

ACADEMY'S AWARDS OF SPORT

A Tribute to the Artist and the Athlete



Kadir Nelson
Sport Artist of the Year 2009
Painter



Bruce Larsen
Sport Artist of the Year 2009
Sculptor



Michael Phelps
2008 Male Athlete of the Year



Nastia Liukin
2008 Female Athlete of the Year

The Artists

Dynamic young artist/author Kadir Nelson and sculptor Bruce Larsen, were honored as the United States Sports Academy's 2009 Sport Artists of the Year.

Nelson's artistic tributes to African American history are well known in both political and entertainment circles and his latest endeavor, *We are the Ship: The Story of Negro League Baseball*, is currently on the New York Times Best seller list. He has collaborated with notable authors on a series of books; currently some two dozen he has illustrated are in print.

Bruce Larsen lives in Fairhope, Ala. His sculptures, usually depicting animal subjects, are created from scrap materials such as driftwood, old rusted appliances, pieces of metal, and whatever else he can get his hands on. Well known and well liked along the Gulf, Larsen is also known not only for his unique sculptures, but as an accomplished special effects artist, too. His work can be seen in several Hollywood movies, including "The Patriot," "Black Knight," "Planet of the Apes," and "Dumb and Dumber."

His relationship with the United States Sports Academy began when he entered a piece in the National Olympic Art Competition in 2003. His work "Borsov the Sprinter" is prominently displayed in front of the Academy's Daphne, Ala., campus.

for more see pages 6-7

The Athletes

Nastia Liukin and Michael Phelps are the United States Sports Academy's 2008 Female and Male Athletes of the Year. The awards were the result of worldwide balloting conducted in conjunction with USA Today and NBC Sports.

Nastia captured an Olympic gold medal in the all-around competition at the 2008 Beijing Games. She also earned a silver medal with the U.S. team and a bronze medal in floor exercise. Preceding the Olympics, Liukin took the American Cup title last March, performing one of the most difficult uneven bars routines ever attempted. In April she won the Pacific Rim Championships.

Phelps has completely rewritten the chlorine-stained pages of Olympic swimming history. If any Olympic record seemed more unbeatable than sprinter Michael Johnson's 19.32 seconds in the 200 meters at the 1996 Atlanta Games, it was Mark Spitz winning seven swimming golds in 1972 at Munich. In Beijing, Phelps grabbed eight victories and set seven world records.

He won the 400-meter individual medley with a time of 4:03.84, as well as the 200 individual medley (1:54.23), 100 butterfly (50.58), 200 freestyle (1:42.96), 200 butterfly (1:52.03), 4 x 200 freestyle relay (6:58.56), 4 x 100 relay (3:08.24) and 4 x 100 medley relay (3:29.34).



Mr. Ron Laird (pg 12)
Distinguished
Alumnus of the Year

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Dr. Myles Brand (pg 10)
Theodore Roosevelt
Meritorious Award

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

by Dr. Thomas P. Rosandich



Female Athlete of the Year Honored - The United States Sports Academy's Female Athlete of the Year, Ms. Nastia Liukin, and Sport Artist of the Year, sculptor Mr. Bruce Larsen, are joined by Academy President Dr. Thomas P. Rosandich, Daphne, Ala., and members of the Academy Board of Trustees during the unveiling of Larsen's 12-foot-tall statue "Nastia," a tribute to the 2008 Olympic gold medal-winning gymnast. From left are Dr. Gary Cunningham, Santa Barbara, Calif.; Dr. Nick Niccolai, Mobile, Ala.; Dr. Robert S. Block, Reno, Nev.; Mr. Ron Dickerson, Montgomery, Ala.; Dr. Rosandich; Mr. Jack Kelly, Lexington, Ky.; Ms. Liukin; Mr. Tom Cafaro, Dudley, Mass.; Board of Trustees Chairman Mr. Robert C. Campbell III, Mobile, Ala.; Mr. Larsen; Mr. Gene Policinski, Nashville, Tenn.; Mr. Don Wukasch, M.D., Houston, Texas; Academy Vice President Dr. T. J. Rosandich, Fairhope, Ala., and Mr. Jack Scharr, St. Louis, Mo.

ACCREDITATION AND AWARDS HIGHLIGHT BOARD OF TRUSTEES' ANNUAL MEETING

The Academy's Board of Trustees, a group of distinguished educators and professionals with a deep and abiding interest in sports and sports education, convened its annual meeting 8–9 January 2009 on the Academy campus. My report to the Trustees was overwhelmingly positive, although the meeting began on a somber note, the chairman dedicating a moment of silence to remember Trustees Emeriti who passed away recently, three in the weeks leading up to the annual meeting (see obituaries on pg 4).

As one would expect in a time when the global economy continues sliding into deep recession and the financial news remains unremittingly bad, the question uppermost in the Trustees' minds was the Academy's financial state. We are like virtually every institution of higher learning

in the country in seeing our endowment holdings decline. However, I was pleased to be able to report to the Trustees that the decline in the Academy's holdings was less than that in the nation's equity markets and, indeed, less than that experienced by most other educational institutions. We owe this to our board's Executive Committee. It is able to convene at more frequent intervals than the full board, and it has watched the financial situation closely over the past few quarters. More importantly, I was pleased to be able to report to the Trustees that thus far this academic year, the Academy has posted a positive return with respect to operating income. (What is truly remarkable about this is that the Academy held the line on a tuition increase this year, limiting it to about 3 percent when Alabama institutions statewide averaged double-digit increases.) Diligence will continue to be required, as I believe we are a long way from seeing the bottom of this recession.

REAFFIRMATION OF ACCREDITATION

Very high on the Trustees' annual meeting agenda was my report that the Academy received reaffirmation of its accreditation by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS). Reaffirmation is required every 10 years. On 9 December 2008, the success of our reaffirmation effort was announced to the College Delegate Assembly of the SACS annual meeting in San Antonio, Texas, marking the culmination of a process that began almost three years ago. This process involved every constituency within the organization.

The reaffirmation was carried out under the "Principles of Accreditation: Foundations for Quality Enhancement" prescribed by SACS, and the process represented a significant departure from what we had done before. The Academy was twice reviewed by SACS, once by an off-campus committee and once by an on-site review team.

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN (continued)

Among items reviewed by the committees was a quality enhancement plan (QEP) developed by the Academy. The QEP is a new requirement for accreditation and one that must be prepared by every institution seeking accreditation or reaffirmation from SACS.

The Academy's commitment to web-based distance education—the means by which the Academy services virtually all the academic needs of our students—made it logical that the institution take a technological approach to the new QEP requirement. Moreover, the model of distance learning adopted by the Academy places a premium on writing skills. For these reasons, our QEP involved an online writing laboratory: the Academy Center for Collegiate Excellence and Student Success, or ACCESS. When the on-site review team from SACS visited the Academy in March, ACCESS was their focus. The team was quite taken by the Academy's work developing ACCESS. Team members indeed recommended that we present our QEP to SACS at its upcoming annual meeting. Making that presentation were Academy Vice President Dr. T. J. Rosandich and Ms. Betsy Smith, Associate Dean for Continuing Education and Instructional Design.

