Coach Christensen graduated from Lowell in 1964 and SF State in 1969. For the next 50 years Marc has coached in San Francisco progressing from Hoover Middle School to Potrero Hill to most notably McAteer HS for 19 years from 1982 to 2000 during which his Track & Field teams dominated the AAA. Afterwards Marc coach at Riordan from 2000 to 2005 and from 2006 to the present (14 years) has been an At-Large Track & Field Coach for the SFUSD. Over Coach Christensen's 50 years he has coached Basketball (Boys & Girls), Volleyball, Football, Cross Country and most notably Track & Field. The accomplishments of teams and individuals coached by Marc is too long to list but notably his Boys Varsity Track & Field team at McAteer won 9 AAA Championships and between 1993 and 1997 won 70 consecutive Dual Meets. Coach Christensen's teams also won AAA Championships in Girls Track & Field and Boys Cross Country while having countless athletes win individual Championships, set AAA records and advance to the State meet. Marc helped coach a WCAL Championship as well as a Central Coast Section Championship team while at Riordan. Marc was a CIF Honor Coach in 1990, 1993 and 1995. He served on the executive board of the San Francisco Association of Athletic Coaches and Physical Education Teachers for 46 years including 22 as its President. Marc is also a co-founder of the San Francisco Prep Hall of Fame since 1982 and has served as its President for the last 19 years. He was inducted into the SF Prep Hall of Fame as a coach in 2007. Coach Christensen has a remarkable 50 years of service to San Francisco prep sports and is still going strong.

The Steve Mariucci Trophy - recognizes the High School Coach of the Year in the City of San Francisco in any sport. Steve Mariucci is a long time member of the SFIAC and was Head Coach of the San Francisco 49ers from 1997 to 2002 during which the 49ers went 57 and 39 and won the NFC West in 1997 and 2002. Mariucci was the Head Coach at Cal in 1996 and led the Golden Bears to the Aloha Bowl. Mariucci was also the Head Coach of the Detroit Lions from 2003 to 2005 and currently the host of NFL Gameday

for the NFL Network. Past recipients include Arnold Zeleya (Mission), Mark Hunyh (Galileo), Carrin Marrs (University), Allan Downey (SI). The 2018-19 recipients are:

Phil Ferrigno of Lincoln Football – Coach Ferrigno in his 17th year as the Head Coach at Lincoln led the Mustangs to a perfect 13-0 record winning the AAA Championship and the Division 6-A State Championship. The Mustangs outscored their opponents a remarkable 449-128 this season. In his 17 years at Lincoln Coach Ferrigno has won 119 games and six AAA Championships.

Margi Beima of SHCP Volleyball – Margi has coached Volleyball at SHCP for 21 years including the last 17 as the Head Coach. During her tenure the Irish have won over 400 games including 8 seasons with 30+ wins. During her tenure the Irish have also won 7 CCS Championships, 5 NorCal Championships and a D3 State Championship in 2014. This season Margi led the Fighting Irish to 31-7 record, a WCAL Championship and CCS Open Championship and #1 seed in the NorCal Open Division while being ranked in the top 10 in the State the entire season.

SFIAC Athlete of the Year Award – Last year the Award was given the Alex Enos of St. Ignatius Track & Field. This year we will present both a Male and Female Athlete of the Year.

SFIAC Male Athlete of the Year – **Jack Dyke** of SI Football and Baseball – In this age of specialization Jack Dyke has excelled in both football and baseball. In football Jack played on both the offensive and defensive line and was a First Team WCAL All-League Selection. Jack was also a First Team All-WCAL selection in baseball as a junior. So far in his senior season Jack is continuing to excel both as a pitcher and a hitter.

SFIAC Female Athlete of the Year – **Lana Radakovic** of Lincoln Volleyball – Lana was a three year Varsity player and was one of the top Middle Hitters in NorCal. During her 3 years on the Varsity she led Lincoln to 93 wins and to AAA Championships in 2018 and 2016. As only a junior Lana led the Mustangs to a Division 3 Northern California Championship and 34-9 record. Lana has committed to play Volleyball next season at UC Davis.

