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Pacific Northwest Football Hall of Fame Class of 2024 and Sports Leader of the Year Award Nominees Announced for 89th Annual Sports Star of the Year Awards

SEATTLE – Today, the Seattle Sports Commission (SSC) released the final nominees and a teaser roster of presenters for the 89th Annual Sports Star of the Year Awards Show presented by Microsoft, with the Pacific Northwest Football Hall of Fame Class of 2024 included.

With an emphasis on the exceptional guidance of coaching staff across the region, the Sports Star Nominations Committee and Sports Commission Executive Advisory Board have identified five nominees for Sports Leader of the Year:

Sports Leader of the Year Award presented by the SSC Foundation:

- Kamie Ethridge Head Coach | WSU Women's Basketball
- Pete Fewing Head Coach | Seattle U Men's Soccer
- Laura Harvey Head Coach | Seattle Reign FC
- Dave Hakstol Head Coach | Seattle Kraken
- Heather Tarr Head Coach | UW Softball

The award recipient will be announced live during the 89th Annual Sports Star of the Year Awards Show. Tables and tickets are nearly sold out, and final purchases can be made at seattlesports.org

In recognition of the upcoming Olympic and Paralympic Games, as well as major events hosted and anniversaries celebrated, this year's Sports Star presenter roster features athletes and sports figures connected to some of those unforgettable moments. Presenters and special guests include:

- Cliff Avril, Seahawks Legend
- Sue Bird, Seattle Storm Legend
- Mitchie Brusco, Pro Skateboarder
- SilentRain Espinoza, UW Softball alum
- Shellie Hart, on-air personality
- Jordan Horston, Seattle Storm
- Jermaine Kearse, Seahawks Legend
- Bill Krueger, former Mariner, on-air personality
- Erin Martin, Paralympian
- Edgar Martinez, Mariners & MLB Hall of Famer
- Kenny Mayne, on-air personality
- Nate McMillan, Sonics Legend
- Steve Raible, Seahawks Legend, on-air personality
- Judy Rantz Willman, The Boys in the Boat
- Adam Ray, Comedian and actor
- Brian Schmetzer, Sounders FC Coach
- Sonny Sixkiller, PNW FHoF Member, UW
- Myron Swimmer, Special Olympics Washington
- Jack Thompson, PNW FHoF Member, WSU
- Walter Thurmond III, Seahawks Legend
- Robert Turbin, Seahawks Legend
- Olivia Van der Jagt, Reign FC
- Stephanie Verdoia, Seattle U soccer alum
- Bryan Walters, Seahawks Legend
- Chance Wenglewski, Seawolves
- Lenny Wilkens, Sonics Legend
- Mary Whipple, Olympic gold medalist

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Pacific Northwest Football Hall of Fame Class of 2024 presented by Swire Coca-Cola

Since 1990, the Pacific Northwest Football Hall of Fame (PNW FHoF) has recognized our region's long history of players, coaches, broadcasters, officials, and influential figures. The Seattle Sports Commission and PNW FHoF committee will host the invitation-only ceremony to honor the Class of 2024 with sports broadcasting great Steve Raible at the helm as emcee, followed by a special recognition during the 89th Annual Sports Star of the Year Awards Show. The Class of 2024 represents players, coaches, and associates with ties to Washington state and the Pacific Northwest:

Doug Baldwin Jr., Professional Player | Seattle Seahawks - As a rookie, Doug Baldwin Jr. became the first undrafted free agent to lead his team in receptions and receiving yards since the 1970 AFL-NFL merger. After going unclaimed in the NFL draft, Baldwin was signed by the Seahawks and had one of the greatest careers in franchise history. He had two one-thousand-yard seasons, including in 2015 when he led the league with a team-record 14 touchdowns. He made the Pro Bowl twice. Only an injury was able to stop him.

Dennis Erickson, Coach | Washington State University – Dennis Erickson is one of the most successful – and among the most traveled – football coaches ever. He grew up in Everett and was an all-conference quarterback at the University of Idaho. He was head coach at six colleges, including Washington State, Oregon State, and Idaho. He was also the head coach for two NFL teams, including the Seahawks. Erickson won two national championships at the University of Miami and took WSU and Oregon State to historic heights.

Chip Lydum, Associate | University of Washington – Chip Lydum's long job title in the University of Washington's Athletic Department matches the range and breadth of his achievements. As the Associate Athletic Director for Operations and Capital Projects, he was directly involved in legacy projects, including the remodeling of Husky Stadium, the renovation of Hec Edmundson Pavilion, and the building of a performance center for Husky softball.

