



Virginia Amateur Sports, INC

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: September 26, 2017

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Virginia Commonwealth Games Announce 2017 Athletes of the Year

Virginia Amateur Sports, Inc (VAS) organizers of the Virginia Commonwealth Games at Liberty University annual athletes of the year have been selected: Heileigh Vencill of Grundy was named Youth – Female Athlete of the Year, Daylin Toms of Cool Ridge, WV was named Youth – Male Athlete of the Year, and Lee Beaumont of Lynchburg was named Adult – Male Athlete of the Year. These athletes were selected from the nominees in their category, nominations ran through the month of August.

Heileigh was a silver medalist with her Basketball team (Grundy Gladiators) in the 2017 Games. Heileigh is a leader both on and off the court. She loves the game of basketball and prides herself on representing both her team and her community. The Gladiators have a long history of participating in the Games.

Daylin received a gold medal in his wrestling weight class. His path to the gold medal was anything but normal. In 2014 Daylin contracted Encephalitis that caused his brain to rupture not once but twice. This resulted in frontal lobe brain damage. He lost the ability to read, write, and his memory was come and go. He could not even remember his own name or the names of his siblings or parents. His family was told by doctors that he would never again be able to do the things he once was able to do. After a year without a seizure, he was cleared to wrestle again. He struggled but would not quit. In 2015 he did not qualify for the WVSSAC High School State Tournament but he had improved greatly by the Regional tournament. In 2016 Daylin qualified for the WVSSAC tournament and won two matches in the State tournament but he left empty handed but determined. At the 2017 Virginia Commonwealth Games, Daylin weighed in at 166 pounds having lost more than 50 pounds since the injury. He wrestled in the 170 pound weight class and after a strong performance in which he pinned every opponent he wrestled.

Lee received numerous medals in the 2017 Games, in several sports including – Track & Field, Indoor Triathlon, Powerlifting and 5K. Lee has participated in the Games for many years and is a major advocate for what the Games represent. Lee represented Virginia in the State Games of America in Grand Rapids in early August. At State Games of America he competed in Track & Field, 5K & Swimming.

These athletes were nominated to represent Virginia in the running for National Congress of State Games Athletes of the Year and those winners will be announced soon and awards presented in late October. Heileigh, Daylin and Lee will also be honored by leading our Parade of Athletes at the Opening Ceremonies for the 2018 Virginia Commonwealth Games at Liberty University on July 27.

For more information on the Games, including images for download, visit: www.CommonwealthGames.org

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