

QWEST SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM WINNERS ANNOUNCED BY OSAA

Wilsonville, Ore. --- The Oregon School Activities Association (OSAA) today announced the recipients of the Qwest Scholarship Program. Jenna Harrington from Henley High School and Nathaniel Mays of Westside Christian are the winners for Spring 2009.

"We are proud to partner with Qwest to recognize these student-athletes in their efforts to better the communities in which they live," said OSAA Executive Director Tom Welter. "These recipients encapsulate everything this award focuses on - being outstanding students, role models and leaders in their community."

"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."

Harrington helped the Hornets to second place finishes in the 4A Softball State Championship the past two years. Her dedication on the field is also seen in her community and school. In the community, Jenna volunteers her time at the YMCA where she helps coach and referee youth activities. She also devotes time to local nursing homes where she enjoys spending time with the residents. At Henley High School she seized the opportunity to be the teacher's aide in the STEPS classroom, which is a class that assists special needs students. Throughout all of her time spent on athletics and in the community, Jenna graduated with a cumulative 3.5 GPA and will be attending Shasta College in Redding, California.

Nathaniel Mays helped the Westside Christian Eagles to a second place finish in the 3A Baseball State Championships last season. Mays shows leadership and maturity on the field and in the community. His love for the game of baseball is transferred from the field to his volunteer efforts. Nate has collected hundreds of gloves, helmets, shoes and bats for an organization called GRIP International which reaches out to disadvantaged youth in Mexico through the game of baseball. Along with GRIP, Nate volunteers time to the Portland Rescue Mission in east Portland.

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.