Steve Pelluer, College Player | University of Washington – Quarterback Steve Pelluer helped create some of the biggest moments in University of Washington football history. The kid from Bellevue's Interlake High School was just a sophomore when he led Coach Don James's Huskies to the 1981 Pac-10 Conference championship and a 28-0 win over Iowa in the Rose Bowl. As a senior, he was named the Pac-10's Offensive Player of the Year. His accuracy and leadership earned him a spot in the Husky Hall of Fame.

Jim Whitesel, Associate | Seattle Seahawks, UW, WSU, SPU, Longacres – Athletic trainer Jim Whitesel had Washington covered. He was a student trainer for the Huskies, an assistant trainer at Washington State, and head trainer at Seattle Pacific. He also treated jockeys at Longacres. Whitesel worked for the Seahawks for 23 years, where he was head trainer from 1983 to 1998 and his staff was considered the NFL's best. He is enshrined in the National Athletic Trainer's Association Hall of Fame and remembered gratefully by all who were under his care. (awarded posthumously)

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For over thirty years, the Pacific Northwest Football Hall of Fame has recognized players, coaching staff, and other influential members with ties to the Greater Northwest Region. Members include:

- **K.J. Wright** | Seattle Seahawks (2023)
- **Mike Price** | WSU (2023)
- **Shaun Alexander** | Seattle Seahawks (2019)
- **Chuck Knox** | Seattle Seahawks (2019)
- **Mike Holmgren** | Seattle Seahawks (2018)
- **Napoleon Kaufman** | UW (2018)
- **John Nordstrom** | Seattle Seahawks (2018)
- **Paul G. Allen** | Seattle Seahawks (2017)
- **Terry Baker** | Oregon State University (2017)
- **Brock Huard** | UW/Seattle Seahawks (2016)
- **Jermaine Kearse** | UW/Seattle Seahawks (2015)
- **Walter Jones** | Seattle Seahawks (2014)
- **Sandy Gregory** | Seattle Seahawks (2013)
- **Bruce Harrell** | UW (2013)
- **Marcus Trufant** | WSU (2012)
- **Ron Siegel** | The Seattle Times (2011)
- **Wayne Foster** | WSU/Semi-Pro (2010)
- **Dick Nicholl** | Mercer Island High School (2009)
- **Bob Rondeau** | KOMO/UW (2009)
- **Pat Locker** | Western Washington University (2008)
- **Bill O'Mara** | KLKI Radio (2007)
- **Carol Keaton** | Kingdome (2006)
- **Dan Wheatley** | Tacoma Tyees (2006)
- **Chuck Nelson** | UW (2005)
- **Chuck Allen** | WSU/NFL (2004)
- **Drew Bledsoe** | WSU (2003)
- **Keith Jackson** | WSU (2002)
- **Manu Tuiaosopo** | Seattle Seahawks (2001)
- **Bruce King** | KOMO-TV (2000)
- **Warren Moon** | UW/NFL (1999)
- **Royal Dotson** | Seattle Ramblers (1998)
- **Dave Krieg** | Seattle Seahawks (1997)
- **Jack Thompson** | WSU (1997)
- **Curt Warner** | Seattle Seahawks (1996)
- **Click Clark** | UW (1995)
- **Sonny Sixkiller** | UW (1994)
- **Steve Largent** | Seattle Seahawks (1993)
- **Sam Buckley** | Seattle Ramblers (1992)
- **Elmo Hudgens** | Seattle Cavaliers (1991)
- **Hugh McElhenny** | UW/NFL (1990)

[View full Hall of Fame list](#)

Nominees are selected by the Sports Star Nominations Committee and then voted on by the public. Once an individual has been named a Sports Star, that person becomes a member of an elite group that forever etches their name in Washington's sports history. The winners will be announced during the 89th Annual Sports Star of the Year Awards Show presented by Microsoft, which will be held at the Westin Seattle on February 15 and broadcast on 89SSY Broadcast Sponsor station, KING 5 in March.

The Seattle Sports Commission (SSC) is committed to making Seattle a world-class sports community by creating opportunities that bring the world to the Pacific Northwest. The SSC seeks to strengthen social and economic impact, encourage generational engagement in athletics, and bolster pride in our communities. Go to seattlesports.org to learn more about the SSC

Media interested in covering this year's event can fill out a [Media Credential Request](#) by Thursday, February 8.

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