I am pleased with the successful implementation of ACCESS, which began in September, with the new academic year. Students are using the laboratory not only to bolster their writing skills to meet the Academy's degree requirements, but also to develop their writing-related professional skills. From producing effective résumés and cover letters to drafting memoranda and white papers, a number of professional writing tutorials are available to students through ACCESS, along with many more tutorials on grammar and composition.

THE ACADEMY'S AWARDS OF SPORT

Further significant business undertaken by the Trustees at their annual meeting was the review and approval of those to be honored

by the Academy's Awards of Sport. This exercise held added significance this year, as we celebrated a 25th year of conducting our awards program, whose theme is "A Tribute to the Artist and the Athlete." In our program's inaugural year, the athletes honored were selected coming out of the 1984 Olympic Games in Los Angeles.

The Academy's Awards of Sport are all about excellence in sport. Philosophically, it is wholly appropriate to recognize the self-sacrifice required from athletes who reach the pinnacle, as have the 2009 Academy Athletes



From left, Academy President Dr. Thomas P. Rosandich welcomed NCAA Vice President Mr. Wally Renfro; 2009 Distinguished Alumnus of the Year Mr. Ron Laird; Sport Artist of the Year 2009 sculptor Mr. Bruce Larsen; and 2008 Academy Female Athlete of the Year Ms. Nastia Liukin during the Academy's 26th annual Awards of Sport ceremony in January. Mr. Renfro accepted the Theodore Roosevelt Meritorious Award on behalf of recipient Dr. Myles Brand, President of the NCAA.

of the Year. Who can doubt the commitment required of Michael Phelps, who in Beijing garnered an unprecedented eight gold medals at a single Olympic Games, a feat unlikely to be duplicated (certainly not in my lifetime), or of Nastia Liukin, who took four medals in China including the individual all-around gold, making her the top woman gymnast in the world. Phelps and Liukin were selected through a worldwide balloting process conducted by the Academy in cooperation with USA Today and NBC Sports.

It was a special treat for the Trustees to be a part of the other dimension of the Academy's Awards of Sport, as well, namely the tribute to our Sport Artists. This year, the Academy recognized the painter Kadir Nelson as Sport Artist of the Year in the graphics area. Nelson is the author of the New York Times best seller *We Are the Ship*, which includes a com-

pendium of his paintings celebrating Negro League baseball. Mr. Nelson was on hand for a special art show the night before the Trustees' annual meeting. A number of works created for *We Are the Ship* were featured.

I should also note that Mr. Nelson won in the graphics category of the U.S. Olympic Committee Sport Art Competition, staged by the United States Sports Academy in 2007 as a preliminary event in the cultural program associated with the Beijing Olympic Games. Taking Sport Artist of the Year honors in the sculpture area was Bruce Larsen. Mr.

Larsen is renowned for sculptures he fabricates from society's castoffs. Most recently, using metal scrap he rendered a 12-foot-tall female gymnast on the balance beam, a work entitled "Nastia" to honor Nastia Liukin. Following the conclusion of the Trustees' meeting, this stunning sculpture was unveiled at a special event with Ms. Liukin, to whom Mr. Larsen presented a smaller sculpture of a female gymnast, prepared especially for the event.

Also on hand for the unveiling was NCAA Vice President Wallace Renfro, representing Dr. Myles Brand, the President of the NCAA and recipient of the Academy's 2009 Theodore Roosevelt Meritorious Award. Unfortunately, Dr. Brand could not accept the award in person, having just been diagnosed with a severe illness, a development he shared by video conference with the NCAA board at its mid-January annual meeting in Florida. On behalf of the Academy and its entire extended family, we offer Dr. Brand heartfelt wishes for a rapid and complete recovery.

In accepting the award on behalf of Dr. Brand, Mr. Renfro, in his remarks to the assembled crowd, recognized the Academy's contributions to the profession of sports, and specifically to sports education, over a span of more than 30 years.

continued on page 4

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PRESIDENT'S COLUMN (continued)

THE ACADEMY

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The United States Sports Academy is an independent, non-profit, accredited, special mission sports university created to serve the nation and the world with programs in instruction, research and service. The role of the Academy is to prepare men and women for careers in the profession of sports.

The United States Sports Academy is accredited by the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools to award baccalaureate, master's and doctoral degrees. Contact the Commission on Colleges at 1866 Southern Lane, Decatur, Georgia 30033-4097 or call 404-679-4500 for questions about the accreditation of the United States Sports Academy.

The United States Sports Academy accepts students regardless of race, religion, age, gender, disability or national origin.

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Awards of Sport honorees receive the Order of the Eagle Exemplar with a Rosette from the Academy's Medallion Series (see a related story on pages 8-10). Each medallion bears the name of a luminary in sports who made significant contributions to this important human endeavor. With its selection of this year's honorees, the Academy Board of Trustees reaffirmed a commitment to excellence both within the profession of sports and by the Academy's program of sports education.

HONORARY DOCTORATES

The honorary doctorate is the highest award any educational institution can bestow on an individual to recognize superior contribution. Each year, the Academy awards two honorary doctorates, one to a domestic figure and one to an international figure. The two leaders who received these awards from the Academy this January are indeed most deserving. The honoree

from the United States is Ms. Pat Summit, legendary women's basketball coach at the University of Tennessee, who was recognized not just for unparalleled success on the basketball court, but for great achievement in preparing young athletes to excel in the game of life. The international honoree is His Royal Highness Tunku Imran, President of the Olympic Committee of Malaysia (OCM). Mr. Imran's lifelong commitment to sports has been widely recognized. The presidency of OCM is the latest in a succession of key leadership positions with which he has been entrusted, including the helms of a number of international sport federations.

As I close out my reflections here, I would like to take this opportunity to extend my personal thanks to the Academy's Board of Trustees, who are a dedicated set of professionals in their own right and whose commitment to the Academy and its faculty, staff and students is exceptionally important to our success as an institution.

IN MEMORIAM



Herman Martin Maisel (2 October 2007)

A native of Mobile, Ala., Herman Martin Maisel was known around the nation as a prominent real estate developer and highly regarded business executive. A founding partner of the Mobile Greyhound Park, Mr. Maisel was instrumental in the Academy's acquisition of its campus and surrounding property.



James E. Hasser, Sr. (18 July 2008)

James E. Hasser attended Spring Hill College on an athletic scholarship and lettered in varsity basketball, baseball, and tennis. He was a longtime chairman of the Academy's Board of Trustees and helped bring about such advancements as the establishment of a tennis complex on campus.



Ben Weider (17 October 2008)

Ben Weider, who helped turn bodybuilding into a worldwide sport and was instrumental in launching Arnold Schwarzenegger's athletic career in the United States, was also a great friend to the Academy. He funded the institution's publications for many years and generously donated fitness equipment to the Academy.

