

REACH Youth Scholarship Awards Breakfast will honor 32 high school seniors

For Immediate Release

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

SAN JOSE (April 14, 2005) – Thirty-two high school seniors from 17 Santa Clara County schools will be honored Thursday, May 12 at the REACH Youth Scholarship Awards Breakfast at the San Jose Marriott.

Chaired by NFL Hall of Famer Ronnie Lott, the scholarship program honors students nominated by athletic directors, counselors and principals who have overcome adversity to excel in academics and athletics. Alexi Lalas, president and general manager of the San Jose Earthquakes, will attend the event.

Five of the nominees will receive scholarships at the breakfast based on an essay competition in which each student explains how sports helped them overcome adversity. A panel of judges from the City of San José, San Jose Mercury News, Central Coast Section, Bridge Bank, Southwest Airlines, Cal-Hi Sports Bay Area, San Jose Sharks and Bank of America chose the essay winners.

A total of \$9,000 in scholarships will be awarded thanks to Bridge Bank, the presenting sponsor, and sponsors HP, San Jose Marriott and Southwest Airlines. The first-place winner will receive a \$2,500 scholarship, \$2,000 for second place, \$1,750 for third, \$1,500 for fourth and \$1,250 for fifth. In addition to the five scholarship awards, a drawing will be held at the REACH Awards Breakfast, courtesy of Southwest Airlines, for two roundtrip tickets. All nominees will receive a gift.

This is the ninth year of REACH, which stands for **R**ecognizing **E**xcellence, **A**dversity, **C**ourage and **H**ard work, one of the ways the San Jose Sports Authority supports youth and amateur sports in our community. Visit our website at www.sjsa.org.