

**CALIFORNIA STATE GAMES ANNOUNCES  
2003 ATHLETES OF THE YEAR**

San Diego, CA (August 15,2003)—California State Games announced today the 2003 California State Games Athletes of the Year. Weightlifter Leslie Musser of Reseda was named Female Athlete of the Year and Surfer Jensen Hassett of Del Mar was named Male Athlete of the Year.

“The two athletes chosen for this award both exemplify what we stand for at the California State Games: participation and achievement, sportsmanship, good attitude, effort, and special attributes within the sporting community” said Sandi Hill, Executive Director. “Both of these candidates are very deserving of the honor of Athlete of the Year.”

Musser and Hassett are vying for the National State Games Athlete of the Year. The winners will be announced on October 4 in Mobile, Alabama.

Leslie Musser is a 23-year-old UCLA graduate who holds major accomplishments in the field of weightlifting. As the 58 Kg Women’s champion at CSG in 1999, 2000, 2001 and 2003 and the National Champion in 2003, Musser has become the dominant women’s weightlifter in the country. Currently, she is ranked 19<sup>th</sup> by USA Weightlifting and has qualified for the Olympic Trials.

Jensen Hassett is a 14-year-old surfer who has been dominant in the San Diego surfing scene and also at the statewide level, placing 1<sup>st</sup> in the 13-15 division at the 2001 California State Games. Hassett was also the San Diego Regional Champ in the 2003 Juniors division and the 2002 Boys division, and he placed fourth in the 2002 Haleiwa Open Junior tournament. Hassett will soon be traveling to South Africa to represent the United States in surfing at the Junior World Games.

These two athletes were first selected as Athlete of the Year for their sport. All of the winners for each sport are listed below:

Lisa Daenzer – Goaltimate  
Cole Williamson - Goaltimate  
Tristen Mora—Gymnastics (San Diego, CA)  
Caitlin Barbour – Jr. Lifeguards  
Charles Neuendorf—Judo (San Diego, CA)  
Ronda Rousen—Judo (Santa Monica, CA)  
Richard Gaora – Inline Hockey  
Jensen Hassett – Surfing (Del Mar, CA)  
Erin Lewis—Surfing (Ocean Beach, CA)  
Rachel Lutz—Swimming (Escondido, CA)  
Thomas Hodgson—Swimming (San Diego, CA)  
Paige Ramsey—Synchronized Swimming (Playa del Rey, CA)  
D’Marcus Penn—Track and Field (Moreno Valley, CA)  
Rodrigo Ferreira Braga—Water Polo (Aptos, CA)  
Sophia Rios—Water Polo (Lakeside, CA)  
Leslie Musser – Weightlifting (Reseda, CA)  
Nghiep Dinh—Weightlifting (Canoga Park, CA)  
Marco Norrega – Wrestling  
Chris Torres - Wrestling

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