

THE COURIER

OF MONTGOMERY  COUNTY

Sponsors, students make Mike Ogg awards a success

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To the editor:

On May 17, the five Rotary Clubs serving Montgomery County (Conroe, East Montgomery County, Lake Conroe, Magnolia and The Woodlands) collaborated for the fifth year in a row to honor Scholar Athletes from Montgomery County high schools. At the Lone Star Convention Center, over 550 attendees cheered on these outstanding high school seniors at the 12th Annual Mike Ogg Montgomery County Scholar Athlete Award Banquet.

Due to the outstanding generosity of our sponsors and program advertisers, the Rotary Clubs of Montgomery County awarded \$63,000 in college scholarships. Over the past five years, we have awarded scholarships totaling \$200,000. A standing ovation is due to our sponsors, including our Platinum Sponsors, Billie Ogg and family and Alfred and Dollie Anderson, and our Gold Sponsors, Houston Methodist Orthopedics & Sports Medicine of The Woodlands, Spectrum Catering and Weaver and Tidwell, LLP.

Our Silver Sponsors were Bradbury Brothers A/C, Heating and Plumbing, Buckalew Chevrolet, County Commissioner Jim Clark, East Montgomery County Improvement District, Gullo Ford and Storage 105. Our Bronze Sponsors included Borden Milk, Consolidated Communications, County Judge Craig Doyal, Herff Jones, Hutchinson, Shockey, Erley & Co., Wiesner Automotive and Woodforest National Bank.

In attendance to honor our Montgomery County Scholar Athletes were District Superintendents, high school principals and coaches, Doyal, Clark and County Attorney J D Lambright.

Each of our 139 nominees demonstrated a rare blend of conviction, perseverance, discipline and maturity that will serve them in their future endeavors and inspire all who are fortunate to know them. These scholar athletes brought pride and honor to their schools, teachers, coaches and especially to their parents and families. Nearly all of the scholar athletes will be continuing their education, attending colleges from coast to coast, including Stanford, UCLA, Kansas State, Lehigh, Yale, Dartmouth, Howard University, Penn, University of Houston, The University of Texas, Texas A&M University, Sam Houston State University and Stephen F. Austin University.

Scholar Athletes of the Year were chosen in 17 sports and for each of the 13 high schools. Twenty-nine Scholar Athletes were awarded \$1,000 scholarships. Boys and girls third-place overall received an additional \$2,000 scholarship, second place \$3,000, and first place, \$5,000. The Overall Winners, Lucy Stinn, a golfer at Magnolia High School, and Tate Paulson, a long distance and cross country athlete at Montgomery High School, received scholarships totaling \$7,000, each.

All finalists received medallions and recognition of their accolades and accomplishments as they were introduced at the banquet. Sport, High School and Overall winners received trophies to commemorate their extraordinary achievements. The Scholar Athletes, nominated by their coaches, were rated by the Rotary Selection Committee on athletic ability, academic achievement, school accolades, community involvement and work experience. These athletes excelled across the board and include valedictorians, salutatorians or top 25 in their class, academic All-American or state, National Merit semifinalists, team captains, Eagle Scouts and service club officers, with many involved in multiple community activities.

We offer a special thank you to David Hinkie, a golfer at Magnolia High School, who sang a moving National Anthem, and Conner Kidd, the 2016 overall first-place winner, who provided encouragement to this year's Scholar Athletes.

On behalf of our steering committee, we thank the many Rotarians who teamed up to present a special evening, the administrators at each high school who assisted in collecting student nomination forms, and the parents, families, coaches, teachers and administrators who supported these remarkable high school seniors throughout their successful high school careers.

Leland Dushkin

Michael Bradbury

Co-Chair, Rotary Clubs of Montgomery County Mike Ogg Scholar Athlete Banquet