

## 2018 Athlete Sportsmanship Award Nominees

### Boys

Nathan Kim BAC

### Girls

Emily Ulmer LAKE

Leah Erdman BAC

Libby Dammen JHWK

### Nominations

- **Nathan Kim Badger Aquatics Club** *nominated by Joe McNerney*  
Whenever I mention Nathan to a swimmer or parent from another team, I get the same response every time: "He is such a nice kid." Whenever anyone from my team comes back from swimming a race, Nathan is there to congratulate them, tell them of how nice of a job he or she did, but not too much so that it looks insincere. Nathan can often be seen talking to his buddies from different teams. There would not be enough room in this e-mail to list how many friends Nathan has made from different teams. I think that I can speak for the rest of the team and most of the swimming community when I say that Nathan Kim deserves this award more than anybody else.
- **Emily Ulmer Lake Country Swim Team** *nominated by Abby Cabbush*  
Emily is one of the most fun loving and dedicated swimmers and friends that I know. She swims because she loves the sport and will continue to work hard, never giving up, no matter her results at meets or seasons of not reaching goals. She strives to create a coherent team environment and puts effort into organizing sleepovers, dinners, and games of Frisbee for the whole team. Even if she's done swimming for the day at a swim meet, Emily can be found in the team bleachers and behind the lanes encouraging and cheering on team members. Even after her switch from another WI team more than a year ago, she maintains her old friendships, has invited swimmers from both teams to activities she's hosted, and still cheers them on at meets and knows the details of their season. As a friend, Emily is willing to listen to struggles, help offer advice and be a true friend who will always be there. Overall, Emily shows great sportsmanship and has affected many people in a positive way. I wish that she can be used as an example for other swimmers around the state so Wisconsin Swimming can be filled with people as selfless and caring as Emily.
- **Libby Dammen J-Hawk Aquatic Club** *nominated by Dani Cramer*  
Libby Dammen from J-Hawk aquatic club is our current team captain. She is a hard working and dedicated swimmer and is never seen on deck without a smile. This past season, Libby has overcome so many obstacles thrown her way and she has recovered from each with grace and a positive attitude. She encourages her teammates more than any one by motivating them to be better versions of themselves. Libby's ability to keep her chin up and make everyone feel like part of a family is a big reason everyone on our

team looks up to her. Libby is an incredible person and definitely fits the model for a sportswoman of the year.

- **Libby Dammen J-Hawk Aquatic Club** *nominated by Ella Houwers*

I'm nominating Libby Dammen for this sportsmanship award because she's such a great leader on our team. Libby is always there for meets and practices to cheer on our team and motivate us. She recently experienced an injury that's kept her out of the pool, but it doesn't stop her. She's been at practices motivating us and meets too. Libby always makes my teammates and I laugh and her energy and spirit is contagious. Libby is an amazing teammate and a great friend. She deserves this award more than anyone I know.

- **Libby Dammen J-Hawk Aquatic Club** *nominated by Bailey Ratzburg*

I am writing to nominate Libby Dammen for Sportsman of the Year. Libby demonstrates leadership within our team and beyond. She steps up to help each of her teammates on a daily basis. Whether we are talking about a word of encouragement, cheering from the deck, getting the team energized before a meet or organizing any team activities, Libby is involved. She is a leader to the whole team. Even when injured this last season, she is at all practices and meets pushing our whole to be better. As our team rep she interacts with other swimmers across the state and always has positive relationships. Libby is a true representation of what it means to be a great sportsman.

- **Leah Erdman Badger Aquatic Club** *nominated by Ella Lohr*

I have swum with Leah Erdman for 6 years. She has shown multiple ways of great leadership on our team. She is always at the end of the lane cheering for her teammates, and always has a positive attitude. No matter how she swims, she is always supportive towards her team. Leah always comes to practice with a smile on her face, even when she is not in the mood. Practicing with Leah is a blast, and I am glad I have a teammate as great and kind as her. I nominate Leah Erdman for the Sportsman of the Year award.

- **Leah Erdman Badger Aquatic Club** *nominated by Simon Wenninger*

I would like to nominate Leah Erdman for the "Sportsman of the Year" award for Wisconsin Swimming. I have been Leah's (younger) teammate for 3 years. Leah is an amazing teammate because she is constantly encouraging all swimmers, not just the older swimmers, to do their best in the pool. At practice, Leah sets a great example by working hard without complaining, encouraging us all to do our very best even during the really hard workouts, giving lots of high-fives throughout practice, never talking badly about her teammates, and helping the coaches clean up afterward. She also asks us about our school day and is never rude or discouraging. At meets, Leah helps the coaches get the young swimmers to their blocks, gives lots of encouraging high-fives and "great jobs" to everyone on our team after our races, willingly volunteers to stay late at meets to be the lap counter for long-distance swimmers, and is constantly cheering us on with lots of energy and enthusiasm. Leah is an awesome teammate who has a high level of integrity and character. She is by far the most encouraging person on our team and is excited for us after good days and helps pick up our spirits on bad days. She has taught me about the kind of teammate I want to be. I think she deserves this award.

