

1983 ALASKA SPORTSPERSON OF THE YEAR



Do you have a favorite Alaskan sportsperson? Have you been keeping an eye on a certain dog musher this year? Do you rush to the sports section of your newspaper to read about a special basketball player? If so, that person may be a perfect candidate for the 1983 ALASKA SPORTSPERSON OF THE YEAR.

Your nomination will go to a panel of judges from your region. Eight finalists from across the state will be flown to Anchorage where one will be named

SPORTSPERSON OF THE YEAR at a banquet on January 29 at the Sheraton-Anchorage Hotel.

All the details are on the entry blanks you'll find in your local school, community center or newspaper advertisements.

If January 1 through December 31, 1983 was the year of outstanding performance by your favorite sportsperson, now's the time to give that person an opportunity to gain the recognition he or she deserves.



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We want to know who your favorite sportsperson is, and why that person is exceptional. Here's how the program works:

1. Organizers have divided the state into four regions: Southeast (the panhandle south from Yakutat); North-West (the area north and west of the Alaska range, including the Alaska Peninsula and Aleutian Islands); the Municipality of Anchorage; and Southcentral (the remaining area, including Kodiak Island). Panels of judges — five individuals in each region — have been named to review nominees from their respective regions.
2. In early January, each panel will meet and select two particularly noteworthy individuals from the region they represent. The selections will be based on the accomplishments of the individuals when considered in the context of their own sports.
3. On January 28 a panel of eight judges, two from each region, will meet in Anchorage to select the Sportsperson.
4. All eight finalists will be notified and flown to Anchorage aboard Alaska Airlines to attend a banquet in their honor at the Sheraton-Anchorage Hotel January 29.
5. There, the newly elected Sportsperson will be presented the Denali Award, which was designed for the program. The Denali commemorates Walter Harper, an Athabaskan Indian who, in 1913, was the first person to reach the summit of Mount McKinley. A member of Archdeacon Hudson Stuck's expedition, Harper was noted for his intelligence, buoyant attitude and propensity to assist others during the long, strenuous weeks on the mountain. He not only was a strong team player in a successful and very Alaskan sporting event, he evoked the attributes expected of any sportsperson anywhere.

Who is eligible to be named the Sportsperson?

1. Sportsperson must be an Alaska resident or, must be noted for his or her sporting accomplishments in Alaska.
2. He or she can be a coach, athlete or outdoorsperson — anyone who engages in a sporting activity. However, only individuals — not teams — can qualify.
3. Notable performance must be within the period of January 1, 1983 to December 31, 1983.
4. Nominations can include mention of an individual's display of particular good sportsmanship.
5. References to the individual's prior history of athletic performance and sportsmanship will be taken into account by the judges.
6. Consideration will be made regarding the person's age, if applicable. For example, a 13-year-old runner will be compared with other runners in that age group, rather than with adults.

Rules

1. Nominations must be postmarked no later than December 31, 1983. However, it is advisable to get nominations in as soon as possible so the judges can give full consideration to nominating criteria.
2. Final selection will be done by a committee of judges in each region. The number of nominations for a particular candidate will not be a consideration.
3. The outline of reasons for nominations must not exceed the equivalent of two double spaced, typewritten pages.
4. Please include your name and a telephone number so the committee can request further information. If you have questions or additional information, please contact Bonnie Bernholz at Bean Public Relations at 258-1300.
5. Submit the entry blank below to:
1983 Alaska Sportsperson of the Year Award Program
c/o Bean Public Relations
550 West Seventh Avenue
Suite 1360
Anchorage, AK 99501
or, hand-deliver your nomination to the sports editor of your newspaper.

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