



## San Jose Sports Authority News Release

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**Contact:** Carrie Benjamin  
Director of Events, San Jose Sports Authority  
((310) 709-8470 & [carrie@sjsa.org](mailto:carrie@sjsa.org))

### 12 Santa Clara County High School Student-Athletes Awarded 2020 REACH Youth Scholarships

#### FIRST EVER BROADCAST OF THE REACH YOUTH SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS AIRS ON NBC SPORTS BAY AREA

**SAN JOSE (June 23, 2020)** – Twelve Santa Clara County high school seniors were awarded REACH Youth Scholarships today by the San Jose Sports Authority at the 2020 REACH Youth Scholarship Awards Show, presented by Qualcomm. The program honored a total of 47 local students who overcame adversity to excel in both academics and athletics. Due to COVID-19, the annual awards breakfast was converted into an hour-long television broadcast – a first for the REACH Youth Scholarship Awards – that aired on NBC Sports Bay Area today from 5-6 p.m.

NFL Hall of Famer **Ronnie Lott** and FIFA World Cup Champion **Brandi Chastain** serve as the Honorary Co-Chairs of the program and provided congratulatory and motivational remarks in the broadcast.

REACH, an acronym for **R**ecognizing **E**xcellence, **A**dversity, **C**ourage and **H**ard work, is in its 24<sup>th</sup> year as a program of the San Jose Sports Authority.

**Robert Braunstein** and **Aubrie Tolliver**, Co-Hosts of the 49ers Cal-Hi Sports Report, served as hosts of the REACH broadcast and announced \$38,000 in scholarship awards on behalf of presenting sponsor Qualcomm, with additional support from top sponsors Heritage Bank, Berliner & Cohen, Intero Foundation, The Olander Company & Steve Hallgrimson Foundation.

The broadcast included congratulatory video messages from local sports stars, including **Brent Burns** (SJ Sharks), **Steph Curry** (GS Warriors), **Jimmy Garoppolo** (SF 49ers), and **JT Marcinkowski** (SJ Earthquakes). Also featured were two past recipients of REACH Youth Scholarships: **James Jones**, NFL Super Bowl Winner

from Gunderson High School (Class of 2002) and **Devyn Lopez** from William C. Overfelt High School (Class of 2019). The broadcast also included in-depth video profiles of six of the top scholarship recipients.

“The nominees and winners we recognized today are an inspiring group of students who, despite very difficult circumstances, have excelled and exhibit a spirit of tenacity.” said John Poch, executive director of the San Jose Sports Authority. “As an avid supporter of youth sports in our community, the Sports Authority is proud to partner with Qualcomm to honor the achievements of these outstanding young citizens.”

Teachers, counselors, and coaches from each high school in Santa Clara County were asked to nominate students who they felt matched the scholarship criteria. Students submitted essays detailing how they were able to overcome adversity and the role that sports played in helping them do so. A panel of local community leaders reviewed the essays, interviewed the candidates and selected the twelve scholarship recipients, who received scholarships ranging from \$1,000 to \$10,000 (list of recipients follows) as well as a new laptop powered by Qualcomm technology. Further, each remaining nominee received a \$250 scholarship.

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### **About the San Jose Sports Authority ([www.sjsa.org](http://www.sjsa.org))**

The San Jose Sports Authority is a 501 (c)(3) non-profit organization whose mission is to increase the City of San Jose’s economic development, visibility and civic pride through sports. Serving as the City’s sports commission since its inception in 1991, the Sports Authority has provided leadership and support to attract or host hundreds of sporting events in San Jose and the South Bay. The Sports Authority also supports and operates community, youth and amateur sports programs, including the San Jose Sports Hall of Fame and REACH Youth Scholarship Program.

### **Social Media Channels:**

Facebook: [@sjsauthority](https://www.facebook.com/sjsauthority)  
 Twitter: [@sjsauthority](https://twitter.com/sjsauthority)  
 Instagram: [@sanjosesports](https://www.instagram.com/sanjosesports)  
 LinkedIn: [San Jose Sports Authority](https://www.linkedin.com/company/sjsauthority)  
 YouTube: [San Jose Sports Authority](https://www.youtube.com/sjsauthority)

### **REACH Youth Scholarship Awards Broadcast Schedule (all times PDT)**

**Premiere Broadcast:** Tuesday, June 23, 2020 at 5 p.m. on NBC Sports Bay Area  
 Live stream available at: <https://www.nbcsports.com/bayarea/live>

**Additional Broadcasts:** Tuesday, June 23, 2020, at 8 p.m. and 11 p.m. (NBC Sports Bay Area)  
 Wednesday, June 24, 2020 at 6 a.m. and 7 a.m. (NBC Sports Bay Area)  
 Wednesday, June 24, 2020 at 10:30 p.m. on (NBC Sports California)

**REACH Youth Scholarship Fundraising Site:** [www.givebutter.com/REACH2020](http://www.givebutter.com/REACH2020)



## 2020 REACH Youth Scholarship Recipients

### **Tristin Pelletaire – Leigh High School**

**\$10,000**

#### **Football, Wrestling**

Tristin grew up fast. His older brother has special needs and is non-verbal, and for as long as he could remember, his mom was battling breast cancer. After she passed away when he was 11 years old, Tristin stepped up to assist with many of the responsibilities at home, but also found time for both school and sports. His mom's fighting spirit is part of everything he does.

### **Gloria Mota Torres – William C. Overfelt High School**

**\$7,500**

#### **Cross Country, Soccer, Track & Field**

Instability and trauma were the two constants in Gloria's early childhood until she went to live with her aunt in East San Jose. She has since developed an inner resolve and optimistic outlook while also enjoying success as a student-athlete.

