



GIRLS ATHLETIC LEADERSHIP SCHOOLS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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2016 SPORTSWOMEN OF COLORADO AWARD WINNERS INCLUDE THREE GALS STAFF MEMBERS ***Girl Athletic Leadership School founders and teacher to be honored at banquet on March 12, 2017***

February 1, 2017 – Denver, CO – Sportswomen of Colorado will recognize Colorado's top female athletes and contributors to women's athletics at its 43rd Annual Awards Celebration on Sunday, March 12, 2017 at the Infinity Park Events Center. Three Girls Athletic Leadership School (GALS) staff members will be honored.

GALS founders Elizabeth Wolfson and Nina Safane are receiving the Empowerment Award at the banquet. This award recognizes Wolfson and Safane for empowering girls to initiate involvement in, and a love for, sports.

Wolfson and Safane met through Brown University athletics connections and founded Girls Athletic Leadership Schools. GALS opened in Denver in 2010 and serves 6th-12th grade girls. The organization has also opened a girls' middle school in Los Angeles and is opening a brother school, The Boys School of Denver, in Fall 2017.

Liz Wolfson shared, *"As former Division I athletes ourselves, it is an honor to be recognized by our statewide community for our contribution to the issues of competition and excellence for our students. We believe that if you have a body, you are an athlete, and through this lens, we support young women to explore the role of elite competition in their own lives. We are deeply grateful for this recognition."*

Courtney Dauwalter, a teacher at GALS since 2011, is receiving the award for Ultra Distance Running. In September 2016, Dauwalter took 1st place for all women in the Run Rabbit Run 100 Mile Race in Steamboat Springs. In December, she then ran 147.49 miles total at the Desert Solstice 24-hour race (1st place overall for number of miles run). Her accomplishments have placed her fifth on the all-time U.S. list of 24-hour race distances.

Being honored for rugby is Jillion Potter, wife of Carol Fabrizio, former GALS board member. Jillion has mentored GALS students and continues to be an inspiration to our students.

About The Girls Athletic Leadership Schools of Denver (GALS):

GALS are the flagship schools in a developing national brand of public schools predicated on best practices in active learning and gender-based learning. GALS provides an innovative and necessary educational option that incorporates health and wellness education to optimize academic achievement and self-development for middle and high school-aged students. For more information visit galschools.org

About Sportswomen of Colorado:

Founded in 1974 by the YWCA of Metropolitan Denver, in cooperation with Gart Brothers Sporting Goods Co., Sportswomen of Colorado is recognized as the first community-based organization in the nation to solely honor female athletes, celebrate their achievements and recognize those whose efforts have advanced girls' and women's individual and team sports endeavors.

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