



Virginia Amateur Sports, INC

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Virginia Commonwealth Games Announced 2016 Athletes of the Year

Virginia Amateur Sports, Inc (VAS) organizers of the Virginia Commonwealth Games at Liberty University announced in a private ceremony last week their annual athletes of the year. ShaeLee Slaughter of Floyd was awarded Youth – Female Athlete of the Year and Nathaniel Torres of Roanoke was awarded Youth – Male Athlete of the Year. These athletes were selected from the nominees in their category, nominations ran through the month of August.

Shae Lee was a gold medalist with her Basketball team (Outlaws 2023) in the 2016 Games. Her interest in basketball started around age 2 when she first started dribbling around, she began playing competitively in the second grade and now at age 12, she plays on two teams. In the 2016 Games, ShaeLee not only hit the game winning 3 point shot in pool play after the team trailed the entire game against VA Sting but she finished the tournament leading the team in scoring and rebounding including 18 points (4-5 from 3pt line), 8 rebounds and 3 assists in the championship game. She also encouraged and worked with the new team members in their first Commonwealth Games experience. In addition to her love for basketball, she also has a passion for horses.

Nathaniel was a gold medalist in 3 different Judo divisions - Boys 13-16 Heavyweight – Boys 13-16 Super heavyweight and Senior Male an adult competition- in the 2016 Games. He interest in Judo began around age 9 and now at 16, he is a brown belt. Over the past 5 years Nathaniel has increased his training and has competed in both regional and national tournaments. He puts his heart and soul into his sport practicing, lifting weights, running, and maintaining a healthy diet to prepare for competition.

With all his focus on training himself to be the best he can be he still will take the time to work with children younger than himself. He has helped warm up kids who had no one to work with before a tournament and encouraged and mentored kids who did not have a coach. Nathaniel has competed in the Virginia Commonwealth Games for four years and is proud to list his victories at the Games on his resume as he works toward his ultimate goal of Olympic gold.

These athletes will also be honored by leading our Parade of Athletes at the Opening Ceremonies for the 2017 Virginia Commonwealth Games at Liberty University on July 21.

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

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