AAU Sullivan Award – Background

From Wikipedia: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/James_E._Sullivan_Award

The **inaugural winner of the award was golfer Bobby Jones**, winner of 13 majors between 1923 and 1930. The first female recipient, in 1944, was swimmer Ann Curtis, who won more national AAU championships than any other woman, while the most recent winner is Ohio State football player Ezekiel Elliott. The award has been presented to multiple recipients on only one occasion – in 1999, to twin sisters Coco and Kelly Miller.

The AAU Sullivan Award has been given out since 1930 to the nation's best amateur athlete. Only one finalist will join the illustrious list of previous winners which include: Bobby Jones (1930), Doc Blanchard (1945), Wilma Rudolph (1961), Bill Bradley (1965), Mark Spitz (1970), Bill Walton (1973), Bruce Jenner (1976), Carl Lewis (1981), Joan Benoit (1985), Janet Evans (1989), Peyton Manning (1997), Michael Phelps (2003), Tim Tebow (2007), Shawn Johnson (2008), Missy Franklin (2012) and dozens of others.

Year	Winner	Sport(s)	Reference
1930	Bobby Jones	Golf	[15]
1931	Bernard Berlinger	Decathlon	[16]
1932	James Bausch	Decathlon	[17]
1933	Glenn Cunningham	Running (middle distance)	[18]
1934	William Bonthron	Running (middle distance)	[19]
1935	W. Lawson Little, Jr.	Golf	[20]
1936	Glenn Morris	Decathlon	[21]
1937	Don Budge	Tennis	[22]
1938	Don Lash	Running (long distance)	[23]
1939	Joe Burk	Rowing	[24]
1940	J. Gregory Rice	Track and field	[25]
1941	T. Leslie MacMitchell	Track and field	[26]
1942	Cornelius Warmerdam	Pole vault	[27]
1943	Gilbert R. Dodds	Running (middle distance)	[28]
1944	Ann Curtis	Swimming	[29]
1945	Doc Blanchard	Football	[30]
1946	Arnold Tucker	Football	[30]
1947	John B. Kelly, Jr.	Rowing	[31]
1948	Bob Mathias	Decathlon	[32]

Year	Winner	Sport(s)	Reference
1949	Dick Button	Figure skating	[33][34]
1950	Fred Wilt	Running (long distance)	[35]
1951	Bob Richards	Pole vault, decathlon	[36]
1952	Horace Ashenfelter	Running (long distance)	[37]
1953	Sammy Lee	Diving	[38]
1954	Mal Whitfield	Running (middle distance)	[39]
1955	Harrison Dillard	Running (sprint)	[40]
1956	Pat McCormick	Diving	[7]
1957	Bobby Morrow	Running (sprint)	[41]
1958	Glenn "Jeep" Davis	Running (sprint)	[42]
1959	Parry O'Brien	Shot put, discus	[43]
1960	Rafer Johnson	Decathlon	[44]
1961	Wilma Rudolph	Running (sprint)	[45]
1962	Jim Beatty	Track and field	[46]
1963	John Pennel	Pole vault	[47]
1964	Don Schollander	Swimming	[48]
1965	Bill Bradley	Basketball	[9]
1966	Jim Ryun	Running (middle distance)	[49]
1967	Randy Matson	Shot put, discus	[50]
1968	Debbie Meyer	Swimming	[51]
1969	Bill Toomey	Decathlon	[52]
1970	John Kinsella	Swimming	[53]
1971	Mark Spitz	Swimming	[15]
1972	Frank Shorter	Running (long distance)	[54]
1973	Bill Walton	Basketball	[9]
1974	Rick Wohlhuter	Running (middle distance)	[55]
1975	Tim Shaw	Swimming	[56]
1976	Bruce Jenner [a]	Decathlon	[58]
1977	John Naber	Swimming	[6]

Year	Winner	Sport(s)	Reference
1978	Tracy Caulkins	Swimming	[59]
1979	Kurt Thomas	Gymnastics	[60]
1980	Eric Heiden	Speed skating	[61]
1981	Carl Lewis	Running (sprint), long jump	[62]
1982	Mary Decker	Running (middle and long distance)	[63]
1983	Edwin Moses	Running (sprint)	[64]
1984	Greg Louganis	Diving	[65]
1985	Joan Benoit	Running (long distance)	[66]
1986	Jackie Joyner-Kersee	Running (sprint)	[4]
1987	Jim Abbott	Baseball	[67]
1988	Florence Griffith-Joyner	Running (sprint)	[4]
1989	Janet Evans	Swimming	[25]
1990	John Smith	Wrestling	[25]
1991	Mike Powell	Long jump	[68]
1992	Bonnie Blair	Speed skating	[69]
1993	Charlie Ward	Basketball, football	[30]
1994	Dan Jansen	Speed skating	[70]
1995	Bruce Baumgartner	Wrestling	[71]
1996	Michael Johnson	Running (sprint)	[72]
1997	Peyton Manning	Football	[30]
1998	Chamique Holdsclaw	Basketball	[69]
1999	Coco Miller & Kelly Miller	Basketball	[73]
2000	Rulon Gardner	Wrestling	[74]
2001	Michelle Kwan	Figure skating	[33]
2002	Sarah Hughes	Figure skating	[15]
2003	Michael Phelps	Swimming	[15]
2004	Paul Hamm	Gymnastics	[60]
2005	J. J. Redick	Basketball	[9]
2006	Jessica Long	Swimming	[75]

Year	Winner	Sport(s)	Reference
2007	Tim Tebow	Football	[76]
2008	Shawn Johnson	Gymnastics	[60]
2009	Amy Palmiero-Winters	Running (ultra marathon)	[77]
2010	Evan Lysacek	Figure Skating	[78]
2011	Andrew Rodriguez	Football	[79]
2012	Missy Franklin	Swimming	[80]
2013	John Urschel	Football	[81]
2014	Ezekiel Elliott	Football	[82]
2015	Keenan Reynolds and Breanna Stewart	Football and basketball (respectively)	[83]