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### LEGENDARY BEAVERTON COACH AND JESUIT ALUMNA AMONG 26 STANDOUTS HONORED AT THE 60<sup>TH</sup> OREGON SPORTS AWARDS

Southridge High School's Rod Harman and Elizabeth Brenner, one of the greatest female athletes in Oregon prep history, celebrated before a sold-out house at Nike

**PORTLAND, Ore. (February 12, 2012)** – Tonight the 60<sup>th</sup> Oregon Sports Awards honored the state's top sports performers and performance of 2011 before a full house inside the Stanford Theatre at the Nike World Headquarters. For the 6<sup>th</sup> consecutive year, Emmy Award-winning sportscaster, University of Oregon College Football Hall of Famer and star NFL player, Ahmad Rashad hosted an action-packed show featuring 26 award presentations in 19 categories. Legendary Southridge High School coach Rod Harman and multi-sport athlete Elizabeth Brenner were among honorees.

Boston Red Sox centerfielder and Oregon State University alum Jacoby Ellsbury, professional soccer player and former University of Portland standout Megan Rapinoe, Portland Timbers' owner and president Merritt Paulson and 23 other athletes, teams, coaches and community champions won trophies. The red-carpet evening also featured VIP award presenters Oakland Raiders tight end Kevin Boss, Chicago Cubs second baseman Darwin Barney, retired soccer great standout Kasey Keller and Oregon Track Club Elite runner Chris Solinsky, among others.

"Oregon's sports legacy runs deep and for 60 years the Oregon Sports Awards have honored our best athletes, teams, coaches and executives. SportsOne is proud to work with Nike and the *Portland Tribune* to celebrate today's standouts as they grab a piece of our state's rich sports legacy," said Jim Etzel, president and CEO of Oregon-based sports marketing and entertainment agency SportsOne.

The following coach and athlete from Beaverton received awards:

#### **Rod Harman | Game Changer Award**

84-year-old Southridge High School swimming coach Rod Harman first dipped his toe into the pool for the at Beaverton High School in 1959. Nearly 60 seasons of high school coaching, Harman started his coaching career in Sweet Home, working with wrestling, football and track and field athletes. Swimming became his top sport after he arrived in Beaverton. Since then, Harman's teams have claimed eight state championships and 10 runner-up trophies and his Beaverton boys' team won two water polo crowns in the mid-1970s. The National Federation of High School Sports honored Harman as coach of the year and the Harman Swim Center at the Tualatin Hills Park & Recreation District is named in his honor.

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**Elizabeth Brenner | Johnny Carpenter Prep Athlete of the Year 6A/5A – Female**

One of the greatest female athletes in Oregon prep history, Brenner concluded her career at Jesuit High School with two championships. Named state 6A basketball player of the year for the state champions, Brenner scored an average of 15.9 points per game and grabbing nine rebounds per outing; she was also first-team all-state and unanimous first-team all-tournament. In track and field, Elizabeth was state champion in shot put and second in javelin. She now plays volleyball and basketball at the University of Oregon.

Here is a list of other 2011 Oregon Sports Award winners:

**Jordan Hasay | Bill Hayward Amateur Athlete of the Year – Female**

Distance-running star for the Ducks Hasay was the NCAA runner-up in cross-country, finishing just six-tenths of a second behind the winner. Third in the Pac-12 and first at the west regional in cross-country, Hasay won NCAA indoor track and field championships in the mile and 3,000-meters, along with Pac-10 crowns in the 1,500 and 5,000. At the NCAA outdoor meet, she ran fourth in the 15,000 and eighth in the 1,500. The US Track and Field and Cross Country Coaches Association named Hasay indoor track and field athlete of the year.

**Matthew Centrowitz | Bill Hayward Amateur Athlete of the Year – Male**

Centrowitz introduced himself to the track and field community by winning the bronze medal at the world championships in the 1,500-meters, making him the youngest American to medal in the event. He was first at that distance at the Pac-10, NCAA and US meets and was the first University of Oregon athlete to win a US title since Steve Prefontaine in 1971. Centrowitz owns the UO record of 3:46.46 and recently elected to turn pro.

