



**AAU JAMES E.**  
**SULLIVAN**  
**AWARD**

PRESENTED BY *Eastbay*

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The AAU James E. Sullivan Award has been presented annually since 1930 to the most outstanding amateur athlete in the U.S. and aims to recognize athletes who demonstrate qualities of **LEADERSHIP, CITIZENSHIP, CHARACTER** and **SPORTSMANSHIP** on and off the field.

# 89 5

Consecutive years the AAU James E. Sullivan Award has been presented to the best amateur athletes in America, making the award older than the prestigious Heisman Trophy.

Consecutive years the award ceremony has taken place at the New York Athletic Club, the very same building where the AAU was established under Sullivan in 1888.

## WINNERS BY SPORT



# 34

Track and field athletes have won the award -- the most by any sport



# 6

Basketball players have taken home the award, including Breanna Stewart and J.J. Reddick



# 10

Swimmers have won the award, including Mark Spitz (1971) and Michael Phelps (2003)



# 4

Figure skaters have won the award, including Evan Lysacek in 2010



# 8

Football players have won the award, including Peyton Manning

The award has also gone to 4 wrestlers, 3 gymnasts, 3 speedskaters, 3 divers, 2 oarsmen, 2 golfers, 1 paralympian, 1 ultra-marathoner, 1 baseball player, 1 tennis player and 1 volleyball player.

## NOTABLE RECIPIENTS

|      |                 |      |                 |
|------|-----------------|------|-----------------|
| 1930 | Bobby Jones     | 1997 | Peyton Manning  |
| 1971 | Mark Spitz      | 2001 | Michelle Kwan   |
| 1973 | Bill Walton     | 2003 | Michael Phelps  |
| 1976 | Bruce Jenner    | 2004 | Paul Hamm       |
| 1981 | Carl Lewis      | 2005 | J.J. Redick     |
| 1984 | Greg Louganis   | 2007 | Tim Tebow       |
| 1987 | Jim Abbott      | 2009 | Shawn Johnson   |
| 1993 | Charlie Ward    | 2012 | Missy Franklin  |
| 1996 | Michael Johnson | 2014 | Ezekiel Elliott |

## LAST YEAR'S WINNER

Two-time AAU Sullivan Award finalist, Kyle Snyder, took home the 89th award last year. Snyder was an NCAA Champion, Big Ten Champion and All-American in 2017. He earned U.S. Male Olympic Athlete of the Year and Ohio State Male Athlete of the Year honors. Snyder is the Ivan Yarygin gold medalist (97kg) and his 2017 World Championship match was dubbed "Match of the Century," as his win gave USA Wrestling its first team title in 22 years.



**KYLE SNYDER**

## ABOUT THE AWARD

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**Mikaela Foecke**  
Nebraska  
Volleyball



**Rachel Garcia**  
UCLA  
Softball



**Townley Haas**  
Texas  
Swimming



**Aleia Hobbs**  
LSU  
Track & Field



**Morgan Hurd**  
USA Gymnastics  
Gymnastics



**Luke Maye**  
UNC  
Basketball



**McKenzie Milton**  
UCF  
Football



**Kathryn Plummer**  
Stanford  
Volleyball

# Carl Lewis - Host



## 1981 AAU Sullivan Award Winner

During his career Carl Lewis won nine Olympic gold medals, one silver medal, attended four Olympic Games, and was named Olympian of the Century. Currently, he is a coach at the University of Houston for their athletics program.

# Award Voting Rules



## **Semi- Finalist Voting: March 11th-15th**

Public Voting only to determine the finalist

## **Finalist Round: March 18th-22nd**

Three categories make up the finalist vote.

### **3 Categories:**

- Public
- Media and Past Finalist votes
- Sullivan Committee / AAU Board of Directors

Athletes are ranked based on their performance in each category. All three categories are tallied at the end of voting to determine the winner.