2009 HONORARY DOCTORATES

Academy Bestows Distinction on Tunku Imran and Pat Summitt

Prince Tunku Imran, to whom the United States Sports Academy recently awarded



Tunku Imran

the International Honorary Doctorate, became Malaysia's first national squash champion in 1973 and ever since has been making a lot of "racquet" in the world of sports.

He is also at the forefront in assisting the Academy with negotiations in implementing several programs with Malaysia's national sports institute, the Institute Sukan Negara (ISN)

He serves not only as the president of the Olympic Council of Malaysia, but as vice president of the Commonwealth Games Federation, a board member of the National Sports Council of Malaysia, president of the

Malaysian Cricket Association, and chairman of the Foundation for Malaysian Sporting

Excellence. Clearly, Imran is as energetic and hard-working today as he was 36 years ago.

Under his leadership Malaysia sent 33 athletes to the Olympics last summer, the largest delegation in the country's history. It was a big achievement for Malaysian sports.

Besides badminton, usually Malaysia's only Olympic event, their athletes were featured in aquatics, weightlifting, archery, cycling, shooting, sailing and taekwondo.

Imran, the son of the King of Malaysia, served as chef de mission to the Malaysian team at the Seoul Olympics in 1988 and was President of the WSF from 1989 to 1996.

After completing this maximum term, he was unanimously elected to the newly-created position of Emeritus President in recognition of the great leadership he had provided for the sport.

During his tenure as VP of the Commonwealth Games Imran made a significant contribution to sport worldwide.

He was the country's first national squash champion in 1973.

When debate about the best basketball coaches of the early 21st century is bandied about in years to come, Pat Summitt's name needs to be somewhere in that conversation. She has won more games than any other basketball coach, male or female, in collegiate history.

Summitt, who heads the University of Tennessee women's basketball program, is the United States Sports Academy's newest honorary doctorate recipient. She has experienced

just about everything a woman in the game can experience. She knows what it's like to search for opportunities in a male-dominated sport, to overcome a knee injury in triumph, to play on the international stage, to grow a championship program, to carry the stigma of the coach who cannot win the big one, and to be the champion and live with the public's unrelenting expectations of a championship coach.

On February 5, 2009, Summitt became the first coach (man or woman) in NCAA history to reach 1000 wins as a head coach.

Coach Summitt developed a passion for basketball while playing two-on-two with her brothers in the upper loft of

a barn in her hometown of Henrietta, Tenn. Her father had to move across the county line so she could attend a school that had a girls' basketball team. She continued her career in college at the University of Tennessee-Martin, eventually representing the United States in the World University Games in Moscow, Russia.

During her senior year at UT-Martin, Coach Summitt injured her knee, and an orthopedic surgeon advised her not to play



Pat Summitt

basketball again. In 1976 she was able to help lead the U.S. to a silver medal in the Summer Olympic Games. She would later coach the Americans to their first women's basketball gold medal, in 1974 in Los Angeles.

ACADEMY ALUMNI

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Course exit surveys indicate that the overwhelming majority of students would recommend the Academy. Alumni remain our #1 source of referrals.

THE ACADEMY'S AWARDS OF SPORT

The Artist: Kadir Nelson, Painter

PAINTING "STRENGTH AND INTEGRITY" IS HIS CALLING, AND IT RUNS DEEP

When Kadir Nelson says "I have always been an artist—it's part of my



DNA," he isn't just blowing smoke. The soft-spoken San Diegan began drawing at age three, displaying adroit artistic flair even before he learned to write. At 11 he was apprenticed by his uncle, an artist and art teacher whom Nelson credits for the foundation needed to excel in his discipline.

Nelson dabbled in other forms of art before settling into oil painting as a 16-year-old, at the encouragement of his high school art teacher. He won a scholarship to study art at the prestigious Pratt Institute in Brooklyn, N.Y., from which he would graduate with honors.

His latest work, *We Are the Ship: The Story of Negro League Baseball*, is Nelson's debut as an author and has instantly become a New York Times best seller. Nelson's professional career began with commissions from publishers, production studios, and other clients, among them Dreamworks, Nike, Sports Illustrated, Coca-Cola, the New York Times, the New Yorker and Major League Baseball. His works are also found in the Academy's American Sport Art Museum and Archives and in noted galleries and museums worldwide: Los Angeles' Simon Weisenthal Center, Museum of Tolerance and Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences and Detroit's Museum of African American History.

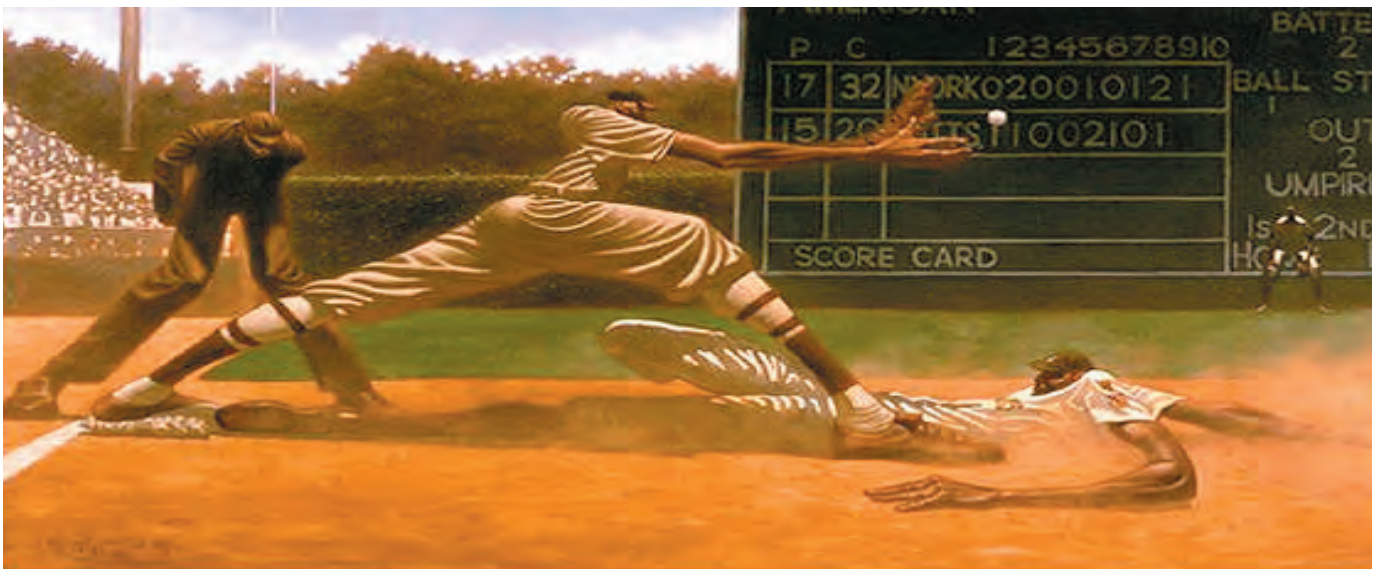
In addition, Nelson's work is in the private collections of actors, sports figures and musicians including Jalen

Rose, Spike Lee, Venus Williams and Will Smith and Jada Pinkett-Smith.