### **Molly Erez – Silver Creek High School**

**\$5,000**

#### **Basketball, Volleyball**

Molly and her four sisters had to pull together after their father's death and mother's ongoing struggles with addiction. Molly found solace – and success – on the volleyball and basketball courts, honoring her father's memory through her commitment to school and athletics.

### **Lamin Sannoh – Leigh High School**

**\$3,000**

#### **Football, Wrestling, Soccer, Track & Field**

When Lamin moved from war-torn Sierra Leone to the U.S., sports provided him with much-needed opportunities to learn English and make friends. The four-sport athlete is the first in his family to graduate from high school and to attend college.

### **Jonathon Leslie – Lynbrook High School**

**\$2,500**

#### **Baseball, Football**

Born into trauma and dysfunction, Jonathan found strength and stability with his amazing foster (now adoptive) mom. Today, Jonathan is an accomplished athlete, a leader in the community and a role model to his four younger sisters.

**Nancy Miranda – Luis Valdez Leadership Academy** **\$2,000****Basketball**

While life at home could be chaotic, Nancy's focus on school and basketball kept her on track. The captain of the basketball team, she helped found her school's LGBTQ club and earned numerous accolades for her leadership.

**Anthony Madrigal – Valley Christian High School** **\$2,000****Football, Basketball, Rugby, Track & Field**

For Anthony, the impact of his mother's drug use during pregnancy resulted in his placement in foster care as well as a learning disability. Despite these challenges, he excelled and will soon be a football student-athlete at SJSU.

**Samuel Espino Hernandez, Luis Valdez Leadership Academy** **\$1,500****Basketball, Cross Country, Track & Field**

Samuel juggled several jobs to contribute to the family finances and helped care for his grandmother until her passing last year. He credits his love of family for his success in school and sports

**Alondra Rodriguez Vidrio, Luis Valdez Leadership Academy** **\$1,500****Cheer, Soccer**

Alondra's neighborhood can be tough, but her love of school and enthusiasm for soccer have helped her to look past its shortcomings and challenges. Service-oriented at heart, she hopes to become a social worker.

**Isabelle Alduino, Westmont High School** **\$1,500****Volleyball, Track & Field**

After being diagnosed with a serious medical condition that requires daily management of her diet and water intake, Isabelle worked tirelessly to achieve her goal of playing volleyball at the college level.

**Brandon Johnson, Santa Teresa High School** **\$1,000****Cross Country, Wrestling, Track & Field**

Born with severe food allergies and asthma, sports became Brandon's motivation to persevere. Despite pain in his lungs and the shortness of breath, Brandon lettered in 10 varsity sports and will compete as a distance runner in college.

**Payton Stokes, Saratoga High School** **\$1,000****Football, Baseball**

After several misdiagnoses, Payton learned a bone tumor was causing the searing pain in his leg. A battle with his health insurance company over treatment options ensued before Payton finally had surgery and recovered in time to play his final football season.



**2020 REACH Youth Scholarship Finalists**  
 (The following students will all receive a \$250 scholarship.)

<u>Student-Athlete</u>	<u>School</u>	<u>Sport(s)</u>
Ricky Amador	Eastside College Preparatory School	Cross Country, Track & Field
Cesar Barajas	Latino College Preparatory Academy	Soccer
Nina Barry	Valley Christian High School	Basketball, Track & Field
Ellie Blach	Presentation High School	Field Hockey, Soccer
Jesslyn Cabangbang	Branham H.S.	Basketball
Leonardo Campos	William C. Overfelt High School	Football
Cynthia Dharmawan	Henry M. Gunn High School	Golf
Mason Echols	Eastside College Preparatory School	Soccer
Bailey Erickson	Prospect High School	Field Hockey, Soccer
Angelique Gonzales	Anzar High School	Cheer
Rachel Grant	Henry M. Gunn High School	Volleyball, Lacrosse
Katherine Kindle	William C. Overfelt High School	Softball
Jasmine Loyola-Tinney	Wilcox High School	Volleyball
Mason Manca	Los Gatos High School	Soccer, Track & Field
Kiyomi Nguyen	Branham High School	Field Hockey, Softball
Bryan Nieto	Andrew Hill High School	Wrestling
Dallas Odle	Homestead High School	Soccer
Colby Okinaka	Monta Vista High School	Swimming
Cynthia Olivo	Apollo Academy	Basketball
John Pantoja	Archbishop Mitty High School	Cross Country, Track & Field
Samantha Ross	Archbishop Mitty High School	Field Hockey, Lacrosse, Track & Field
Raymond Ruiz	Eastside College Preparatory School	Soccer
Chris Sagahon	Branham High School	Soccer
Evelen Sahagun-Orocio	Luis Valdez Leadership Academy	Cheer, Volleyball
Eitan Smolyar	Henry M. Gunn High School	Football
Juan Solis	Latino College Preparatory Academy	Soccer, Baseball
Audrey Telkamp	Mountain View	Volleyball, Basketball
Gurpreet Uppal	Fremont High School	Soccer
Victoria Valdez	Monta Vista High School	Field Hockey
Sigi Valencia	Los Gatos High School	Soccer
Aiden Velasquez	Branham High School	Soccer, Volleyball
Xitlali Venegas	William C. Overfelt High School	Soccer
Alan Villanueva	Westmont High School	Badminton
Elaine-Jane S. Vilorio	William C. Overfelt High School	Swimming
Kimberly Vo	Andrew Hill High School	Basketball