



CALIFORNIA INTERSCHOLASTIC FEDERATION

STATE MEDIA RELEASE

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January 17, 2019

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Fall 2018 CIF Spirit of Sport Award Winners Announced *Andrew Cox, Fairfax HS and Taelor Roderick, Middletown HS are Honored*

SACRAMENTO, CALIF. — Andrew Cox (Fairfax High School) and Taelor Roderick (Middletown High School) were named the recipients of the prestigious CIF Spirit of Sport Award for Fall for the 2018-19 school year. These two statewide winners will receive an award, a patch, a \$1,000 scholarship and be recognized at the year-end CIF Federated Council dinner on April 12, 2019 in Burlingame.

The CIF Spirit of Sport Award recognizes student-athletes who have demonstrated the 16 principles of Pursuing Victory with Honor_{sm}, are active in school and community service and exhibit leadership qualities. The principles of Pursuing Victory with Honor_{sm} are the operating principles of the CIF and have been adopted by the 1,606-member high schools throughout the state.

“These recipients have exemplified the Spirit of Sport and reflect the positive elements of Pursuing Victory with Honor_{sm}, reinforcing the value of education-based athletics,” said CIF Executive Director Roger L. Blake.

The winter and spring Spirit of Sport winners will be announced following their respective submission deadlines. Additionally, the CIF will select a boy and girl Section winner, in each of the 10 Sections for each season of sport, from all submitted applications to receive \$500. A list of all fall 2018 Section recipients follows.

Andrew Cox is a three-sport athlete at Fairfax High School as a member of the football (captain), basketball and track teams. He is also involved in ASB Leadership and is committed to Prime Time (full inclusion athletic programs) as a volunteer coach with special needs students at Fairfax for the past six years.

“I have heard the terms victory and defeat many times; I prefer the terms joy and pain,” states Cox. “The sense of accomplishment when we earn a team victory is pure joy, and when we come up short it hurts. I don’t think I will always be successful in everything I try in my life, and sports has prepared me for those times when I will come up short. Being able to bounce back from the pain of a loss and get back into the game is one of the biggest life lessons that sports teaches me.”

“Andrew is fiercely competitive but also has a class and demeanor about himself that you generally don’t see in kids his age,” stated Fairfield Associate Head Football Coach and Special Education Teacher Juan Solorio. “When it comes to personal mastery, he cherishes every opportunity to master his craft. Andrew exemplifies leadership and takes a genuine interest with the lives of his teammates, always engaged with them on and off the field.”

“Andrew is a hardworking, conscientious and diligent student-athlete,” praised Fairfax Prime Time Coordinator Judi Edwards. “His passion and commitment to the Prime Time program has improved the self-confidence and self-esteem of our special education population.”

Taelor Roderick is a member of the volleyball (captain) and track and field teams at Middletown High School. She is also involved in many other school activities including Yearbook (Editor-in-Chief), ASB (Secretary), and Interact Club (President). Additionally, she is heavily involved in Relay for Life and currently serving as a Chairperson and attends Rotary meetings as the student representative.

On September 12, 2015 Roderick’s hometown was consumed by wildfire. Many in Middletown, including her own family, lost everything. Rival schools provided donations and competitors transformed to friends. “What happened in the initial days after the fire taught me that the ‘Spirit of Sport’ remains as important off the field as on the field,” stated Roderick. “The ‘Spirit of Sport’ and arena of competition brought us together, these friendships were bonded by fire. My experiences, as difficult as they have been, have provided me with insight regarding the value of sports and teamwork. I have been blessed with the opportunity to receive and give help to athletes in need, and I anticipate providing such lessons to future peers because the lessons extend past high school athletics. However, for now, I work to pass on the message of the ‘Spirit of Sport’ to the next generation of players, because for me it has been such a valuable piece of my high school success.”

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“Taelor is an astounding young athlete who has always dedicated herself to her team. She embodies pride in her school which is then spread to the entire team because of her passion,” states Middletown Head Volleyball Coach Vanessa Davis. “Taelor is a person that will be successful in life because of her genuine pride for her community and her ability to lead with dignity.”

“Taelor has excelled in all facets of her high school experience through hard work, a strong moral compass and determination,” praised Middletown Assistant Principal Airic Guerrero. “She is a great role model for both current and future athletes and an exceptional student-athlete that represents our school and community every time she competes.”

2018 CIF Fall Spirit of Sport SECTION Winners

Central Section

Sydney Crabtree – Volleyball, Independence High School (Bakersfield)

David Hernandez – Football, Independence High School (Bakersfield)

Central Coast Section

David Berkowitz-Sklar – Cross Country, Saratoga High School

Gabriella Gutierrez – Tennis, St. Francis Central Coast Catholic (Watsonville)

North Coast Section

Victor Guzman – Football, Middletown High School

Northern Section

David Gonzalez Ayala – Cross Country, Willows High School

Sydney Paillon – Tennis, Orland High School

San Diego Section

Berkley Hayes – Volleyball, Francis Parker School

Reid Zieber – Cross Country, Army and Navy Academy

San Francisco Section

Noah Battaglia – Cross Country, Lowell High School

Michelle Szeto – Volleyball, Raoul Wallenberg High School

Southern Section

Angela Crosetti – Volleyball, Notre Dame High School (Sherman Oaks)

Zach Round – Football, JSerra Catholic High School (San Juan Capistrano)