Nelson has collaborated with several authors on a series of picture books. Presently, eight children's books he has illustrated are in print, including Debbie Allen's *Dancing in the Wings*, Deloris and Roslyn Jordan's *Salt in His Shoes*, Spike and Tonya Lewis Lee's *Please, Baby, Please* and Will Smith's *Just the Two of Us*, for which Nelson won an NAACP Image Award.

Working in a variety of styles, Nelson nevertheless retains a sense of identity and focus in his painting. The subject matter may vary, but an illustration by Nelson is instantly recognized by its emotion and strength.

"My work is all about healing and giving people a sense of hope and nobility," Nelson has said. "I want to show the strength and integrity of the human spirit." That is exactly the feeling viewers tend to take away with them after viewing a painting by Nelson. It's a feeling that runs all the way down to your DNA.



A TRIBUTE TO THE ARTIST AND THE ATHLETE

The Artist: Bruce Larsen, Sculptor

TO BRUCE LARSEN, THE UNUSABLE IS A THING OF BEAUTY



Bruce Larsen is a native of Auburn, Ala., and resides in Fairhope. His sculptures, usually depicting animal subjects, are created from scrap materials such as driftwood, old, rusted appliances, pieces of metal, and whatever else he can get his hands on. One man's trash truly becomes another man's treasure in Larsen's case.

For those who aren't lucky enough to witness his genius on a regular basis, Bruce uses old machine parts, driftwood, toys...everyone else's junk...and breathes magic into it in much the same way a great musician takes stray words and chords and blends them into wonderfully eclectic music.

Well known and well liked along the Gulf, Larsen has created numerous sculptures that are among the area's most recognizable pieces of art. They have been shown in noteworthy galleries such as Magazine Street Gallery in

New Orleans, LA, and the Gulf ArtSpace and Summit galleries on the Eastern Shore of Mobile Bay. Several of Larsen's commissioned pieces can also be seen around Mobile and the Eastern Shore.

Bruce Larsen is known not only for his unique sculptures but also as an accom-



plished special effects artist. His work can be seen in several Hollywood movies, including "The Patriot," "Black Knight," "Planet of the Apes," and "Dumb and Dumberer." His

most recent special effects work appeared in early 2004 in an episode of the National Geographic Channel series Seconds From Disaster analyzing the wreck of Amtrak's Sunset Limited train just outside Mobile.

Bruce Larsen's relationship with the United States Sports Academy began when he entered a piece in the National Olympic Art Competition in 2003. His work "Borzov the Sprinter" is housed permanently on the front drive of the Academy's Daphne, Alabama, campus.

His latest piece, titled "Nastia", is a tribute to 2008 Olympic Gold Medal-winning gymnast Nastia Liukin and is displayed on the Academy's east lawn where passing motorists have begun to slow down for a closer look at the 12-foot high sculpture.



The sculpture is an elegant depiction of her near perfect, gold-medal winning all-around performance in Beijing. The body is symmetrically aligned with her legs that are coming over the top in unison and about to complete a handstand.

Larsen himself hasn't slowed down a bit since he was a youngster.

He started swimming at age five and swam competitively until he was 18, when rotator cuff problems limited the flexibility he needed to compete against the "big boys". He's also tried hang gliding, parachuting and scuba diving.

"Lots of crazy, different stuff," Larsen says of the way he's lived his life. That different drummer's beat seems to drive his art as well.

THE ACADEMY'S AWARDS OF SPORT

The Medallion Series

For more than a quarter century, the Academy's Awards of Sport program has paid tribute to individuals who have made significant contributions to sports through a commitment to academic, administrative, artistic or athletic endeavor for the advancement of the sports industry.

The 2009 Awards of Sport Medallion Series honorees represent individuals at all levels of sport who have made a lasting impact on the world of sport.

THE EAGLE AWARD



David Stern was unanimously elected the NBA's fourth commissioner, beginning his tenure on 1 February 1984. Since then, the NBA has added seven franchises, enjoyed a fifteen-fold increase in revenues, expanded its national television exposure dramatically, and launched the Women's National Basketball Association and the NBA Development League. Interest in the league's growing international initiatives has led to the televising of NBA games in 215 countries in 43 languages. Stern's association with the NBA began in 1966, when he became the group's outside counsel. He became general counsel in 1978 and was named league executive vice president in 1980. A native of New York City, Stern is a graduate of Rutgers University and Columbia Law School.

AMOS ALONZO STAGG COACHING AWARD



Coach **Mike Krzyzewski** led the U.S. men's basketball team to victory in the

2008 Beijing Olympics. The United States dominated Group B in pool play, defeating opponents by an average of 32.2 points. Finishing first in its group, Team USA earned the right to play Group A's fourth-place finisher, Australia. The United States defeated Australia 116-85 in the quarterfinal matchup, led by Kobe Bryant's 25 points. Next up for the Americans in the semifinals was Argentina, the 2004 Olympic champion. Behind Carmelo Anthony's 21 points, Team USA defeated Argentina 101-81 to reach the gold medal game. On 24 August, the United States defeated Spain 118-107 to capture the Olympic title. Krzyzewski also coaches the Duke University men's basketball team. Over 28 seasons at Duke, he has led the Blue Devils to three NCAA Championships, ten Final Fours (third most in history), and ten ACC Championships. As a cadet at West Point, Krzyzewski played basketball and was team captain during his senior season.

C. VIVIAN STRINGER COACHING AWARD



The U.S. women's Olympic soccer team used coach **Pia Sundhage's** attacking philosophy to score an unprecedented eleven goals in two games in Beijing. The team put together a near perfect

defensive performance to hold powerful Brazil scoreless for 120 minutes. A goal from Carli Lloyd just six minutes into overtime led to its historic 1-0 victory and the Olympic gold medal. It was the United States' third triumph in four Olympic Games (1996-2008; in 2000, the team took the silver medal). In 2000 Sundhage, a native of Sweden, finished sixth in the voting for the FIFA Women's Player of the Century.

CARL MADDUX SPORTS MANAGEMENT AWARD



Major League Baseball's Tampa Bay Rays organization has undergone significant change since **Stuart Sternberg** replaced Vince Naimoli and took over as principal owner in 2005. Sternberg has made dozens of changes, shaken hundreds of hands, and spent thousands of hours and millions of dollars to reestablish the tattered franchise. His management skills led the Rays to the 2008 American League Championship and World Series. Though they lost on the Phillies' home turf in Game 5, Sternberg has moved the team quickly into the spotlight and towards being one of the most profitable franchises in history.