**Megan Rapinoe | Harry Glickman Professional Athlete of the Year – Female**

University of Portland alumna, Rapinoe was the breakout star for team USA during the 2011 Women's World Cup, scoring a goal and had three assists in Germany, including the critical assist on Abby Wambach's overtime goal against Brazil in the quarterfinals. Megan has scored 11 goals in 39 USA team appearances.

**Jacoby Ellsbury | Harry Glickman Professional Athlete of the Year – Male**

Madras native and Oregon State alum, Ellsbury finished second in American League MVP voting and was named the AL's comeback player of the year. The Boston Red Sox centerfielder also earned Gold Glove and Silver Slugger awards, finishing among the top six in the league in batting average (fifth, .321), runs scored (third, 119), hits (third, 212), doubles (tied for third, 46), home runs (tied for fifth, 32), RBIs (tied for sixth, 105), on-base-plus-slugging percentage (fifth, .928) and stolen bases (fourth, 39).

**George Pasero Teams of the Year | Seven recipients**

**University of Oregon Acrobatics + Tumbling**

A new sport brought a new championship to the University of Oregon. The Ducks' first-year acrobatics and tumbling team won the National championship in a tight battle with new rival, the University of Maryland. The Ducks followed an 8-1 campaign with missing the championship title in front of an appreciative home crowd at Matthew Knight Arena. The Ducks also won six individual event titles.

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### **Concordia University Women's Outdoor Track + Field**

The NAIA outdoor women's track and field champions benefited from 13 All-American performances including Kayla Xavier's titles in shot put and discus. The Cavs outstanding throwers contributed much of the scoring, seven athletes scored in shot put, discus, hammer and javelin. Concordia also won the Cascade Collegiate Conference title for the fifth consecutive year and Coach Randy Dalzell was named national coach of the year.

### **Linfield College Softball**

The best team in the history of Linfield College softball, the team won 51 games and hit a record-setting 103 home runs on its way to the NCAA Division III National Championship. A total of 40 school records fell as the Wildcats slugged their way to the Northwest Conference crown and the national tournament. Four Wildcats were named first-team All-Americans. Linfield's cumulative team GPA of 3.4 is one of the top-20 in the country; 12 team members received NFCA Academic All-America honors.

### **Clackamas Community College Wrestling**

The National Junior College Athletic Association champions had six wrestlers earn All-American honors by finishing fifth or better in their weight classes. Clackamas also showed its versatility by claiming the National Dual Championship at the Cliff Keen meet; Coach Josh Rhoden won national coach of the year honors.

### **Oregon Institute of Technology Softball**

Oregon Institute of Technology won their first-ever national championship in softball when they captured the NAIA title; the 42-13 season was capped by a sparkling 1-0 shutout of #1-ranked California Baptist in the final game. Pitcher Jackie Imhoff won all four of her starts in the tourney allowing just four earned runs, throwing three one-hitters and a perfect game over Midland Lutheran. Coach Greg Stewart was named NAIA coach of the year and Owls were ranked #1 in the 2012 pre-season national poll.

### **University of Oregon Women's Indoor Track + Field**

A tradition of excellence continues as the University of Oregon women won their second consecutive NCAA indoor track and field championship. Jordan Hasay began her outstanding 2011 season with indoor titles in the mile and 3,000-meters and multi-event specialist Brianne Theisen won the pentathlon crown. The Ducks, favored to three-peat, ranked #1 in the pre-season indoor poll. The signature event of the nationals was the mile when Hasay led a 1-3-4 Duck finish with Zoe Buckman and Anne Kesselring also placing.

### **University of Oregon Football**

In 2011 the Ducks continued an amazing run with the best three seasons in Oregon Ducks football history. The team's 13-2 finish included a thrilling Rose Bowl victory over Wisconsin, the third consecutive BCS bowl appearance for the team. The Ducks also won the inaugural PAC-12 championship game. The team's season included many other superlatives: De'Anthony Thomas collected the crystal trophy as CFPA co-kick returner of the year and was named freshman All-American; four Ducks were named all-PAC-12 first team; and offensive lineman Carson York was named an Academic All-American.

