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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.

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

4
Figure skaters have won the award, including Evan Lysacek in 2010

10
Swimmers have won the award, including Mark Spitz (1971) and Michael Phelps (2003)

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

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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.

2019 AAU SULLIVAN AWARD PRESS KIT
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.
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 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

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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

Ticket Info: www.AAUSullivan.org/RSVP

Live Stream: www.AAUSullivan.org
2018 Highlights

- Million consumer reach in 2018: 81
- Million consumer reach in 2017: 20
- 7 national stories secured
- 16 television segments
Past Winners

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

**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.

**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.
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 ongoing commitment to the pursuit of sporting excellence, whole also providing unmatched social opportunities for its members.

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

Dress Code
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.