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THE ACADEMY'S AWARDS OF SPORT (CONTINUED)

DR. ERNST JOKL SPORTS MEDICINE AWARD



Dr. Andrew Cappuccino is the orthopedic surgeon who treated Buffalo Bills tight end Kevin Everett when he suffered a potentially paralyzing injury to his cervical spine in the season opening game. To minimize the inflammation in Everett's spine occurring immediately after the trauma, Dr. Cappuccino induced hypothermia. The treatment, administered en route to the hospital, involved flushing Everett's body with injected ice-cold saline solution. It was the first time a doctor had induced therapeutic hypothermia so quickly in order to prevent permanent paralysis, and it was an unqualified success. His revolutionary approach would garner national headlines and would restore Everett to health. Dr. Andrew Cappuccino now heads a team of professionals at Buffalo Spine Surgery. Dr. Cappuccino has done more disk replacement procedures than any other surgeon in the nation. Dr. Cappuccino teaches spine surgery techniques internationally, and has operated in Europe, South America, Australia, and in Asia and Africa as a guest spine surgeon. He has authored scientific and medical articles and textbooks about spine surgery. Dr. Cappuccino has also served on the editorial board for the North American Spine Society Annual Meeting. He was honored by Business First and selected as Western New York's "Health Care Hero 2005" for his contributions as an innovator of medical technology. His background consists of an undergraduate education in biomedical engineering at Johns Hopkins University, a residency in orthopedic surgery at the University of Buffalo medical school, and a return to Hopkins to complete specialty training in spine surgery.

DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER FITNESS AWARD



Dr. Shang-Hi Rhee has been the President of the Asia-Pacific Sport For All Association since 2000 encouraging the Sport for All Movement in the Asia-Oceania Region. Since 2006, Dr. Shang-Hi Rhee has led the Trim and Fitness International Sport for All Association (TAFISA). As President, Dr. Rhee leads 150 member organizations from more than 100 member countries from all continents of the world to a common objective of encouraging people to participate in sport and physical activity worldwide. He was formerly the Minister of Science and Technology for the nation of South Korea, as well as a member of parliament.

JACKIE ROBINSON HUMANITARIAN AWARD



No player puts more time into more projects for more people than the San Diego Chargers' All-Pro running back **LaDainian Tomlinson**. Two days before Thanksgiving, he gives two thousand families enough food to make Thanksgiving dinners. He visits children in hospitals, giving presents and personal attention. He thinks he gets the bulk of the joy when he hands out presents that include dozens of bikes and hundreds of shoes for underprivileged kids in San Diego. Tomlinson organizes his own fund-raising golf tournament and gives thousand-dollar college scholarships to seniors at his old high school. Much of the charitable work is performed through the Tomlinson's Touching Lives

Foundation. Tomlinson's Touching Lives Foundation, Inc. engages in a number of programs designed to promote educational, social and cultural awareness and positive self-esteem to enhance the lives of children, families and communities. His L.T.'s 21 CLUB provides the opportunity for 30 kids per game from San Diego youth organizations and non-profits to attend a San Diego Chargers home game and meet with Tomlinson after the game. His Touching Lives Holiday Program offers toys and videos to kids at the Children's Hospital and Health Center during the Christmas Holiday. L.T. and Friends make rounds throughout the hospital handing out toys to patients being treated in various centers of the hospital. The *L.T. School is Cool* Scholarship assists worthy students with their educational and occupational endeavors.

MILDRED "BABE" DIDRIKSON ZAHARIAS COURAGE AWARD



Dutch Olympic swimmer **Maarten van der Weijden**, having already fought back from a diagnosis of leukemia, showed that an open-water fight hardly compares. Appearing oblivious to kicking, slapping, and pushing going on between race favorites in Beijing, he won the inaugural Olympic men's ten-kilometer open water marathon under a steady rain. He was diagnosed with leukemia in 2001, returned to swimming in 2003, and began to record better times than ever before. In 2004 he swam 1,100-kilometer Lake Yssel in the central Netherlands in record time to collect fifty thousand euros, which he donated for cancer research. He even developed his own website "Maarten van der Weijden zwemt tegen kanker" (translation: Martin van der Weijden swims against cancer) designed to inform fans about his life and career. He won another World Cup race in Rosario, Argentina, in January 2007, but at the end of the World cup Calendar he finished in second position overall during the World Championship over 10 km he finished in seventh place.

THE ACADEMY'S AWARDS OF SPORT (CONTINUED)

JIM THORPE ALL-AROUND AWARD



Brian Clay is the first U.S. Olympic decathlon champ since Dan O'Brien (1996). He amassed 8,791 points at the Beijing Games to capture the gold medal, a dramatic 240 points more than the silver medalist and the largest winning margin at an Olympic Games since 1972. Clay has also claimed such titles as 2005 World Outdoor Champion, 2008 World Indoor Champion, 2008 Olympic Trials champion, three-time USA Outdoor Champion (2004, 2005, 2008), 2004 Olympics silver medalist; two-time World Indoor silver medalist (2004, 2006), and 2000 NAIA champion and two-time NAIA long jump champion. Clay was raised in Hawaii and competed in college for Azusa Pacific University.

RONALD REAGAN MEDIA AWARD



Brent Musburger is being honored for more than four decades in the sports media where he has been known for his ability to bring color, excitement and occasional commentary to high profile sports events and issues. The former Chicago newspaper writer made a national name for himself hosting the pregame show "The NFL Today," beginning in 1975, but was also the voice behind the rise to prime time prominence of CBS' coverage of the NBA and NCAA men's basketball championships in the 1970s and 80s. After his tenure at CBS he joined ABC and

ESPN, starting in 1990, where he reached a new peak of excellence as a studio host, and a play-by-play announcer for college football and professional and collegiate basketball.

THEODORE ROOSEVELT MERITORIOUS AWARD



Dr. Myles Brand took the helm of the NCAA in 2002, during a time when it was criticized for not valuing academics and education. Dr. Brand has presided over passage of the most comprehensive academic reform package for intercollegiate athletics in recent history. Brand has also changed the national dialog on college sports to emphasize the educational value of athletics participation and the integration of intercollegiate athletics with the academic mission of higher education. His tenure has shown a marked improvement in student athletes' graduation rates, which is now greater than the general student body in every demographic category. Dr. Brand has continuously worked to keep his vow to improve the overall experience of the student-athlete. Brand was president from 1994 through 2002 of Indiana University, a nine-campus institution of higher education with nearly 100,000 students, 17,000 employees and a budget of \$3.4 billion. Brand oversaw the largest single privatization effort in the institution's history - the consolidation of the IU Medical Center Hospitals and Methodist Hospital to form Clarian Health Partners. He initiated an innovative marketing plan designed to more effectively tell the story of Indiana University's first-class programs and educational opportunities. He helped Indiana University become a national leader in information technology, and he led the largest and most successful endowment campaign in the university's history. Brand was also instrumental in initiating the Central Indiana Life Sciences project,

with IU in the leadership role. At IU, Brand was known as a dedicated advocate for the university, often working 6 1/2 days a week. He was seen by some as serious and outspoken—not a gladhander; and by others as aggressive and aloof—not open to discussion. Some faculty criticized his priorities, saying he let the administration grow too large and too many top professors leave. And they felt he allowed the quality of the institution to slip, as evidenced by lower academic qualifications for the freshman class. Others said he left behind a stronger university than when he arrived. Enrollment, research funds, private donations and faculty salaries all went up under his tenure.

