

# NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**CLEVELAND MEDIA CONTACT:**

Jenny Popis, Communications Manager  
Greater Cleveland Sports Commission  
216-363-1128 direct  
216-570-3232 cell  
jpopis@clevelandssports.org



## Winners Announced For 2011 Greater Cleveland Sports Awards

**CLEVELAND, OH – February 2, 2012** – The area's best athletes were honored this evening for their outstanding 2011 accomplishments at the Greater Cleveland Sports Awards at the Renaissance Cleveland Hotel. Erin Andrews, ESPN Sideline Reporter and College GameDay Anchor, hosted the event with an attendance that exceeded 1,200 guests. These exceptional athletes were nominated by local media outlets in each of the Sports Awards categories, which then went through a ranking point system that selected the winners. The winners and nominees of the 2011 Greater Cleveland Sports Awards were:

**High School Athlete of the Year:**

**WINNER: Mitch Trubisky, Football, Mentor High School**

Kareem Hunt, Football, Willoughby South High School  
Trey Lewis, Basketball, Garfield Heights High School

**Collegiate Athlete of the Year:**

**WINNER: Men's Soccer Team, University of Akron**

Norris Cole, Basketball, Cleveland State University  
Dustin Kilgore, Wrestling, Kent State University

**Amateur Athlete of the Year:**

**WINNER: Jessica Beard, USA Track and Field, from Euclid**

Justin Harry Lester, USA Wrestling, from Akron  
Stephen Robbins, USA Masters Track and Field, from Cleveland Heights

**Professional Athlete of the Year:**

**WINNER: Asdrubal Cabrera, Cleveland Indians**

Joe Haden, Cleveland Browns  
Justin Masterson, Cleveland Indians

Other awards and recognitions were also presented. Austin Carr, Cleveland Cavaliers Legend and Television Broadcast Game Color Analyst, received 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. Reggie Rucker, former Cleveland Browns player, presented Carr with the award.

Brandee Kelly from Cleveland State University was given 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. During her freshman season, Brandee Kelly was diagnosed with lymphoma which was found in her bone marrow. Jim Donovan from WKYC Channel 3 presented her with the award.

The 2011 Best Moment in Cleveland Sports presented by Horseshoe Casino recognized Joe Tait's Farewell and final Cavaliers Broadcast at the Sports Awards. Sports fans were asked to submit their nomination on what they believed was the most memorable and exciting moment in Cleveland sports from the Cleveland Browns, Cavaliers, Indians, high school, collegiate or amateur sports.

Ron and Joan Ganim, Owners of Gymnastics and Cheer World and Brecksville-Broadview Heights High School Gymnastics Coaches, were 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 winner of the Golden Ticket raffle was Michael Banks. The Golden Ticket raffle awards one lucky sports fan two season tickets to each of the 2012 Cleveland Browns, Cavaliers and Indians home games.

Other celebrity presenters included Sam Rutigliano (Cleveland Browns); Carlos Baerga (Cleveland Indians); Kevin Mack (Cleveland Browns); Harrison Dillard (U.S. Olympics); Hanford Dixon (Cleveland Browns); Joe Haden (Cleveland Browns); and Mark Shapiro (Cleveland Indians); Brad Sellers (NBA).

Greater Cleveland Sports Awards were created in 2000 by the Greater Cleveland Sports Commission as its annual fundraising event. Over the past 11 years, the Sports Awards has become the Sport Commission's largest fundraiser and supplies the organization with a significant portion of its operating budget. This benefit enables the Sports Commission, a non-profit organization, to continue its mission to measurably enhance the economy, image and quality of life in the Greater Cleveland community. Since 2000, the Sports Commission has been directly responsible for attracting, creating and/or managing over 120 sporting events and activities to the Greater Cleveland area resulting in an economic impact over \$370 million. To learn more about upcoming events, visit [www.clevelandsports.org](http://www.clevelandsports.org).

###