



PALM BEACH
SPORTS.COM

NEWS

PALM BEACH COUNTY SPORTS COMMISSION

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 10, 2011

Contact: Kimberly Whetsel, Director of Marketing

561-233-3122

kwhetsel@palmbeachsports.com

Jennifer Tilton, Suncoast Community High School, Earns Sam Budnyk Student-Athlete of the Year Scholarship

WEST PALM BEACH, FL – The Sam Budnyk Scholarship Committee announced today that Jennifer Tilton of Suncoast Community High School is the 2011 winner of the Sam Budnyk Scholar-Athlete of the Year scholarship. She will be honored at a recognition dinner later this summer.

Jennifer competed against 23 other nominees and ten other finalists. Chair of the panel of judges, Dave McIntosh, said “Jennifer represents a very competitive group of nominees and finalists that excel in the classroom in addition to their commitment in the athletic arena. The Palm Beach County school system is notorious for producing extraordinary students that achieve academic excellence”.

With a 4.0 GPA, Jennifer is ranked first in her class and is a National AP Scholar. She is dual-enrolled in the Math, Science and Engineering (MSE) and IB Magnet Programs at Suncoast High School. She has also completed 20 credit hours at Florida Atlantic University and six credit hours at Palm Beach State College, earning straight A’s in all courses—some of which include Discrete Math, Differential Equations, Calculus I, Calculus II and Electrical Engineering.



Outside of the classroom, Jennifer is involved in various clubs and activities. Jennifer has been a three-year member of the National Honor Society, Spanish Honor Society and Mu Alpha Theta (Math Honor Society). She also tutors fellow students in Spanish and areas of mathematics ranging from algebra to calculus.

Jennifer has been a competitive swimmer since the age of seven. She has been a member of the Jupiter Dragons club swim team for eight years. Jennifer is also a four-year member of the Suncoast varsity swim team where she lead the team as a co-captain her senior year. She has qualified for the State Championships, has been named to the All-County Girls Swim Team by the Palm Beach Post and received honors as Most Valuable Swimmer.

Jennifer is very involved in the community, completing hundreds of hours of volunteer service. In addition to tutoring, she volunteers at the Palm Beach County Library and the aquatic center. At the aquatic center she assists with running swim meets and works as a mentor to younger swimmers.

She plans to pursue her bachelor's and master's degrees and potentially a PhD. Jennifer has set high goals for herself and hopes to become an electrical engineer.

The Sam Budnyk Student-Athlete of the Year scholarship, established and first awarded in 2005, is presented annually to a graduating high school senior in a Palm Beach County public or private school, who has demonstrated outstanding achievement in academics, community service and athletics. An award of \$5,000 the first year and a subsequent \$5,000 is available for three consecutive years for a total of \$20,000 upon maintaining certain grade levels, other criteria and subject to funds availability. The scholarship is administered and judged by a panel of diverse, competent and independent citizens, and is named in recognition and celebration of the commitment, values and success of Sam Budnyk, Athletic Director at Cardinal Newman High School for nearly fifty years, and head football coach for forty-three of those years.

Funds for the award are generously donated by the Orange Bowl Foundation and by individual and business donors. The Scholarship is administered by the Palm Beach County Sports Institute.

About the Palm Beach County Sports Institute

The Palm Beach County Sports Institute is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization that provides local youth the opportunity to learn sportsmanship, teamwork and citizenship through sports. The Sports Institute also promotes character development through sporting activities, lifelong physical fitness, a drug-free lifestyle and safe and fun access to healthy activities.

###