JUAN ANTONIO SAMARANCH IOC DISABLED ATHLETE AWARD



Oscar Pistorius is the double amputee world record holder and Olympic gold medalist in the 100, 200, and 400 meter sprints. The native of South Africa runs with the aid of Cheetah Flex-Foot carbon fiber transtibial artificial limbs or rockers. Pistorius participated in all three events during the 2008 Summer Paralympics in Beijing. On 9 September, in the heats of the 100 meters, he set a Paralympic record of 11.16 seconds. Later, following a slow start, he rallied to snatch gold from the United States' Jerome Singleton, in a time of 11.17 seconds, 0.03 seconds ahead of the silver medalist. Four days later, on 13 September, the defending Paralympic champion in the 200-meter sprint won his second gold in the event in a time of 21.67, another Paralympic record. Pistorius completed the hat-trick on 16 September, winning the gold medal in the 400-meter event in a world-record time of 47.49 seconds.

2009 DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARDS

Leaders Saluted for Sport Contributions



Bill Odell resigned from coaching basketball at Azusa Pacific University to dedicate himself full-time to his role as director of athletics there. His sterling coaching career had spanned 39 years and 856 wins. He is collegiate men's basketball's winningest coach from the past 16 years, outpacing both Roy Williams and Mike Krzyzewski with 454 victories.

Shigeru Miyamoto is the electronic artist who designed Donkey Kong, Super Mario Bros., and other smash Nintendo video games of the 1980s and 1990s. Miyamoto was only 24 when he became a staff artist at Nintendo in 1977. He is regarded as one of the video game industry's great pioneers. Time magazine dubbed him "the Spielberg of video games" in 1996, and in 1998 he was the first inductee into the newly created Academy of Interactive Arts and Sciences Hall of Fame. Revitalized interest in Nintendo products, particularly the Wii Fit system, which he designed, has recently returned him to the spotlight.



Tony Hawk, famed professional skateboarder and X Games champion reigns over a vast empire of flourishing businesses. In 1990 Hawk founded his first company, Birdhouse Skateboards, which to this day remains a leader in the skateboard world. Birdhouse produces skateboards to suit all styles of skateboarding, reaching the broad-

est markets. Hawk also owns the first skateboard clothing company serving primarily the needs of children, and his shoe company, Hawk Shoes, is one of the main suppliers of children's and adults' skate shoes. The resident of San Diego County, California, founded the nonprofit Tony Hawk Foundation that provides low-income communities with well-designed skateboard parks. He and eleven other philanthropist-athletes in 2007 founded Athletes for Hope, a public charity connecting athletes and others with charitable and community causes.

Don Hooton lost his 16-year-old son to depression after the boy used anabolic steroids. Following the tragedy, Hooton established the Taylor Hooton Foundation and began working to raise awareness of high school students' growing willingness to use the dangerous substances. In 2004 Hooton addressed the Texas



Senate, speaking about his son's death. In the wake of Hooton's testimony, legislation was passed mandating steroid screening in Texas public schools.

Patty Jervey played for the USA Rugby Women's Eagles for 17 years, the longest career in national men's team or women's team history. She has 40 caps and holds the record 178 points scored as an Eagle. In 2006, when she was 42 years old, she played in an unprecedented fifth World Cup. That record is unlikely to be broken. Jervey remains an active player for the Atlanta Harlequins RFC. In addition, in 2008 USA Rugby South appointed her the head coach of the South Senior Women's All-Star Team. Jervey is one of the best rugby players ever to have played in the United States.



Professor Franco Ascani is a specialist in communication, sport marketing and organization of events. Mr. Ascani has been President of the Federation Internationale Cinema Television Sportifs (FICTS) since 1995. FICTS is recognized by the International Olympic Committee (IOC) for its promotion of sports in television and motion pictures. The author of

five books on sports management, Ascani is an internationally recognized authority on sports communication who has lectured at the master's and undergraduate level in sports law, sports management, sports marketing and the sociology of sport.

Dara Torres won three silver medals in swimming at the 2008 Summer Olympic Games in Beijing, adding to her career total of 12 medals and making her the oldest medalist in Olympic swimming history at age 41. The first American woman to compete in five Olympic Games has four gold, four silver and four bronze medals in her career, having swum in international competition since she was 14. At the University of Florida, she was a 28-time All-American.



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PERSISTENCE DRIVES RON LAIRD TOWARD ALUMNI OF THE YEAR AWARD



*2009 Alumnus of the Year,
Mr. Ron Laird*

Ron Laird, commissioner of the Wyoming High School Activities Association and president of the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFSHA), is the Academy's 2009 Alumnus of the Year.

Laird earned the Master of Sports Science degree from the Academy in 1988 and has devoted his adult life to serving high school athletics.

In 2000, Laird was inducted into the Wyoming Coaches Association Hall of Fame. The recognition was a fitting tribute to a career that had already prompted the presentation of a series of Coach of the Year and Athletic Director of the Year awards too numerous to list.

What truly distinguishes Laird, however, is his deep con-

cern for our nation's youth and his commitment to helping them become all they can become as athletes and as people.

Before graduating from Billings (Mont.) West High School, he participated in football, basketball, baseball and softball. He even received a football scholarship to Carroll College (Mont.) in Helena.

He received his bachelor's degree from Eastern Montana College, now known as Montana State University-Billings. Once he moved to Wyoming, Laird received his endorsement in educational administration from the University of Wyoming.

As a coach, teacher and administrator for the past 30 years, Laird is a sure fit as the NFHS president. After all, sports and education have been on his mind for quite some time.

"I knew that I wanted to be a teacher from the time I was 10 years old," he said. "The combination of having my father involved in education and the positive influence that my coaches had on me during my high school career instilled in me the desire to work with student-athletes."

• (1984) Dr. Anant Joshi

Dr. Joshi serves on the International Cricket Council's medical committee and is a sports medicine consultant and orthopedic surgeon in India. He is a Master of Sports Science graduate and concentrated in Sports Medicine.

• (1986) Dr. Pat Eng Yoon Tan

Dr. Tan recently received an honorary doctorate from Loughborough University in Leicestershire, UK. He was the first international student to captain the Loughborough College Athletic Club.

• (1988) Mr. David Brunk

Mr. Brunk earned the Master of Sports Science degree in Sports Management and he is currently in his second year as commissioner of the Peach Belt Conference.

