

For Immediate Release

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Diverse: Issues In Higher Education announces finalists for 2016 Arthur Ashe Jr. Athlete of the Year

FAIRFAX, Va. — ***Diverse: Issues In Higher Education*** magazine is pleased to announce the finalists for the 2016 Arthur Ashe Jr. Male and Female Athlete of the Year.

They are:

Male:

- Corey Brown, Soccer, Queens University of Charlotte, Biochemistry
- Marcus Paige, Basketball, University of North Carolina, Media and Journalism, History
- Paul Pitts III, Football, San Diego State University, Master's, Liberal Arts & Sciences
- Alex Poythress, Basketball, University of Kentucky, Marketing

Female:

- Andraya Carter, Basketball, University of Tennessee, Kinesiology
- Alyssa Domico, Softball, Dominican University, Neuroscience
- Nandi Mehta, Soccer, Northwestern University, Economics & International Studies

The finalists were chosen from 30 semifinalists and more than 1,000 outstanding minority student-athletes nominated by their respective college or university.

The male and female athlete of the year will be announced on April 7, 2016. The entire class of Ashe scholars will be presented in the April 21, 2016, edition of ***Diverse***.

In 1992, ***Black Issues In Higher Education*** magazine, now ***Diverse***, established the Sports Scholars Awards to honor undergraduate students of color who exemplify the standards set by tennis great Arthur Ashe Jr.

A scholar and athlete, Ashe sought to expand opportunities for young people. Each year ***Diverse*** invites every postsecondary institution in the country to participate in this awards program by nominating their outstanding sports scholars. In addition to their athletic ability, students named Arthur Ashe Jr. Sports Scholars must exhibit academic excellence as well as community activism.

To be included, students need to compete in an intercollegiate sport; maintain a cumulative grade point average of at least 3.2; and be active on their campuses or in their communities. The NCAA Office of Inclusion has partnered with ***Diverse*** to support this standout class of scholar-athletes. Approximately 1,000 male and female students from across the country were nominated.

Past recipients of the award include: Baylor University's (2011) Robert Griffin III, Heisman Trophy winner and former Washington Redskins quarterback; the University of Tennessee's (2003) Kara Lawson, an ESPN analyst who played for the WNBA's Sacramento Monarchs; San Diego State University's (1993) Marshall Faulk, NFL Hall of Famer; and the University of Kansas' (1996) Jacques Vaughn, former head coach of the NBA's Orlando Magic.

The Ashe finalists and semifinalists playing in this year's NCAA basketball tournament include Marcus Paige, Alex Poythress, Alyssa Carter and Varun Ram from the University of Maryland, College Park.

Diverse: Issues In Higher Education is the nation's only news magazine dedicated exclusively to diversity issues in higher education. Visit www.DiverseEducation.com for more info.

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