SFIAC Athletes of the Year – All of the athletes below are named SFIAC Athletes of the Year.

Miles Amos of Stuart Hall basketball – Miles a 3 three year Varsity player led the Knights to a the BCL West Championship as a senior was named League Player of Year after being All-League as a sophomore and junior. Miles was named by the SF Examiner as the Co-Player of the Year. As a junior Miles led Stuart Hall to a D4 NorCal Championship.

Ella Bhat of Washington Soccer – led the Eagles in goals and assists and was the SF Examiner Co-player of the Year.

Michael Bigler of Riordan Wrestling – Only a junior Bigler has already won 3 WCAL Wrestling Championships at 106 and 113 pounds. Bigler was the only wrestler to place in the State meet winning 7th place in 113-pound division.

Skylar Canady of SHCP Volleyball – Only junior Skylar led the Irish to a CCS Open Championship and top 10 ranking in the State. Skylar has already committed to play her college volleyball at UCLA.

Je' Lani Clark of Riordan Basketball – Only a junior and already a 3 year Varsity player Je'Lani was a first team All-WCAL selection for the 2nd season in a row. Clark averaged 15.5 ppg and 6.1 rpg leading the Crusaders to 10-4 record in the WCAL. Je'Lani was also named the Junior of the Year by the SF Examiner and on its All-City Team.

Max Edelstein of UHS Soccer – Max led the Red Devils to will play soccer year at the D1 level for Colgate

Maddie Ennis of St. Ignatius HS – This Season Maddie averaged double double with 16 pts and 12 rebounds and was a first team All-WCAL selection. Maddie was the SF Chronicle San Francisco Player of the Year and the SF Examiner Player of the Year. Maddie will play D1 College basketball next season at the University of Pacific.

Ben Knight of Mission basketball – Ben led the Bears to their 5th straight AAA Championship. Ben was the CalHiSports D4 Player of the Year, AAA Player of the Year and the SF Chronicle San Francisco Player of the Year and averaged 20.5 ppg, 5.2 rpg, 4.7 apg and 3.4 spg. Ben was a member of the 2016 Mission State Championship team.

Hannah McCord of Lowell Soccer – Hannah led the Lowell Cardinal to a AAA and Northern California D5 Championships. Hannah was the AAA Forward of the Year and is committed to play soccer next year at the University of Portland

Bryce Monroe of Riordan Basketball - Only a junior and already a 3 year Varsity player Bryce was first team All-WCAL selection for the 2nd season in a row. Monroe led the Crusaders with 17.7 ppg and 4.3 apg and was named All-City by the SF Examiner.

Jonathan Newsome of Stuart Hall Football, Wrestling and Baseball. Jonathon excelled at 3 sports while maintaining a 3.73 gpa. In football he was a 3-year starter earning All-League recognition all three years and was the League MVP as a senior. In wrestling he was a two times league champion and NCS qualifier going 39-6 his last two seasons. In baseball as a pitcher and first baseman he was a 4 year varsity player earning all-league recognition as both a sophomore and junior.

Keyshawn Oguns of SHCP Baseball – Keyshawn is a three year Varsity player and last year as a junior was an All-WCAL outfielder. Keyshawn leads the Irish in hitting and steals and is continuing to star as a senior. Oguns has committed to play college baseball next season at the University of California.

