

Richmond Sports Backers Scholar Athlete Program June 2, 2008

What: Since 1991, the Sports Backers, in partnership with the Richmond Times-Dispatch, has recognized the impressive achievements of the area's finest student-athletes during its Scholar-Athlete Awards Dinner. Twenty young men and women are recognized for their accomplishments in the classroom, on the field of play and in the community. These twenty finalists are selected from a pool of deserving students nominated by educators, coaches and athletic directors. The High School Team of the Year, as well as the Comeback Athlete of the Year, will also be honored during the awards program.

Over \$60,000 in scholarships will be awarded during the program, including a \$7,500 scholarship to both the male and female Scholar Athlete of the Year. Over \$400,000 in scholarships has been awarded since the program's inception.

When: The Scholar Athlete Awards Dinner will be held on June 2, 2008. A cocktail reception for corporate sponsors will precede the dinner. A silent auction will also be held to raise funds for the scholarship program.

Where: The program will be held at The Jefferson Hotel in downtown Richmond.

Who: In addition to the student athletes and their guests, the program will be attended by school administrators as well as by leaders of the region's business community. Over twenty of the region's leading businesses will support the program by purchasing corporate tables and by sponsoring scholarships. Expected attendance at the program is 350 guests.

Media: The Richmond Times-Dispatch is the co-sponsor of the Scholar Athlete Awards Program. The newspaper profiles each of the twenty finalists in a two-page layout that will run on Sunday, June 1. The newspaper will also run a feature story in the sports section on Tuesday, June 3.

Contact: For additional information, please contact Jeff Fitch, Director of Development for the Richmond Sports Backers, at (804) 285-9495.