

**For Immediate Release**

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***Diverse: Issues In Higher Education announces 2016 Arthur Ashe Jr. Sports Winners***

FAIRFAX, Va. —Last week ***Diverse: Issues In Higher Education*** magazine announced the [semi-finalists](#) for the 2016 Arthur Ashe Jr. Sports Scholar Award.

Now, we are pleased to announce the names of the winners of each individual sport category.

The winners will be listed in the April 21, 2016, edition of ***Diverse***. Representing 36 sports, this year's winners were chosen from more than 1,000 outstanding minority student-athletes nominated by their respective institutions.

The Sports Winners are:

Dorian Hairston	Baseball	University of Kentucky
Marcus Paige	Basketball (M)*	UNC-Chapel Hill
Alex Poythress	Basketball (M)*	University of Kentucky
Andraya Carter	Basketball (W)	University of Tennessee
Julia Bond	Bowling (W)	University of Nebraska—Lincoln
Taylor Montgomery	Cheerleading (W)	Oklahoma State University
April Brown	Crew (W)	University of Texas at Austin
Elizabeth Collins	Equestrian (W)	Oklahoma State University
Weija Chen	Fencing (M)	New York University
Julia Abelsky	Fencing (W)	Northwestern University
Elisa Garcia	Field Hockey	University of Louisville
Paul Pitts, III	Football	San Diego State University
James Lee	Golf (M)	Rice University
Lucia Polo Galvez	Golf (W)	University of Tennessee
Sanjaya Roy	Gymnastics (M)	University of Nebraska—Lincoln
Jaida Lawrence	Gymnastics (W)	West Virginia University
Charles Williams	Ice Hockey (M)	Ferris State University
Celine Whitlinger	Ice Hockey (W)	Penn State University
Ryan Ghaderi	Lacrosse (M)	Siena College
Ashley Holdridge	Lacrosse (W)	Siena College

Sonya May	Rifle (W)	University of Kentucky
Joshua Williams	Sailing (M)	Hampton University
Corey Brown	Soccer (M)	Queens University of Charlotte
Nandi Mehta	Soccer (W)	Northwestern University
Alyssa Domico	Softball	Dominican University
Anna Porras	Squash (W)	George Washington University
Charles Holliday	Swimming & Diving (M)	University of Iowa
Natilee Ruiz	Swimming & Diving (W)	San Diego State University
Guilherme Hadlich	Tennis (M)	Pepperdine University
Brianna Morgan	Tennis (W)	University of Florida
D. Carrington Motley	Track & Field (M)	MIT
Minori Minagawa	Track & Field (W)	Ohio State University
Stephen Tan	Volleyball (M)	New York University
Jasmine Jackson	Volleyball (W)	Delaware State University
Nika Sedghi	Water Polo (W)	San Diego State University
Steele Escobedo	Wrestling	Menlo College

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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 have 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) Jacque Vaughn, former head coach of the NBA's Orlando Magic.

The 3 finalists will be announced on March 17, 2016. The top Male and Female Athlete of the Year will be announced on April 7, 2016.

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

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