• (1988) Mr. Mike Leach

Mr. Leach is a Master of Sports Science graduate in Sports Coaching. He is the head football coach at Texas Tech University and is President of the Academy's Alumni Association.

• (1989) Ms. Linda Moore

During the past 10 years, Ms. Moore has been a leader in ESPN's evolution from sports media outlet to sports management and production entity.

• (1990) Mr. Scott Schumacher

Mr. Schumacher is a Master of Sports Science graduate in Sports Management and has been named the new head men's basketball coach at North Dakota State College of Science, in Wahpeton, North Dakota.

• (1996) Ms. China Leigh Jude

Ms. Jude is the Athletic Director at Cheyney University of Pennsylvania. She earned the Master of Sports Science degree in Sports Management.

• (1996) Mr. Conor O'Shea

Mr. O'Shea serves as national director of the English Institute of Sport. The former Irish rugby star, earned the Master of Sports Science degree in Sports Management.

• (1998) Dr. Marco Cardinale

Dr. Cardinale is a Master of Sports Science graduate in Sports Coaching. As director of sports science for the British Olympic Association, he is helping British athletes prepare for the 2012 Olympics.

• (2002) Ms. Heather Young

A recipient of the Master of Sports Science degree in Sports Management, Ms. Young is employed as executive director of the Salem Community Center in Salem.

• (2002) Dr. BerNadette Lawson-Williams

An honors graduate of the Doctor of Sports Management program, Dr. Lawson-Williams owns Blossom Sports and Consulting and recently published the children's book *Blossom Bee's Golf*

• (2003) Ms. Rachell Cannon

Ms. Cannon is a Master of Sport Science graduate in Fitness Management. She is known as the "Queen of Quads" and has established a career as a health promotion specialist.

• (2004) Ms. Corry Matthews

Fitness expert Ms. Matthews received the Master of Sports Science degree in Sports Medicine. She is on the All-Star Fitness Advisory Board of Elements for women, an international fitness and lifestyle brand.

• (2005) Mr. Bryan Drotar

Mr. Drotar is a Master of Sports Science graduate in Sports Coaching and is the head women's soccer coach at the University of the Ozarks in Clarksville, Ark.

• (2006) Mr. Jason Anderson

Mr. Anderson, a Master of Sports Science graduate in Sports Coaching, recently became the head basketball coach at Lawrence University, in Appleton, Wis.

CONTINUING EDUCATION

Distance Learning

ACADEMY IS CEU SOURCE FOR SPORTS PROFESSIONALS

A growing number of sports organizations, associations and federations require coaches and administrators to pursue professional development, earning continuing education units, or CEUs. A CEU represents 10 hours of successful participation in a recognized course, clinic, or seminar providing qualified instruction and sponsorship. CEUs can be used to seek job promotions or salary increments, as well as to maintain professional certification.

The sports profession is experiencing an upsurge in demand for CEUs, certifications and similar opportunities, and the U.S. Sports Academy is rising to the occasion. Professional development opportunities include 74 individual courses, four certificate programs, 11 certifications, and a Sports Diploma program. Additionally, the Academy has a burgeoning CEU provider role, serving the many domestic and international organizations that offer professional development programs but do not award CEUs.

Because employers' confidence is greatest in those CEUs awarded by accredited academic institutions, affiliation with CEU providers has become something of a trend among organizations that conduct educational programs for their members. The Academy is a leader in this area, partnering with the following major sports organizations to bring CEU credit to the up-and-coming professionals they represent:

- National Federation of State High School Associations
- National Soccer Coaches Association of America
- National Wrestling Coaches Association
- Coach of the Year Football Clinics
- National Senior Games Association
- American Red Cross of Greater Indianapolis
- Dartfish
- American Council on Exercise
- United States Track and Field
- National Association of Collegiate Directors of Athletics

•National Strength and Conditioning Association

•Women's Sport Services

Over the four decades since its founding, the Academy has delivered certification programs in more than 60 countries to more than a quarter-million people. It has established sports-education protocols with over

NATIONAL FEDERATION OF STATE HIGH SCHOOL ASSOCIATIONS

The Academy was chosen by the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) to provide continuing education credit to professionals completing NFHS courses and seminars. The first NFHS course



Associate Dean of Continuing Education and Instructional Design Ms. Betsy Smith (in red jacket on left) joined administrators from the Sports Authority of Thailand during a visit to Spanish Fort (Ala.) High School. The Academy organized a study tour for the professionals that took them around the country to look at some of the top sports programs in the United States.

100 ministries of youth and sport, Olympic committees, international sports federations, national sports governing bodies and universities worldwide.

In the same way as CEUs, certification programs can help coaches, fitness leaders, personal trainers and sports program administrators, managers and directors achieve their career goals. Certification programs enable professionals to develop the strong foundation of skills and knowledge required to succeed in their respective fields.

Today, the Academy can deliver educational content either online or on-site (the latter is generally reserved for programs overseas). The faculty and professional staff of the Academy can design and develop specialized certification programs to meet the needs of any school, association or federation.

for which the Academy is the CEU provider is Fundamentals of Coaching, a course that must be taken by every high school coach who belongs to one of the 50 state associations that make up NFHS. Additionally, CEUs awarded by the Academy will be available to NFHS participants completing learning modules on student/parent communication, sportsmanship, and athletics-related legal responsibilities.

In September 2009, NFHS will unveil its own certification program for coaches, for which the United States Sports Academy will provide CEUs. The NFHS provides its 50 member state associations with a variety of program initiatives reaching some 18,500 high schools and 11 million students.

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INTERNATIONAL NEWS

International Programs of the Academy

The Academy is well known for its broad-based international programs. From the time

conduct a sports study tour for senior administrators affiliated with the Sport Authority of Thailand. Study tour participants travel the United States from coast to coast, visiting a variety of institutions and organizations involved in sports, from U.S. Olympic Training Centers to university and professional sports programs.



The Honorable Dató Ismail Sabri Yaakob (left), Malaysia's minister of youth and sports, met with U.S. Sports Academy President Dr. Thomas P. Rosandich in Putrajaya, Malaysia, to review education programs that will be implemented through Malaysia's Institute Sukan Negara (ISN), beginning in 2009.

of the Academy's founding 35 years ago, education programs conducted abroad have been key to the development of the institution. Having delivered sports education programs in more than 60 countries around the world, the Academy and its representatives play a significant role as good-will ambassadors for the United States.

BAHRAIN

The Academy's first international programs were mounted in the Kingdom of Bahrain in 1977. In the coming year, Academy faculty will once again deliver the International Certification in Sports Management program (ICSM) in the island kingdom. In addition, His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al-Khalifa has called upon the Academy to carry out a special study toward the development of a national school of sport. The study team will be led by Academy President Dr. Thomas P. Rosandich. There they will undertake field work necessary for planning the new institution, which will ultimately take charge of the kingdom's national sport effort.

