



85th Annual



A Seattle Sports Commission Production

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Nominees Announced for 85th Annual MTRWestern Sports Star of the Year

SEATTLE – The Seattle Sports Commission (SSC) has officially published the list of nominees for the 85th Annual MTRWestern Sports Star of the Year, the Northwest’s premier celebration of Washington sports.

Nominees are selected by the Sports Star Committee, compiled of local sports historians, media and other members of the sports industry, and then voted on by the general public. Voting is open to the public and will run from January 13 to January 24, 2020. Fans will be able to vote for their favorite athletes, influencers and sports stories of the year online at sportsstaroftheyear.org/Vote.

Nominees include athletes and sports figures who excelled in the 2019 season, and feature newly minted champions, once-in-a-lifetime moments, up-and-comers from Washington universities, and a high school student bound for the Tokyo 2020 Olympics.

“We are thrilled to have Kara, Sis, Blake, Matisse & our women’s rowing team nominated for Sports Star,” said Jennifer Cohen, UW Director of Athletics. “The Seattle Sports Commission does an incredible job of putting together this wonderful event for our city each year and we are looking forward to February 6.”

Sounders FC Owner, Adrian Hanauer, shared his thoughts on the team’s nomination: “Being able to win a championship in front of the hometown fans is one of the biggest thrills that a sports franchise can experience. It is a tribute to our team, coaches and organization that we were able to capture our second championship in four years. Most importantly, I’d like to thank the best soccer fans in America for being with us every step of the way. We couldn’t have been more excited to reward them with a title at CenturyLink Field.”

Now in its 85th year, the event has honored some of Seattle’s most inspiring and iconic sports individuals, media and philanthropists. Once an individual has been named a Sports Star, he or she becomes a member of an elite group that forever etches their name in Washington’s sports history. The winners are announced during the 85th Annual MTRWestern Sports Star of the Year show, hosted at The Westin Seattle on Thursday, February 6, 2020.

Tickets and event details are available at www.sportsstaroftheyear.org.

The nominees for the 85th Annual MTRWestern Sports Star of the Year are:

Female Sports Star of Year:

- **Kara Bajema**, University of Washington Volleyball
- **Bethany Balcer**, Seattle Reign FC
- **Sis Bates**, University of Washington Softball
- **Nevin Harrison**, Gig Harbour Canoe & Kayak / Tokyo 2020
- **Natasha Howard**, Seattle Storm
- **Morgan Weaver**, Washington State University Soccer

Male Sports Star of the Year:

- **Blake Bodily**, University of Washington Soccer
- **Max Borghi**, Washington State University Football
- **Rui Hachimura**, Gonzaga Basketball
- **Tyler Lockett**, Seattle Seahawks
- **Raul Ruidiaz**, Seattle Sounders FC
- **Matisse Thybulle**, University of Washington Basketball

Sports Story of the Year:

- **Megan Rapinoe leads USWNT to World Cup Championship as best player of the year**
- **Seattle Seahawks playoffs run**
- **Seattle Seawolves win back-to-back MLR Championships**
- **Seattle Sounders FC win MLS Cup**
- **University of Washington Women's Rowing Sweeps Championships**

Tickets to the show can be purchased online as either a table ticket package or individual reserved tickets. To stay up-to-date with information as the event approaches, follow the SSC on social media and the event hashtag, #85SSY

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. By fostering a strong sports culture, the SSC seeks to strengthen businesses, foster generational engagement in athletics and bolster pride in our communities. Go to seattlesports.org to learn more about the SSC, a division of Visit Seattle.

MTRWestern For over a decade, MTRWestern has earned a reputation as the premier transportation solutions provider in the Pacific Northwest. In addition to getting passengers from Point A to B, MTR excels in creating exceptional customer experiences along the way. State-of-the-art shuttles and motor coaches provide the ultimate in comfort and safety, allowing passengers to sit back and enjoy the ride while MTR takes care of the rest.