

31 Santa Clara County high school seniors in contention for REACH Youth Scholarships

For Immediate Release

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SAN JOSE (May 3, 2005) – CSix Santa Clara County high school seniors will be announced as winners of the San Jose Sports Authority's 2005 REACH Youth Scholarships at an awards breakfast Thursday, May 12 at the San Jose Marriott.

The breakfast honors 31 students nominated by their schools for the REACH program, which stands for Recognizing Excellence, Adversity, Courage and Hard Work. The scholarship winners will be determined by an essay competition, in which the nominees explained how their participation in high school sports helped them overcome adversity to excel in sports and academics. The difficulties faced by these young people included poverty, abuse, social and language problems faced by immigrants, physical disabilities and disease.

A total of \$10,000 in scholarships will be awarded at the breakfast, chaired by former San Francisco 49er Ronnie Lott, and one nominee will also win two tickets on any published Southwest Airlines operated, scheduled service.

This is the ninth year for the REACH Youth Scholarship Program, sponsored by Bridge Bank, and it brings to 50 the number of scholarship winners. Supporting sponsors of the event include the San Jose Marriott, Hewlett-Packard, Cal-Hi Sports Bay Area and Southwest Airlines.

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.

REACH Youth Scholarship Nominees

Hassan Abdullahi and **Hussein Abdullahi**, twin brothers and Live Oak soccer players.

Jackie Cimino, a tennis player at Presentation.

Brijitti Crum, a basketball and volleyball player at Eastside College Prep.

Robert Deauville, a manager for football, basketball and baseball at Branham High.

Katie Dee, a softball player at Santa Teresa.

Michelle Di Fiore, a multisport athlete at Gilroy.

Desalegn Ejigu, a track and cross-country athlete at Santa Clara High.

Mikaela Gillette, a softball player at Presentation.

Nancy Gonzalez, a multisport athlete at W.C. Overfelt.

Noelle Guiriba, a multisport athlete at Independence.

Ally Ha, a multisport athlete at Andrew P. Hill.

Bradley Kompelien, a Willow Glen golfer.

Jenessa Lee Locklin, a tennis player at Santa Clara High.

Jeffrey Lyu, a baseball and football player at Saratoga.

Bryan Mai, a Gunderson football player.

Jose Martinez, a soccer player at Eastside College Prep.

Jennifer Navala, a Santa Teresa swimmer and water polo player.

Julie Nguyen, a volleyball player at Andrew P. Hill.

Candace Nisby, a shot-putter and cheerleader at Santa Clara High.

Melissa Norman, who plays volleyball and basketball at Santa Teresa.

Katie Peek, a three-sport athlete at Santa Clara High.

Esmeralda Rangel, who participated in softball and wrestling at William C. Overfelt.

Edson Sanchez, a soccer player for San Jose High Academy.

Monica Sandoval, a three-sport athlete at William C. Overfelt.

Kristen Scheff, a field hockey and soccer player at Westmont.

Haruki Shimoda, a Fremont High cross-country runner.

Ashley Spelman, a soccer and softball player at Fremont High.

Mallory Stein, a field hockey player at Willow Glen.

Cesar Misael Tirado, a three-sport athlete at Eastside College Prep.

Jennifer Tran, a Palo Alto cheerleader.