

2008 Athletes of the Year

Female Athlete of the Year

Name: Chelsey Soler

Sport: Synchronized Swimming

Chelsey was a 16-17 Age Group National Team Finalist in 2006.

She qualified for Junior Nationals and The U.S. Open. A serious injury to her shoulder during a lift was followed by 2 unsuccessful operations. With limited use of her one arm she has not been able to swim the team event but has continued swimming. Her solo was cleverly choreographed using mainly 1 arm. She is entering college in the fall and plans to continue swimming. She is also an accomplished cross country runner and plays the violin. She is helpful to teammates and is always a good sport.

Male Athlete of the Year

Name: Kyle Emmerick

Sport: Badminton

Kyle Emerick started playing badminton in Long Beach California when he entered High School. He joined the badminton team to get out of regular general education and also was not aware of what badminton was. He caught on pretty quickly, despite the out of place feeling he got going to badminton. The feeling was because he was the only white guy on the team and nobody really reached out to him. He wanted to earn the respect of his team mates and become the best he could in badminton. He started going to his CSULB tp play for fun where the Long Beach Badminton Club gym is held. He always set up the nets ad helped take down after it was closed. He was always nice to everyone and wanted to be the best he could. He continued coming to Long beach badminton club all through high school and a kind man offered to train Kyle and his partners for free. He asked why he chose him out of all the people go to the gym every week.

Sport Athletes of the Year

Badminton: Kyle Emmerick

Gymnastics: Maddie Willis

Roller Skating: Nicole Leonard & Derek Leonard

Skateboarding: Zane Timpson & Justin Cymbalski

Surfing: Lulu Erkeneff & Anton Van Veen

Swimming: Samantha Torrez & William Koenig

Synchronized Swimming: Chelsey Soler

Taekwondo: Sabrina Chen & Nicholas Altieri

Table Tennis: Haiao-Wei Liu & Earl Alto

Track & Field: Akawkaw (Coco) Ndipagbor & Leon Dillihunt

Water Polo: Sophia Gumina & Ryan Rock

Weightlifting: Aimee Anaya & Victor Davenport

Wrestling Folkstyle: Time Boone

Wrestling Freestyle: Joshua Cortez