

REACH Youth Scholarship nomination forms available online from San Jose Sports Authority

For Immediate Release

Contact: Jody Meacham, 408 / 288-2934, jody@sjsa.org

SAN JOSE (March 2, 2005) – Nomination forms for the San Jose Sports Authority's 2005 REACH Youth Scholarship Program, sponsored by Bridge Bank, which has provided college funds to 44 high school students over the past eight years, are now available for downloading from the Sports Authority's web site at www.sjsa.org.

Last year 47 Santa Clara County high school seniors were nominated, and five who had overcome adversity through participation in sports were awarded scholarships through the REACH program, an acronym for **R**ecognizing **E**xcellence, **A**dversity, **C**ourage and **H**ard Work. Scholarships are awarded based on an essay competition in which nominees explain how sports helped them overcome adversity.

The nominees and scholarship winners for 2005 will be honored at the REACH Awards Breakfast, chaired by former San Francisco 49er Ronnie Lott, on Thursday, May 12.

Only Santa Clara County high schools may nominate students for the award, with a maximum of five nominees per school. Nominees must then complete an essay and student information form.

Nominees must:

- Be high school seniors,
- Maintain a 2.5 GPA,
- Participate in at least one sanctioned high school athletic activity,
- Demonstrate community involvement,
- Show the ability to overcome adversity or obstacles to reach his or her goals.

Each nominee is required to write an essay of one to three pages based on his or her experiences. The essay should focus on the obstacles they have overcome and how sports have helped them achieve their goals. Essays will be judged on content.

Nominations must be received by mail or fax at the San Jose Sports Authority by Friday, March 11.

The REACH Youth Scholarship Program is one of the ways the San Jose Sports Authority supports youth and amateur sports in our community. Visit our website at www.sjsa.org.