Accredited media outlets can email [shannon@aausports.org](mailto:shannon@aausports.org) for voting link

# Event Schedule



## Tentative Schedule

### April 14th-15th

Athletes Arrive

### April 15th

9:30 AM.....Welcome Meeting

3 - 5 PM.....Eastbay Media Panel Discussion\*

7 PM.....VIP Dinner

### April 16th

8:30 AM.....Breakfast

3:30 PM..... Walk Through

4:30 PM-5:30 PM.....Finalist Session

5:45 PM-6:45 PM Autograph Session\*

7 PM Ceremony\*

9 PM Cocktail Reception\*



\* Open to Media

## Media Contacts:

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## Event Manager:

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Media will be allowed at some of the organized events. Athletes are available for one-on-one coverage based on availability. We ask that you work directly with the AAU to set up those opportunities. (2) passes will be available for any media event.

## Media Request:

[bit.ly/sullivanmediarequest](http://bit.ly/sullivanmediarequest)

## Ticket Info:

[www.AAUSullivan.org/RSVP](http://www.AAUSullivan.org/RSVP)

## Live Stream:

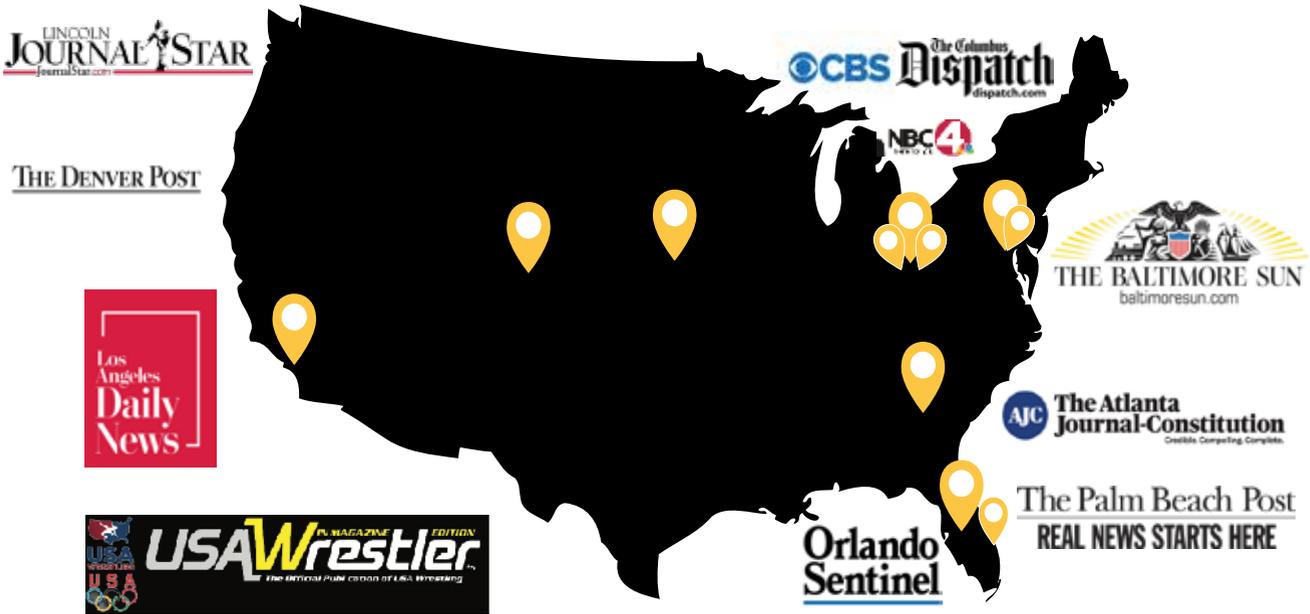
[www.AAUSullivan.org](http://www.AAUSullivan.org)  
[www.https://www.facebook.com/realaau/](https://www.facebook.com/realaau/)

