



**Colorado Sports Hall of Fame
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COLORADO SPORTS HALL OF FAME HONOREES

Broncos' Bailey Headlines 2006 Colorado Athletes-of-the-Year

DENVER COLO. - All-pro cornerback Champ Bailey of the Denver Broncos headlines a list of five individuals that will be honored as the 2006 "Centennial" State Athletes-of-the-Year at April's Colorado Sports Hall of Fame banquet at the Denver Marriott City Center.

The Selection Committee of the Colorado Sports Hall of Fame picked Bailey as the professional Athlete-of-the-Year as he led the Broncos to a 9-7 record before he finished second in the NFL's defensive player-of-the-year voting behind Jason Taylor of the Miami Dolphins.

Other selections here Tuesday were Clay Garcia (Alamosa) and Melissa Jones (Legacy) as the boy's and girl's High School Athletes-of-the-Year, respectively, and Matt Carle (Denver) and Dana Pounds (Air Force) as the men's and women's Athletes-of-the-Year, respectively.

Tuesday's AOY selections will be honored at the April 10 banquet along with the newest Colorado Sports Hall of Fame inductees of Carol Baily, Pat Bowlen, Ben Dreith, Andres Galarraga, Hank Kashiwa and Scott Wedman. The newest members of the Colorado Sports Hall of Fame were selected this past November. Tickets for the banquet are \$150 each and are available by contacting the CSHOF office at Invesco Field at Mile High.

Bailey, who tied New England's Asante Samuel for the league-lead in interceptions, captured the Colorado Sports Hall of Fame's professional Athlete-of-the-Year award for the second time to become the first individual to win the honor in back-to-back years. He joins golfer Hale Irwin (1974, 1979 and 1990), Alex English of the Denver Nuggets (1982 and 1985) and Joe Sakic of the Colorado Avalanche (1996 and 2001) as multiple winners of the award that was initially given in 1967.

Completing his eighth NFL campaign, Bailey was Denver's only All-Pro selections this season. Bailey also earned his seventh consecutive Pro Bowl nomination and his third as a member of the Broncos. In 16 starts this season, he led the Denver secondary and was third on the team with 98 tackles (84 solo) with a career-high 10 interceptions (162 yards), 30 passes defended and a fumble recovery.

The Denver Post 2006 Gold Helmet Award winner, Garcia capped his senior year by setting the state's single-season record for touchdown passes (52) in leading Alamosa to its second undefeated season and Class 3A championship since 2001. In 11 1/2 years of school, Garcia has received straight A's on every report card except one (handwriting in fourth grade). He is ranked No. 1 in his high school class and is the student body president.

A pre-season All-American, Jones ended the 2006 portion of the current high school campaign with a 20.2 point, 11.6 rebound and 4.4 assist averages in guiding Legacy to a 6-2 record. A two-time all-state performer, Jones averaged 22 points a game for the 2005-2006 season in leading Legacy to a 15-9 record and a state tournament where they finished with a 15-9 berth.

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Carle became Denver's first-ever Hobey Baker Award winner, given annually to collegiate hockey's best player, for the 2005-2006 season. The first player in WCHA history to win the Player of the Year and Defensive Player of the Year Awards in the same season, Carle tied for fifth in NCAA scoring (53 points in 39 games) last season and was first in assists. He is currently playing for the San Jose Sharks in the National Hockey League.

A 2006 U.S. Air Force Academy graduate and commissioned second lieutenant, Pounds won her second-straight NCAA javelin title with a winning toss over 190 feet. The 2006 Female Field Event Athlete of the Year for the Mountain Region., Pounds broke the Academy, Mountain West Conference and MWC Championship-meet records with a toss of 195 feet, 8 inches, in winning her third straight conference title last spring.

A member of a national championship team at Arizona State University and a Colorado Tennis Hall of Famer, Baily has been a touring professional with appearances in both the U.S. and Australian Opens. A winner of 41 major Colorado titles, Baily has been ranked No. 1 in the world in the women's 40 and 45 singles and doubles. She also led the United States three world team titles (1993, 1995 and 1996).

The only two-decade owner of a major league sports team in Colorado history, Bowlen is in the midst of his 23rd year as the President and CEO of the Denver Broncos. During Bowlen's ownership, the Broncos have won back-to-back World Championships in 1998 (Super Bowl XXXII vs. the Green Bay Packers 31-24) and 1999 (Super Bowl XXXIII vs. the Atlanta Falcons 34-19).

A three-sport letterman at the University of Northern Colorado, Dreith was an all-conference basketball and baseball player before a distinguished career as a football/basketball official. He refereed two Super Bowls; eight NFL Championship games, eight NCAA regional basketball tournaments, numerous other high school and college championship games.

A cancer survivor, Galarraga played for the Colorado Rockies for five seasons (1993-1997) where he compiled a .316 batting average in 679 games with 476 runs and 843 hits (172 homers), 579 runs batted in and 55 stolen bases. He won the National League batting title (.370) in 1993, the Rockies' inaugural season. A member of the famed Blake Street Bombers, Galarraga hit a career-high 47 homers for the Rockies in 1996 and 41 in 1997.

An accomplished squash player, an avid fisherman, a single-digit handicapper on the golf course and a gourmet cook, Kashiwa was a standout amateur and professional skier. Highlighting his 14-year skiing career was his 1969 United States National Championship and the 1975 World Pro title. He also participated on the United States Team at the 1970 World Championships in Val Gardena, Italy and the Sapporo 1972 Winter Olympic Games.

An NBA player from 1974 to 1987, Wedman was a member of Boston Celtics (1983-1987) teams that won two championships (1984 and 1986). In 906 pro games, Wedman average 13.2 points, 4.8 rebounds and 2.0 assists per game. Prior to his professional career, Wedman played basketball at Mullen High School before a standout career at the University of Colorado where he ranks 15th in career scoring (1,251 points, 15.0 average) and ninth in rebounding (784 rebounds, 9.1 average) for 75 games.