Wrenn Robinson of SI Basketball – First Team All-WCAL Selection and was SF Examiner First Team All-City

Rain Sheh of Urban basketball – As only a junior Rain was the BCL-West Player of the Year and named the Junior of the Year by the SF Examiner

The Angelo “Hank” Luisetti Trophy and SFIAC Student Athletes of the Year - All of the athletes below are named SFIAC Student Athletes of the Year. At the banquet one of them will be given the distinction of being The Luisetti Trophy honoree as the San Francisco Student Athlete of the Year. Hank Luisetti, who passed away in 2002, grew up in North Beach and became one of the greatest basketball players and innovators of all-time. Luisetti is credited with “inventing/popularizing” the one hand jump shot in the era of the two hand set shot. Hank starred at Galileo High School (Class of 1934) leading the Lions to back-to-back AAA Championships and then went on to star at Stanford where he led his team to Pacific Coast Championships in all three years he was on the Varsity (1936-38). In 1937 Hank led Stanford to the National Championship. Hank became a National Phenom after Stanford broke Long Island University’s 42-game winning streak before a sell-out crowd at Madison Square Garden and then a couple days later scored a record 50 points in a game vs. Duquesne. Luisetti was a 3-time All-American and 2-time Helms National player of the year. He was inducted into the Basketball Hall of Fame and Bay Area Hall of Fame as part of both of their inaugural classes. Luisetti was a Naval Officer during World War II and is fondly remembered by his former teammates as being humble and kind.

Female Scholar Athlete of the Year – **Lizzie Fleming** of SI Volleyball – Lizzie was a 3 year Varsity player and led the Wildcats to 93 wins. Lizzie was a first team All-WCAL selection as both a junior and senior. Off the court Lizzie has been an inspirational leader as an Advocate to increase awareness of and stop Human trafficking by founding an organization and fundraising . Lizzie who had a reported 4.2 gpa will continue her Volleyball career next year at Duke University on scholarship.

Male Scholar Athlete of the Year – **Neal Begovich** of SI Basketball. Begovich a versatile 6’9” wing who can play inside or knock down threes on the perimeter was a 2nd Team All-WCAL selection as a Senior. He was also named Senior of the Year by the SF Examiner. He was both the Slam Dunk Champion and MVP at the City All Star Game. The two star recruit was offered by many top academic schools including several from the Ivy League but will be taking his talents to Stanford University as preferred walk-on.

Scholar Athletes of the Year:

Sean Bilter of St. Ignatius Soccer – Sean was an All-WCAL selection and Defender of the Year. Bilter will be playing soccer next season at UC Davis

Matt Farruggio of SHCP Cross Country and T&F – Matt has earned a 3.91 gpa (4.29 weighted) while starring in both Cross Country and T&F. In CC Matt led the Irish to the

State meet with the 7th best time in the WCAL and in T&F he has WCAL top 10 times 3 events (800, 1600 and 3200).

Grace Feinberg of UHS basketball – Grace overcame an ACL tear her junior year to earn first team All-BCL honors as a senior. Grace will be going to Williams College next year

Zach Gross of Wallenberg Wrestling – Zach has a 4.0 gpa and was All- AAA in wrestling 2x and was the AAA Light-weight Wrestler of the Year going undefeated in league matches.

Zach Johnson of Lick-Wilmerding Basketball – Zach is a 4 year Varsity player during which time the Tigers won 94 games. After missing much of his junior season due to a knee injury Zach bounced back for a dominant senior season in which he was a first team all-league selection and received All-City recognition from the SF Examiner. Zach will play college basketball next year at Vassar College.

Katelyn “KD” Lee of Lowell Basketball – KD led the Cardinal to the AAA Basketball Championship and was AAA Player of the Year. KD was also named the Senior of the Year by the SF Examiner. KD has a 3-point GPA and volunteers in several community organizations.

Oisin McCormack of SHCP Basketball and Soccer – Oisin was a 2nd team All-WCAL selection and played a key role leading the Irish to the CCS Open Division Championship. Oisin also received All-City recognition from the SF Examiner and will be playing college basketball next season at Lake Forest College in Illinois.

Charley Moore of UHS Basketball and Baseball – Charley scored 1,187 points and was a two time All-BCL First Team selection and won 84 games in his 3 years on the Varsity. He is also a star baseball pitcher at UHS. Charley will play college basketball season next year at Middlebury College