

## ***Lay Witness for Christ: Christian Athlete of the Year Nominations***

For over 33 years, Lay Witnesses for Christ has been ministering around the world. What started as a backyard ministry quickly grew into a sports ministry run by Dr. Sam Mings and his wife Sharon. If you are not aware of Dr. Sam & Sharon Mings (some of you will realize you've heard of them through their work for the past 30 years with the Olympics where they have been referred to as the "Chaplains of the Worlds' Olympians") and their labor of love for the past 21 years to Texas High School student-athletes – The Christian Athlete of the Year Awards is now in its 22<sup>nd</sup> year!

Over those years, Lay Witnesses has coordinated events at various Olympic Games and other athletic events, seeking to provide continuous encouragement and fellowship for the athletes. Lay Witnesses for Christ has partnered with other key ministries to share costs for the chapel services while trying to maximize the time we had with the athletes to minister.

The Christian Athlete of the Year Awards is an opportunity to recognize male and female high school semi-finalists across the state of Texas for taking a stand for Christ along with being a strong student athlete.

Each year nominations are submitted from across the state of Texas. Nominations can be received from a coach, a teacher, or minister. Over the year's some of our winners have gone on to do great things:

Byron Hanspard went on to be a professional football player for the Atlanta Falcons. Later retired and started a full-time ministry. Megan Flowers went on to be an All-American Collegiate track athlete and now is an artist. Ellis Hobbs went on to play for the New England Patriots and made some key plays in the 2006 NFL playoffs and this season. Two went on to the Naval Academy and Dane Johnson went on to be a leading coach.

There are so many success stories. They continue to make a stand for Christ.

These awards are an opportunity for you to nominate one of those special young people who are not necessarily the super athlete – but those kids that simply are the backbone of every program! In an effort to recognize these incredible athletes for their outstanding character and values, the THSCA would like to make all the Coaches of Texas aware of this incredible opportunity for their kids who merit such recognition to be considered.

Each school may nominate up to 3 young men and 3 young ladies from any sport. Nominations are **DUE NO LATER THAN NOVEMBER 10<sup>TH</sup>!** Simply email the athletes name and address to Dr. Sam at [LWFC@MSN.COM](mailto:LWFC@MSN.COM). He and his Staff of 100 volunteers will select and send out Notification Letters to those selected as Semi-Finalists. The 150 chosen Semi-Finalist Winners will be honored at an Annual Awards Banquet to be held in Irving, Texas on March 21, 2011. This banquet is host to hundreds of organization volunteers including prominent doctors, lawyers, pilots, school teachers, police officers, etc., as well as some great athletic champions from years past. The winners will be individually recognized and presented a gold medal and a certificate by Chairman of the Board, former Miami Dolphin – Tim Alders.

Many of our Texas Coaches including, Sam Harrell, Brad McCoy, Bob Ledbetter, Brian Brazil, Kris Hogan, Tim Edward, Dal Shealy, Kenny Hatfield, Ray DeBord and Jerry Sanders have happily contributed nominations to this fine organization and its pool of athletes.

For more information on this ministry and The Christian Athlete of the Year Awards, please visit [www.lwfc.com](http://www.lwfc.com).