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OREGON SCHOOL ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATION (OSAA)
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INAUGURAL QWEST SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM WINNERS ANNOUNCED BY OSAA

Wilsonville, Ore. --- The Oregon School Activities Association (OSAA) today announced the inaugural recipients of the Qwest Scholarship Program. Robyn Neimann from Mountain View High School in Bend and Wyatt Briggs of Scio High School are the winners for Fall 2008.

"We are proud to join Qwest in recognizing the outstanding accomplishments of Robyn, Wyatt, and all of the applicants," said OSAA Executive Director Tom Welter. "The ideals of this scholarship program mirror our Association's belief that high school activities should be about community and not just competition."

"Qwest is very pleased to reward these student-athletes for their accomplishments both on and off the field," said Judy Pepler, Qwest President for Oregon. "We appreciate the opportunity to partner with OSAA and hope these scholarships help these outstanding young people continue to pursue both their athletic and academic development."

Neimann captained the girls soccer team at Mountain View to second place at the 5A classification, the school's highest finish ever. She has been involved in the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life event in support of a teammate diagnosed with leukemia. In addition, Neimann and her family help organize a Thanksgiving Baskets program through their local church. This program provided a Thanksgiving dinner for nearly 150 families in need this past November. At school this standout senior is a member of the LINK crew that mentors incoming freshmen. In addition, she helps plan school activities, like homecoming and graduation, through her elected role as a senior class commissioner. Neimann is also a member of the school's track team and its concert choir.

Briggs served as a captain for the Scio football that reached the 2A semifinals this past season. As senior class president, he has helped organize numerous school events, including a "Ponder Before You Pass" teen driver safety grant for the school. Briggs also aided in the construction of a new greenhouse at the high school. He committed many hours to earning his FFA State Degree and has been involved in set-up, repair, and maintenance at the Scio Lamb & Wool Fair. Briggs also has served as an Outdoor School counselor for area sixth-graders. He is a member of the Scio basketball and track & field teams and is the 2008 2A discus state champion.

The Qwest Scholarship Program, administered by the OSAA, recognizes six high school student-athletes each school year who make a difference in their communities through leadership skills and a commitment to community service. This program promotes and inspires student-athletes to better the communities in which they live using leadership skills and abilities. The scholarships are awarded based on the student-athlete's level of commitment to community service and a demonstrated ability to lead their peers. Each season (Fall, Winter, Spring) two student-athletes will be chosen to receive a \$1,000 college scholarship from Qwest and the OSAA. The winners are selected by representatives from Qwest and the OSAA.

Student-athletes recognized as a Qwest Player of the Game/Qwest Athlete of the Meet during the 2008-09 school year are eligible to apply for the Qwest Scholarship Program. These student-athletes must have a cumulative GPA of 2.50 or higher and have completed at least 10 hours of community service in the past calendar year to be eligible.

Support for the scholarship program is part of Qwest's mission to support community-based programs that generate high-impact and measurable results, focusing on pre-K through grade 12 education.

The Oregon School Activities Association is a private non-profit, board governed association comprised of 295 member high schools. The OSAA, sanctioned by the Oregon State Board of Education and a member of the National Federation of State High School Associations, annually sponsors 118 state championships in 19 sports and activities. For more information about the OSAA and its member schools, visit www.osaa.org.