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Iowa Sports Foundation Announces Brian Pearson Scholarship Recipients

AMES, Iowa – Iowa Sports Foundation Executive Director, Jim Hallihan, announced today the recipients of the 2008 Brian Pearson Memorial Scholarship.

Typically in years past only two high school juniors, one male and one female, receive the honorable Brian Pearson Memorial Scholarship recognizing great character and volunteer service. This year, with a number of outstanding applications, the Iowa Sports Foundation has awarded four individuals: Marley Dobyms (Ames High School), Miles Greenwald (Ames High School), Shea Kruger (St. Ansgar High School), and Joshua Lenz (Gilbert High School).

Citizenship, trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring, perseverance and sportsmanship are just a few of the values on which this award is based. Eligible recipients for the 2008 scholarship were students who were juniors in high school during the 2007-2008 school year and have participated in an Iowa Sports Foundation event. The \$1,000 scholarship must be used in pursuit of post high school education. The four winners will be invited to attend and participate at the Summer Iowa Games Opening Ceremony in Ames on July 18, 2008.

“Each year it becomes more difficult to choose winners,” commented Iowa Sports Foundation Executive Director. “There are so many youth doing wonderful things to impact their community, the state of Iowa and even the world. We all need to recognize our young people who display great character for they are our future leaders and we should applaud them for their selflessness and service to others.”

Marley Dobyms has built a superior list of athletic, academic, and community accomplishments. Dobyms, a member of the Ames High School (AHS) Dive and Swim team, has participated in the Iowa Games Diving event since 2003 and is the current record holder in the 14 and older female platform diving event. As a member of the AHS Dive team, Dobyms has participated at the state meet each of the last three years, finishing in the top 10 in 2007. Outside of diving, Dobyms also organizes and instructs for the Ames Middle School Gyros, a trick jump rope team.

Aside from athletics, Dobyms possesses great leadership skills within her community and church. She is a member of the Collegiate Presbyterian Church and Youth Group, participating in church leadership, annual mission trips and numerous volunteering activities. In 2007 she joined a team of youth and adults on the Presbyterian Yucatan Mission; together they worked to improve living conditions in Mexico. At Ames High School she is co-president of AHS SHEPH, Students Helping to Eliminate Poverty and Hunger, participating in many advocacy and fundraising activities.

For the past five years, Mike Greenwald has held the school door open for classmates and teachers entering the school in the morning. He has discovered that this small service is a great way to greet peers and teachers while being the perfect way to start his day. As an Ames High School student athlete, he is a varsity letterman in both football and tennis, including a trip to the state tennis tournament in 2007. Since fifth grade, Greenwald has participated in several Iowa Sports Foundation events including Net Fest basketball, Iowa Games 3 on 3 basketball and Iowa Games tennis.

In all of his athletic endeavors he has become a proven leader on the field and the court, which has led to his leadership throughout the community. Greenwald has gained a lot from those individuals who have mentored him throughout his life and feels he should pass on the knowledge and respect. He mentored a second grade student at a local elementary school through the Youth and Shelter Service's GRIP (Great Relationships in Pairs) mentoring program. He is also active in his church serving as a first grade Sunday school teacher. It is evident that Greenwald's leadership and putting the “team first” is why he is one of the recipients of this award.

The next scholarship recipient, Shea Kruger, is involved athletics, but she is an even more involved within her school and community. Kruger participated on the North Iowa Girls Hockey Team which was part of the 2005 Winter Iowa Games. She is currently a member of the St. Ansgar High School Track team, as well as, the Cross Country team. She participated on the 4 x 800 meter relay team, which placed first in ten different track meets. In 2007, her track team was the Corn Bowl Conference champions.

It is clear Kruger is a student and community member first. At St. Ansgar she is one of the organizers of the group FAD (Fun Alternatives to Drinking) which is currently 40 members strong. Kruger was also one of the key organizers in the efforts of her school creating Christmas cards for U.S. soldiers overseas; to date the school has sent over 700 cards. She also organized a “Go Green Day” for St. Ansgar High School in which students were encouraged and then rewarded for finding alternative transportation to school. Kruger is truly a well round student and citizen, she does very well academically, but where she really shines is in her volunteer work and social activism.

The final recipient, Joshua Lenz, has been involved with the Iowa Games since he was very young. He has participated in the Iowa Games basketball shooting, basketball 5 on 5, golf, and soccer for multiple years, as well as the Net Fest basketball tournament. He has also participated in several other basketball shooting and basketball events aside from the Iowa Games. As a student-athlete at Gilbert High School he has been an academic all district selection for football and has received the IHSAA Excellence in Academic Achievement for varsity basketball.

Lenz is also an active school and community member. He is currently participating in Art Club at Gilbert High School. Lenz noted, "Art Club is not only about art, but focuses on community service as well." Over the past couple years; he has become an active volunteer with the Iowa Special Olympics and was fortunate to be a volunteer for the National Special Olympics when they were held in Ames. Within the community, Lenz finds himself combining his love for sports and volunteering while coaching at youth basketball camps and coaching a youth basketball team, Upward, at the Evangelical Free Church in Ames.

All of the above individuals are deserving of the 2008 Brian Pearson Memorial Scholarship because of the commitment in athletics, their schools, and throughout the communities.

The Iowa Games began awarding the Brian Pearson Memorial Scholarship, sponsored by Pioneer Hi-Bred International, Inc., Johnny and Romie Orr, and Ron and Margaret Kenyon/Skinner Family, in 1998 in honor of former Iowa State University basketball player Brian Pearson, who died of brain cancer in the fall of 1997. The scholarships annually are awarded to one male and one female junior in an Iowa high school. Throughout the selection process, the degree of participation in the Iowa Games is given consideration, as well as the applicant's display of character, leadership, and community involvement.

The Iowa Sports Foundation (ISF) is a nonprofit sports management organization that helps develop amateur sports in Iowa and promotes positive lifestyles and physical fitness through athletic events and health education programs. The ISF host the Summer Iowa Games, Winter Iowa Games, Live Healthy America, Live Healthy Iowa, Go The Distance, Go The Distance Day, Hoopin' at the Dome, Net Fest, Fish Iowa Games, and the Iowa Games Golf Classic.

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