

## **2012 Athlete of the Year Nominations**

### **National Athlete of the Year Award**

Name: Sean Lee

Age: 12

Sport: Track and Field

Sean Lee, 12, of Rancho Santa Margarita has been named the 2012 National Congress of State Games Athlete of the Year. Sean will receive his award on October 11 at the Annual State Games Symposium in Blaine, MN. Two adults and one youth are chosen annually from among more than 400,000 athletes participating in state games events in 35 member states.

Sean Lee was nominated for the award after breaking the national High Jump record for the Track & Field Midget age group.

Sean broke the 33 year old record of 5'8¾" by jumping 5'9¼". Amazingly, after breaking the record, he continued to jump and set new records of 5'10" and 5'11".

Sean is a member of the USA High Jump Club track team. He is undefeated since 2009 and has won 4 consecutive JO National Champion Titles.

When Sean was 10 years old, he broke the national record for the Bantam age group. He set the new record of 5'3".

Sean continues to strive for bigger and better things, as he has set his goals for the next few years. Sean aims to break the national record in the Youth age group in the next 2 years. The current record is 6'4".

After watching the London Olympics this summer, Sean's dream is to qualify for the 2016 Olympic Trials to have a chance to make the Olympic Team and eventually break the world record.

Aside from Sean's athletic success, he is also a straight A student who attends RMS Intermediate School in the 7th grade. He is a part of the GATE (gifted) program and has enrolled in some high-school-level classes this year. Sean's future goal is to get his Ph.D in Chemistry/Physics so that he can become a Physicist.

Sean joins Soren Thompson (1998) as the only other Californian to win the national award.

### **Sport Athletes of the Year**

BOWLING: Brett Hirsch

JUDO: Lillian Cifuentes & Austin Krider

SKATEBOARDING: Asher Bradshaw

SYNCHRO: Rachel Rosolowski

TABLE TENNIS: Daryl Sterling Jr.

TRACK & FIELD: Laura Panteau & Sean Lee

WATER POLO: Summer Broekema & Dalton Trotter

WEIGHTLIFTING: Anthony Rocco Pomponio