

# MEDIA ALERT

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## 2011 Greater Cleveland Sports Awards – February 2, 2012 *Celebrating the best in 2011 Cleveland Sports!*

**WHAT:** The Greater Cleveland Sports Awards is the biggest sports show in Northeast Ohio, honoring the best and brightest of the area's amateur and professional sports. Presented by Medical Mutual and FirstMerit Bank, this star-studded event features fine dining, sports celebrities and silent auctions that help benefit the Greater Cleveland Sports Commission. Erin Andrews, ESPN Sideline Reporter and College GameDay Anchor, will emcee the event.

**WHERE:** The Renaissance Cleveland Hotel, Grand Ballroom, 24 Public Square, Cleveland, OH 44113

**DATE:** Thursday, February 2, 2012

**TIME:** Silent Auction and Cocktail Reception begins at 5:30 PM with dinner and awards program to follow.

**DETAILS:** Award nominees were selected by local media outlets in the following categories:

### **High School Athlete of the Year:**

Kareem Hunt - Football, Willoughby South High School  
Trey Lewis - Basketball, Garfield Heights High School  
Mitch Trubisky - Football, Mentor High School

### **Collegiate Athlete of the Year:**

Norris Cole - Basketball, Cleveland State University  
Dustin Kilgore - Wrestling, Kent State University  
Men's Soccer Team, University of Akron

### **Amateur Athlete of the Year:**

Jessica Beard - USA Track and Field, Euclid  
Justin Harry Lester - USA Wrestling, Akron  
Stephen Robbins - USA Masters Track and Field, Cleveland Heights

### **Professional Athlete of the Year:**

Asdrubal Cabrera - Cleveland Indians  
Joe Haden - Cleveland Browns  
Justin Masterson - Cleveland Indians

Other awards and recognitions will also be presented. Austin Carr, Cleveland Cavaliers Legend and Television Broadcast Game Color Analyst, will receive the Lifetime Achievement Award. The Lifetime Achievement Award traditionally honors an individual who has advanced sports in Cleveland through personal or career dedication and achievements. Brandee Kelly from Cleveland State University will be awarded the Courage Award presented by Cleveland Clinic Sports Health which honors exceptional student athletes who have faced a medical challenge in his or her life and approached the situation with courage and determination to get back in the game.

The 2011 Best Moment in Cleveland Sports presented by Horseshoe Casino will also be recognized at the Sports Awards. Ron and Joan Ganim, Owners of Gymnastics and Cheer World and Brecksville-Broadview Heights High School Gymnastics Coaches, will be honored with the Sports Development Gold Medalist Award for providing guidance and support through their hosting of championship events with the Greater Cleveland Sports Commission.

The Golden Ticket, which will award one lucky sports fan two season tickets to each of the 2012 Cleveland Browns, Cavaliers and Indians home games, will be drawn live during the Sports Awards.

**Greater Cleveland Sports Awards to be video streamed live on FOX Sports Ohio:** FOX Sports Ohio will be video streaming the Greater Cleveland Sports Awards live starting at 6:45pm at [www.foxsportsohio.com](http://www.foxsportsohio.com). It marks the third year in a row where the event will be available live online. Viewers can also view photos and more following the event. For more information on the Greater Cleveland Sports Awards, visit [www.cleveland.com/sportsawards](http://www.cleveland.com/sportsawards).

Proceeds benefit the Greater Cleveland Sports Commission, [www.clevelandsports.org](http://www.clevelandsports.org).

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