### **Merritt Paulson | Slats Gill Sportsperson of the Year**

One of the most dynamic young owners in professional sports, Paulson made a Rose City sports dream a reality by acquiring and building the Portland Timbers Major League Soccer franchise. Recognized by the *Sports Business Journal* Forty Under 40 sports executives, Paulson also orchestrated a \$40 million stadium renovation that transformed newly-named JELD-WEN Field into one of the finest soccer venues in North America. In the Timbers' wildly successful inaugural MLS season, the team became a local phenomenon, received national acclaim for its efforts on and off the pitch, just missed out on the playoffs and sold out every regular-season home game.

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**Bud Ossey | Ultimate Fan Award**

Ossey, watched his first Oregon State football game in 1924 when he was just 5-years-old, has been a fixture at OSU sporting events for nine decades. He and Maxine, his wife of nearly 70 years, have attended thousands of Beaver football, basketball and baseball games both at home and away; been season ticket-holders since the Beavers played on Bell Field; and traveled to Mexico City for the 1968 Olympic Games to witness Dick Fosbury's gold-medal-winning high jump.

Ossey, who has served several decades on the board of directors of the Beaver Club, started a fundraising golf tournament for the OSU golf team in 1971 that is still going strong today. Ossey continues to give his all to the Beavers, seeking donations, helping young people and rooting for his favorite team.

**DNA Award | Two recipients**

**Mike Stone**

When you complete the phrase "the voice of..." you had better include the name Mike Stone. "Stoney," now in his sixth decade as a radio and public address announcer, has graced the airways for the Portland Timbers, Portland Beavers, Oregon Ducks, Portland Trail Blazers, Eugene Emeralds, Portland Forest Dragons and University of Portland Pilots. Today he, and his love of the game, can still be heard on the air as the stadium and arena voice of the Oregon State Beavers.

**Judy Sherman**

Generations of female athletes at Pacific University know Sherman as "Coach." She retired as coach, professor and administrator for the Boxers after 39 years coaching women's teams in volleyball, field hockey, softball, basketball and track and field. In 28 seasons with the program, Sherman's softball teams placed twice at national championships and won six-straight conference titles. She also coached 11 All-American softball athletes and helped select US National Teams for the Olympics. In 1988 she became the first softball coach to be selected for the NAIA Hall of Fame and, in the same year, was named to the NAIA District II Hall of Fame; in 1992 she became one of the first inductees to the National Fastpitch Coaches Association Hall of Fame.

**Safeway | Les Schwab Friend of Sports Award**

Since 1992, Safeway and the Safeway Foundation have partnered with the LPGA tour in Portland bringing explosive growth and success to the Safeway Classic. As the title partner for the past 17 years, Safeway has raised more than \$13 million for deserving Oregon charities making the Safeway Classic the #1 charitable tournament on the LPGA tour.

The Safeway Classic is the second-longest title sponsorship in all of women's professional golf; 2012 will be the 41st year of LPGA tournament golf in Portland, a feat tied with the Kraft Nabisco Championship as the longest continuous active events on the LPGA tour.

**Gus Arroyovera | Terry Porter make it better Award**

A four-year varsity track and cross-country runner at David Douglas High School, Arroyovera is has earned full-ride athletic scholarship offers from three Pacific Northwest colleges. In addition to his athletic pursuits, Gus is active in the community becoming a volunteer youth leader with Camp Fire Columbia, where, during the last two summers Arroyovera travelled across Oregon performing more than 100 hours of community service through the organization's XploreOregon program. Thanks to his exceptional leadership and commitment to pay it forward, he has been asked to join the full Camp Fire Board of Directors as one of two youth members.

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**Christie Clark | Lou Burge Special Olympics Athlete of the Year**

A 30-year Special Olympics veteran, Clark began training at age six and has competed in basketball, bowling, roller-skating, soccer, softball and volleyball. Track and field her favorite sport, her top events are running the 1,500-meters and 800. This past year, Clark medaled in Athens at the Special Olympics World Games. Her leadership and support of teammates led Special Olympics Team USA to name the Christie Award in her honor.

