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NEWS RELEASE

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Houston County Sharks and Supporters Presented ASPIRE Awards



HOUSTON COUNTY, GA – Several Houston County Sharks players and supporters were nominated for the 2019 American Association of Adapted Sports Programs (AAASP) awards. The Adapted Sports Programs in Recreation and Education (ASPIRE) Awards recognize individuals who serve as role models and advocates for adapted sports, supporting student athletes with physical disabilities to “get off the sidelines and into the game.”

The 2019 nominees were celebrated in Atlanta on Oct. 27. Thirty-three nominees from the states of Georgia, New Mexico, Washington and West Virginia were presented a certificate on stage. This was followed by an announcement and recognition of the winners in each of the 10 categories. The Sharks’ nominees were represented in five categories and named the winner in two.

Congratulations to O’lando Hicks for winning “Outstanding Male Athlete.” He was presented this award for demonstrating exceptional efforts and leadership qualities in the AAASP’s sports league. Hicks, who is a student at the Transition Academy, is pictured with his certificate and award.

Four local supporters were each presented the ASPIRE Advocacy Award. This award is reserved for those who demonstrate exceptional efforts toward the needs and rights of individuals with disabilities. Congratulations to the following (pictured from left):

- ★ Beth McLaughlin, Director of Community and School Affairs;
- ★ Dr. Zabrina Cannady, Assistant Superintendent for Student Services;
- ★ Dr. Mark Scott, Superintendent of Schools; and
- ★ Christy Jones, Orthopedic Impaired Teacher and Sharks Area Coordinator.



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Other Houston County nominees who were recognized were:

- Jeff McDaniel, The Gail Hendricks Volunteerism Award;
- Jordan Kozloski, Outstanding Female Athlete and Outstanding Senior Athlete Awards; and
- Houston County Sharks, School-Based Program Award.

The speaker at the program was the Unstoppable Tracy Schmitt, an international, motivational speaker, best-selling author and decorated athlete. Sam Crenshaw, veteran Atlanta reporter, television sports anchor, and #1 International MegaSuccess TedX Speaker, was the emcee.

The AAASP represents a standardized approach to interscholastic sports programming for students with physical disabilities. Learn more at www.adaptedsports.org/. For more information about the Sharks or Houston County's winners, please contact Jones at 478-396-2022 or Christy.Jones@hcbe.net.

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