

2019 Athletes of the Year

Youth Female Athlete of the Year

Name: Kaitlyn Horner

Town/City: Riverside

Age: 16

Sport: Water Polo

Bio:

Kaitlyn has played Water Polo for 3 years and has already overcome many obstacles placed in her path. After getting what she thought was a concussion during a game, the doctor discovered a golf ball sized tumor located on her right frontal lobe. She had to have the tumor removed and came out of surgery with limited mobility on her left side. Despite the grueling recovery and chemotherapy treatments, Kaitlyn continued to train and work hard. She leaned on her coach and Colony High School teammates who helped her through this rough time. Now, she is back in the pool despite the odds and states she will always play for the Love of the Game!

Adult Male Athlete of the Year

Name: Michael Gallardo

Town/City: La Puente

Age: 35

Sport: Track & Field

Bio:

Michael is a decorated Para athlete who is dedicated to his craft. While on combat tour in Iraq in January 2007, Michael sustained a severe injury to his right leg. He received the Purple Heart for his service but despite intensive physical therapy, his leg had to be amputated below the knee. Michael always lead an active lifestyle and wasn't going to let this new obstacle slow him down. He won gold at the 2019 California State Games in Master Men's Javelin throw. Some additional accomplishments in 2019 include medaling at the Bgdgoszcz Grand Prix in Poland and Arizona Grand Prix. He is ranked 4th overall in World Rankings for Men's Javelin F64 class. Currently, Michael is in Texas training for Tokyo 2020 Paralympic Games. We wish him luck and thank him for being a continuous inspiration to us all.

Sport Athletes of the Year

BMX Freestyle: **Nehemiah "Niah" Atkinson** (Oceanside)

Diving: **Zoe Quigley** (Encinitas)

Field Hockey: **Mia Clark** (San Diego)

FootGolf: **Michael Gora & Leilani Tedeski**

Jr. Guards: **Ryan Mondzelewski** (Coronado)

Judo: **Isaiah Ramirez & Mathilda Serrano**

Rugby: **Mose Sepalona** (Costa Mesa) & **Amaya Moala** (Carson)

Skateboarding: **Kaishu Okamura** (San Clemente) & **Mia Lovell** (Carlsbad)

Synchronized Swimming: **AnaMaria Camero** (Aua Dulce)

Table Tennis: **Alexander Wu**

Track & Field: **Kareem Knox II** (Las Vegas), **Yasmin Lopez**, & **Michael Gallardo** (La Puente)

Water Polo: **Steven David Arrieta** (Ontario) & **Kaitlyn Horner** (Riverside)

Weightlifting: **John Downey** (Lake Forrest) & **Jessica Lucero** (Orange)