THAILAND

The Academy's relationship with the Kingdom of Thailand has also spanned decades. In 2009 the institution's work in Thailand will include delivering the ICSM and ICSC (International Certification in Sports Coaching) programs in Bangkok. Additionally, in the fall, for a third consecutive year the Academy will organize and

MALAYSIA

A third country where the Academy has worked for decades is Malaysia. In Malaysia, the Academy's projects run the gamut from teaching one-time specialized seminars to the full-charge conduct of a state sports effort. The latter has entailed, among other things, writing master plans for the development of sports in Malaysia; consulting on sports facilities; and providing coaches

for short-term and long-term assignments. In Kuala Lumpur this year, the Academy will deliver both ICSM and ICSC programs. Academy staff are even more excited about their upcoming role in a study for Malaysia's Ministry of Sport, which will assist that agency in developing a national sports institute. The institute will be a key part of the country's national strategy for sports development. It is anticipated the study will be conducted in March or April.

CHINA

China has always held a special place in the collective conscience of the West. It is no surprise that the Beijing Olympic Games may have been the single most widely viewed sports event ever staged. The Academy's work now extends into China, the institution having signed a Protocol for Cooperation with China's equivalent of the NCAA, the Federation of University Sport of China (FUSC), for reciprocal sports programs. In 2008, the Academy hosted a contingent of presidents of Chinese universities for a sports study tour in the United States. A similar tour for coaches affiliated with FUSC is being planned for May 2009. In between, the Academy hosted a large delegation of sports administrators from the Shanghai Sports Bureau, and discussions are under way for a reciprocal visit by Academy faculty to Shanghai.

Meanwhile, the Academy is working with WorldTeam, one of the premier sports

management organizations in China, on a number of sports initiatives. For instance, WorldTeam is translating and distributing the Academy's publications, including The Sport Digest, to a wide range of the country's various sports constituencies. The Academy also works with WorldTeam to promote American professional sports leagues in China.

DUBAI

Like China, the fabled City of Dubai is a place of fascination for the West in light of its phenomenal growth and development. The Academy has taught its ICSM program for Dubai's Sport Leadership Institute, a department of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) General Authority for Youth and Sports, its central sports organization. The Academy has also provided the ICSM program through the Abu Dhabi Sport Council, also located in the UAE. Recently, the Academy sent faculty to the Emirates to train swimming instructors for the UAE Defense Force.



Dr. Thomas J. Rosandich, Vice President and Chief Academic Officer of the United States Sports Academy (left), signs a Protocol for Cooperation with the Federation of University Sports of China (FUSC). Signatory Yang Ligu, Secretary General of FUSC, joins Dr. Rosandich.

THE WORLD

The Academy's ICSM, ICSC, and International Sport Diploma programs are being delivered in Singapore and in cooperation with the International Sports Academy-Singapore.

With discussion currently under way in places as diverse as Egypt, Jordan, and India, the Academy looks for an expansion of its international programs in the year to come.

It is important to note that the Academy's international programs are not solely delivered abroad.

MASTER'S DEGREE IN SPORTS FITNESS AND HEALTH

Fitness Management ■ Personal Training ■ Fitness/Medicine Dual Major

ACADEMY'S AWARDS OF SPORT

Team Awards

'TEXAS TECH-Texas IS GAME OF THE YEAR

A field goal would've been just as good. And it would've been a lot less stressful on about 56,000 frenzied people packed into Jones Stadium at Texas Tech University on 1 November 2008.

But with the clock running out, sensational wide receiver



Michael Crabtree

Michael Crabtree plucked Red Raider quarterback Graham Harrell's dangerous pass out of the air near the sideline at the Texas 6-yard line, broke free from the hold of Longhorns cornerback Curtis Brown and pranced into the end zone for a game-winning 28-yard touchdown with just one second left.

If Brown had tackled the Red Raiders All-American in bounds, the game would've been another Texas victory. Instead, Crabtree wrote his own ending.

For their effort on a crisp Saturday night in the Texas panhandle, the Red Raiders' wildly entertaining 39-33 come-from-behind victory over the then No. 1 Longhorns—their first win

over Texas in six years—is the United States Sports Academy's 2008 Game of the Year.

Not since 2002, when Tech beat Texas 42-38, had the Red Raiders had a chance to celebrate a victory over the Horns. This one couldn't have come at a more important time in their history.

The win propelled the No. 7 team to the No. 2 ranking in the country, the highest ranking the program had ever been given. It set them up nicely to challenge for a spot in the BCS title game, until a 65-21 loss to Oklahoma ended their title hopes.

Still, that November night in Lubbock will forever reign in Texas Tech lore, writing USSA Alumni President Mike Leach's name indelibly as the coach who made it all come true.

The high drama and fairy-tale ending of this Game of the Year made it a relatively easy pick for the Academy's selection committee.

The selection committee Chairman is Mr. Jack Lengyel, former Athletic Director at the Naval Academy and the first football coach hired at Marshall University following the tragic plane crash that inspired the book *We Are Marshall*.

Texas Tech will be immortalized in a painting of Crabtree's catch by renowned artist and former Academy Sport Artist of the Year Daniel Moore, of Alabama.

The institution will receive a \$5,000 donation to the university's scholarship fund.

WOMEN'S TEAM OF THE YEAR: U.S. SOCCER



The United States Olympic women's soccer team has been named Women's Team of the Year by the United States Sports Academy after winning the U.S.'s third gold medal in this sport in four Olympiads.

The team maintained its elite position in the sport by winning the gold medal in the 2008 Summer Olympic Games, despite the retirement of many key players and a coaching controversy a year earlier. The team is the first to win back-to-back Olympic gold medals in women's soccer after winning at Athens in 2004.

MEN'S TEAM OF THE YEAR: U.S. BASKETBALL



Twice in Olympic history the United States has won a bronze medal in men's basketball, and in both cases USA Basketball has had to take a step up in order to retain dominance. This time, stepping up earned the U.S. not only its 13th gold medal in basketball, but also the United States Sports Academy's Men's Team of the Year Award.

After their victory, President Bush met with the *Redeem Team* and said they were the "most outstanding and polite group of athletes" he's ever seen represent the USA. The loss to the Soviets in the finals in 1972 was of no concern because of the controversial officiating. But when the U.S. got its first bronze medal in the sport after losing again to the Soviets, in the semifinals of the 1988 Olympics in Seoul, South Korea, a move was made to include NBA players in Olympic competition.

United States Sports Academy

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Mission

The Academy is an independent, non-profit, accredited, special mission sports university created to serve the nation and the world with programs in instruction, research and service. The role of the Academy is to prepare men and women for careers in the profession of sports.

Accreditation

The United States Sports Academy is accredited by the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools to award baccalaureate, master's and doctoral degrees. Contact the Commission on Colleges at 1866 Southern Lane, Decatur, Georgia 30033-4097 or call 404-679-4500 for questions about the accreditation of the United States Sports Academy.

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Continuing Education

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The Academy accepts students, regardless of race, religion, gender, age, disability or national origin.



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