# 2018 Highlights



**81** MILLION CONSUMER REACH IN 2018

**20** MILLION CONSUMER REACH IN 2017



7 NATIONAL STORIES SECURED

16 TELEVISION SEGMENTS



DAILY NEWS



# Past Winners



|      |   |      |  |
|------|---|------|--|
| 1930 | <b>Bobby Jones</b> ....Golf                         | 1974 | <b>Rick Wohlhuter</b> .... Middle Distance Runner                      |
| 1931 | <b>Bernard Berlinger</b> ....Decathlon              | 1975 | <b>Tim Shaw</b> .... Swimming  |
| 1932 | <b>James Bausch</b> ....Decathlon                   | 1976 | <b>Bruce Jenner</b> .... Decathlon                                     |
| 1933 | <b>Glen Cunningham</b> ....Middle Distance Runner   | 1977 | <b>John Naber</b> .... Swimming  |
| 1934 | <b>William Bonthron</b> ....Middle Distance Runner  | 1978 | <b>Tracy Caulkins</b> .... Swimming                                    |
| 1935 | <b>W. Lawson Little, Jr.</b> ....Golf               | 1979 | <b>Kurt Thomas</b> .... Gymnastics                                     |
| 1936 | <b>Glenn Morris</b> ....Decathlon                   | 1980 | <b>Eric Heiden</b> .... Speed Skating                                  |
| 1937 | <b>Don Budge</b> ....Tennis                         | 1981 | <b>Carl Lewis</b> .... Sprinter, Long Jump                             |
| 1938 | <b>Don Lash</b> .... Long Distance Runner           | 1982 | <b>Mary Decker</b> .... Middle and Long Distance Runner                |
| 1939 | <b>Joe Burk</b> ....Rowing                          | 1983 | <b>Edwin Moses</b> .... Sprinter                                       |
| 1940 | <b>J. Gregory Rice</b> .... Track and Field         | 1984 | <b>Greg Louganis</b> .... Diving                                       |
| 1941 | <b>T. Leslie MacMitchell</b> ....Track and Field    | 1985 | <b>Joan Benoit</b> .... Long Distance Running                          |
| 1942 | <b>Cornelius Warmerdam</b> .... Pole Vault          | 1986 | <b>Jackie Joyner-Kersey</b> .... Sprinter                              |
| 1943 | <b>Gilbert R. Dodds</b> .... Middle Distance Runner | 1987 | <b>Jim Abbott</b> .... Baseball  |
| 1944 | <b>Ann Curtis</b> .... Swimming                     | 1988 | <b>Florence Griffith-Joyner</b> .... Sprinter                          |
| 1945 | <b>Doc Blanchard</b> .... Football                  | 1989 | <b>Janet Evans</b> .... Swimming                                       |
| 1946 | <b>Arnold Tucker</b> .... Football                  | 1990 | <b>John Smith</b> .... Wrestling                                       |
| 1947 | <b>John B. Kelly, Jr.</b> .... Rowing               | 1991 | <b>Mike Powell</b> .... Long Jump                                      |
| 1948 | <b>Bob Mathias</b> .... Decathlon                   | 1992 | <b>Bonnie Blair</b> .... Speed Skating                                 |
| 1949 | <b>Dick Button</b> .... Figure Skating              | 1993 | <b>Charlie Ward</b> .... Basketball, Football                          |
| 1950 | <b>Fred Wilt</b> .... Long Distance Runner          | 1994 | <b>Dan Jansen</b> .... Speed Skating                                   |