**Ryan Crouser | Johnny Carpenter Prep Athlete of the Year 6A/5A – Male**

Crouser closed his prep career at Barlow High School setting three national high school records in shot put and discus; he threw the 16-pound collegiate shot 63-11, setting a record for high school athletes with the larger implement and reset the prep discus record at 237-6. Defending state champion and Nike Nationals champion in shot put and discus, Crouser was named Gatorade track and field athlete of the year for Oregon and the Track and Field News national boys athlete of the year. Crouser broke the 30-year-old University of Texas indoor shot put record during his first collegiate season.

**Sarah Bennion | Johnny Carpenter Prep Athlete of the Year 4A/3A/2A/1A – Female**

Bennion's achievements as a three-sport athlete earned her recognition as Wendy's High School Heisman national finalist. Even as St. Mary's moved up to a larger 3A classification, Bennion still completed a sweep of four individual track and field titles in the 800-meters, 1,500, 300 hurdles and 4x400 relay. She also competes in cross-country and soccer and is an all-state academic athlete in all three sports.

**AJ Hedgecock | Johnny Carpenter Prep Athlete of the Year 4A/3A/2A/1A – Male**

A talented three-sport athlete, Hedgecock led the Pirate basketball team to the 3A state championship game, averaging 10.3 points, 3.7 rebounds and 3.3 assists and was named 3A first-team all-state. As a running back on the football field AJ was named co-offensive player of the year in 3A and helped the Pirates advance to the state championship game. And, at the state track and field championships, AJ won the discus title with a throw of 139-10.

**Megan Fristoe | Nike - Steve Prefontaine Prep Distance Runner of the Year**

The most dominant active distance runner in the Oregon prep ranks, Fristoe finished her cross-country career for Summit High School with her third consecutive 5A championship. Her winning time of 18:07 set a new state record and led the Storm to its fourth consecutive team state crown. Fristoe also went on to finish tenth overall at the Nike Border Clash and ended with her second consecutive Oregon 3,000-meter title with a trip to the Junior Nationals.

**Jackie Imhof | Ad Rutschman Small-College Athlete of the Year – Female**

The senior pitcher from Portland pitched Oregon Institute of Technology to its first NAIA softball championship and was named MVP of the national tournament. Imhof set single-season school records for wins (25), innings pitched (211 1/2), strikeouts (272) and shutouts (5); she was voted Cascade Collegiate Conference female athlete of the year for all sports.

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**Bryant Sentman | Ad Rutschman Small-College Athlete of the Year – Male**

NAIA decathlon champion, Sentman set the school record with 7,097 points, edging Cascade Conference rivals Eastern Oregon University for the title. A multi-event specialist, the 6'4" Sentman also played forward on OIT's Cascade Collegiate Conference champion basketball team, averaging 10 points and 3.5 rebounds for the conference's regular season and postseason tournament championship. He was named the conference male athlete of the year for all sports.

**About the Oregon Sports Awards [oregonsportsawards.com](http://oregonsportsawards.com)**

Hosted by Nike in the state-of-the-art, 770-seat Stanford Theatre at the Nike World Headquarters in Beaverton, Ore., the Oregon Sports Awards honor Oregon's outstanding professional and amateur athletes, teams, coaches and administrators from many levels and a wide range of sports.

Originally the Hayward Banquet of Champions, the Oregon Sports Awards was founded in 1948. In 2001, Nike, the *Portland Tribune* and Oregon-based sports marketing and entertainment agency SportsOne revived the event under its current name to include a stage-show, additional award categories and a new venue on the Nike campus.

**About SportsOne [goSportsOne.com](http://goSportsOne.com)**

SportsOne is a national sports and entertainment marketing agency based in Beaverton, Ore. Now in its 17th season, SportsOne teams with Safeway, Nike, Oregon Track Club and other clients to produce powerful fan experiences, golf and basketball tournaments, awards shows, concerts and custom corporate entertainment. The SportsOne roster includes the Safeway Game Day Experience tour and TrackTown12 at the U.S. Olympic Team Trials – Track & Field.

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