| 1951 | <b>Bob Richards</b> .... Pole Vault, Decathlon      | 1995 | <b>Bruce Baumgartner</b> .... Wrestling                                |
| 1952 | <b>Horace Ashenfelter</b> .... Long Distance Runner | 1996 | <b>Michael Johnson</b> .... Sprinter                                   |
| 1953 | <b>Sammy Lee</b> .... Diving                        | 1997 | <b>Peyton Manning</b> ....Football                                     |
| 1954 | <b>Mal Whitfirreld</b> .... Middle Distance Runner  | 1998 | <b>Chamique Holdsclaw</b> .... Basketball                              |
| 1955 | <b>Harrison Dillard</b> .... Sprinter               | 1999 | <b>Coco Miller &amp; Kelly Miller</b> .... Basketball                  |
| 1956 | <b>Pat McCormick</b> .... Diving                    | 2000 | <b>Rulon Gardner</b> .... Wrestling                                    |
| 1957 | <b>Bobby Morrow</b> .... Sprinter                   | 2001 | <b>Michelle Kwan</b> .... Figure Skating                               |
| 1958 | <b>Glenn "Jeep" Davis</b> .... Sprinter             | 2002 | <b>Sarah Hughes</b> .... Figure Skating                                |
| 1959 | <b>Parry O'Brien</b> .... Shot Put, Discus          | 2003 | <b>Michael Phelps</b> .... Swimming                                    |
| 1960 | <b>Rafer Johnson</b> ....Decathlon                  | 2004 | <b>Paul Hamm</b> .... Gymnastics                                       |
| 1961 | <b>Wilma Rudolph</b> ....Sprinter                   | 2005 | <b>J.J. Redick</b> .... Basketball                                     |
| 1962 | <b>Jim Beatty</b> .... Track and Field              | 2006 | <b>Jessica Long</b> .... Swimming                                      |
| 1963 | <b>John Pennel</b> .... Pole Vault                  | 2007 | <b>Tim Tebow</b> .... Football   |
| 1964 | <b>Don Schollander</b> .... Swimming                | 2008 | <b>Shawn Johnson</b> ....Gymnastics                                    |
| 1965 | <b>Bill Bradley</b> .... Basketball                 | 2009 | <b>Amy Palmiero-Winters</b> .... Marathon Runner                       |
| 1966 | <b>Jim Ryun</b> .... Middle Distance Runner         | 2010 | <b>Evan Lysacek</b> .... Figure Skating                                |
| 1967 | <b>Randy Matson</b> .... Shot Put, Discus           | 2011 | <b>Andrew Rodriguez</b> .... Football                                  |
| 1968 | <b>Debbie Meyer</b> .... Swimming                   | 2012 | <b>Missy Franklin</b> .... Swimming                                    |
| 1969 | <b>Bill Toomey</b> .... Decathlon                   | 2013 | <b>John Urschel</b> .... Football                                      |
| 1970 | <b>John Kinsella</b> .... Swimming                  | 2014 | <b>Ezekiel Elliott</b> ....Football                                    |
| 1971 | <b>Mark Spitz</b> .... Swimming                     | 2015 | <b>Keenan Reynolds &amp; Breanna Stewart</b> ....Football / Basketball |
| 1972 | <b>Frank Shorter</b> .... Long Distance Runner      | 2016 | <b>Lauren Carlini</b> .... Volleyball                                  |
| 1973 | <b>Bill Walton</b> .... Basketball                  | 2017 | <b>Kyle Snyder</b> .... Wrestling                                      |

# AAU Gussie Crawford Lifetime Achievement Award



The AAU Gussie Crawford Lifetime Achievement Award is presented annually during the AAU James E. Sullivan Award ceremony. The award was established to honor Gussie Crawford, the first female president of AAU and trailblazer in amateur sports. The award is intended to recognize those athletes whose efforts, both nationally and or internationally, have paved the way for great change in amateur sports.



## Inaugural Recipient 2017:

Jesse Owens, track and field legend, won for his lasting impact on amateur sports. The award was accepted on his behalf by his granddaughter.



## 2018 Recipient:

Jim Thorpe, a legendary multi-sport athlete won last year. The award was accepted at the awards by his great-grandson and great-great grandson. His son Bill Thorpe also accepted the award via video.



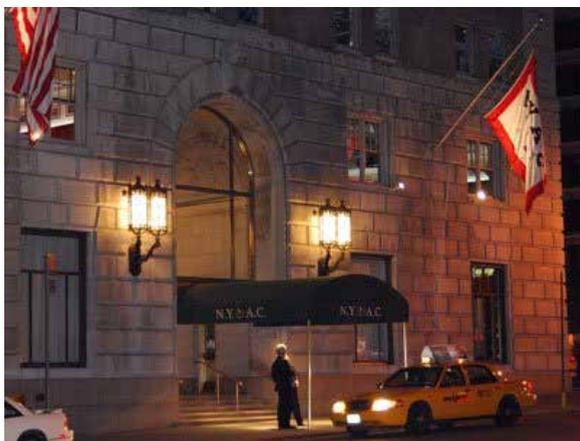
## 2019 Recipient:

Babe Didrikson Zaharias, American athlete who excelled in golf, basketball, baseball, and track and field. She was the winner of two gold medals in track and field at the 1932 Summer Olympics, before turning to professional golf and winning 10 LPGA major championships.

# New York Athletic Club



The New York Athletic Club was found in 1868 and boasts a unique history. The Club's founding premise was to bring structure to a sporting environment that was lacking in organization and uniformity of measurement. Quickly, the New York Athletic Club organized the first US Championships in boxing, swimming, wrestling, and track & field. Today, the New York City clubhouse stands in tribute to an unmatched athletic history and its on going commitment to the pursuit of sporting excellence, whole also providing unmatched social oppurtunities for its members.



180 Central Park South  
New York, NY 10019  
(212) 767-7000

## Dress Code

[www.nyac.org/dress-code](http://www.nyac.org/dress-code)

**\* All guest and media must follow the club dress code**

# History of the AAU



The Amateur Athletic Union (AAU) has been raising champions for more than a century. Since its inception in 1888, the AAU has set the standard for amateur sports in the United States with one goal in mind: “Sports For All, Forever.” It is more than a motto – it has been the focus and drive of AAU for 130 years and counting for sports in the United States and throughout the world.

One of the largest, non-profit, volunteer, multi-sport event organizations in the world, the AAU is dedicated exclusively to the promotion and development of amateur sports and physical fitness programs. The AAU philosophy of “Sports For All, Forever” is now shared by nearly 700,000 members and 150,000 volunteers across 41 sports programs and 55 U.S. districts.

The AAU was founded in 1888 to establish standards and uniformity in amateur sport. During its early years the AAU served as a leader in international sport representing the U.S. in the international sports federations. The AAU worked closely with the Olympic movement to prepare athletes for the Olympic games. In the late 1970's, the AAU reshifted its focus and efforts to providing sports programs for all participants of all ages beginning at the grass roots level.

In 1996, the AAU joined forces with Walt Disney World. Later that year, the AAU relocated its national headquarters to Orlando, Florida becoming one of two anchor tenants at what is now ESPN Wide World of Sports® Complex (the Atlanta Braves being the other). More than 60 AAU national events are conducted annually at the ESPN Wide World of Sports® Complex - featuring a new 300,000 square foot arena, 9,500 seat baseball stadium, baseball quadraplex, two indoor fieldhouses that accommodate hardwood courts, a softball diamondplex, youth baseball fields, a track and field complex and multi-purpose performance fields.

Programs offered by the AAU include: AAU Sports Programs (41 sports), the AAU Junior Olympic Games, the largest multi-sport event in the country, the AAU Junior Volleyball National Championships (the largest volleyball event in the world with more than 2,700 boys' and girls' teams participating), AAU James E. Sullivan Award, given out to America's top amateur athlete since 1930, and the AAU Gussie Crawford Lifetime Achievement Award, established in 2017 to recognize those athletes who have paved the way for great change in amateur sports. The AAU Cares program was created in 2016 as a way for the AAU to give back to the communities in which it hosts events. Our organization strives to provide not only athletic opportunities but also lessons in learning, life and social responsibility in the community. Along with AAU Cares, AAU Proud programs strive to provide athletic activities & sport skills to children aged seven & under in a non-competitive environment that promotes self-confidence while staying active.

The AAU is also a member of the International School Sport Federation (ISF), recognised by the International Olympic Committee, to promote the values and interests of education through sport.