- **Leah Erdman Badger Aquatic Club** *nominated by Caleb Rocha*  
 I am 13 years old and I have been swimming with Leah for 2 years. Leah recognizes people after they race and congratulates them. She gives everyone high fives after their races. She talks to and is friendly towards people from all teams, not just ours.
- **Leah Erdman Badger Aquatic Club** *nominated by Mary Rocha*  
 I am Mary Rocha, 15 years old, and for the last five years I have had the pleasure of swimming beside Leah Erdman. She is the epitome of good sportsmanship and even when a swimmer has not had their best race continues to encourage and comfort them. She has helped many people, both from her team and of different teams, because that is just how she is. Leah goes out of her way to make everyone feel better about themselves. For these reasons, this is why our family of swimmers believes Leah Erdman exemplifies the definition of good sportsmanship and nominate her for the Wisconsin Swimming Sportsmanship Award.
- **Leah Erdman Badger Aquatic Club** *nominated by Bailey Sersland*  
 My name is Bailey Sersland and I am 12 years old. I want to nominate Leah Erdman of Reedsburg, Wisconsin who is a member of the BAC swim team. Leah always treated me and our team with lots of kindness giving hugs and saying things to make us smile after a bad race. After a good race she would always congratulate us and make us feel really good! A main reason is she isn't just like this sometime she is like this everywhere and anytime whether its at a meet or at practice or team dinner. She has for years treated everyone the same whether it is an old or young kid She is always really good, supportive, kind, always a good person and a great role model for me . I think she would really deserve to get this award.
- **Leah Erdman Badger Aquatic Club** *nominated by Isabella Stout*  
 I have known Leah for three years. Even though she is six years older than me she is an amazing role model. Leah is extremely nice. Leah makes everyone feel welcome and never talks bad about anyone. She is super nice to the younger kids and asks them how they're doing. Leah is always at the end of our lanes cheering her lungs out. After a swim Leah high fives us and tells us "good job" even if we added time. Leah also always has a positive attitude. Leah is always laughing and has a smile on her face. Whenever she swims and adds time Leah never gets sad or mad. She just shakes it off. Leah doesn't let bad races affect the rest of the team. Also, Leah is always thinking 'can' instead of 'can't'. At practice when the workout is hard Leah is always thinking positive. Leah deserves the Sportsmanship award because Leah is fun. When Coach Brenda asks for fun ideas for Holiday workouts Leah always has some. One time Leah told Coach Brenda about a kicking workout where you put up your kick board like a turkey blind and kick. That one was for the Thanksgiving workout. To wrap it up Leah has all sportsmanship qualities that everyone has. Leah's nice, fun and has a positive attitude.
- **Leah Erdman Badger Aquatic Club** *nominated by Lauren Macomber*  
 I began swimming for Badger Aquatics Club just this year. Being new to the team and from a different community, I didn't know anyone. Leah always greeted me with a smile and made me feel welcome. Leah supports and encourages me and all of our teammates at practice, even during the hardest sets. Leah is a hard worker and her work ethic has a positive effect on all of us. Leah cheers our team on at meets and is

always there after our races with a congratulatory high five and smile. Leah truly cares about the team and pushes everyone to achieve their goals. Leah is team leader and this is evident by her dedication to the team and her humble attitude.

- **Leah Erdman Badger Aquatic Club** *nominated by Anna Balfanz*  
Leah and I swim for the Badger Aquatics Club in Baraboo. Leah is always very supportive towards everyone on the team. She knows other people's goals as well as her own and pushes others to achieve theirs. Like when I had gotten my first state cut, Leah was at the meet and when I was swimming she was at the end of the pool cheering me on. She said how she knew that I gotten my cut before I even finished my race. Leah is always very happy and energetic. She encourages everyone on the team especially when there is a hard workout. Leah is considerate to everyone on the pool deck, whether we are at practice or a fast-moving meet. She is always respectful of the coaches, pool officials, as well as opponents on other teams. Leah is a great role model for all of us younger swimmers and we are very fortunate to have her on our team. These are some reasons why I would like to nominate Leah Erdman for the 2018 Sportsmanship Award.
- **Leah Erdman Badger Aquatic Club** *nominated by Danielle Crum*  
She is always positive in and out of the pool. Everyone on our team can rely on her to cheer us on at meets and even during practice. After every set Leah will high five everyone in our lane and say good job to the entire team. Leah has nothing negative to say about any other swimmer, she is always positive and waiting at the end of the lane to congratulate someone after they finished their swim. Her glowing personality truly radiates throughout every swim meet, bringing a positive vibe to every summer. I know I can always count on Leah to be cheering me on at the end of my lane for all of my races and my teammates races. When Leah notices that someone does not have anyone cheering in their lane, she will go over and yell for them, even if she does not know them. Because of these reasons, Leah should be nominated for sportsman of the year.
- **Leah Erdman Badger Aquatic Club** *nominated by Ashiya Hopkins*  
What she brings out in herself and out of everyone else is what you hope any young adult can show the world at such a young age she mentors all of us at the meets at practice along with carrying out all of the responsibilities that she has herself with school studies joining the National Guard we are very proud and lucky to have this young lady show us the right way of being a role model to people of all ages thank you for listening.
- **Leah Erdman Badger Aquatic Club** *nominated by Natalie Gneiser*  
I have had the pleasure of swimming with Leah for over five years. I look up to her as a leader on our team. During this time, I have seen Leah do many things that make her an outstanding candidate for this award. Leah is a strong swimmer. She works very hard in practices and encourages us to work harder. Leah makes positive comments throughout practice and after our swims. She supports others when we need it. Leah is a friend to everyone on our team. She has a positive attitude from which everyone around her benefits. Leah truly cares about the swimmers on our team and wants them all to be successful. She is easily approachable, caring, helpful, and compassionate to swimmers on our team and other teams. You can count on Leah to be a counter during a 1000 free and to cheer you on during your races. Leah loves the sport of swimming.

She plans to continue swimming at UW-Stevens Point next year after completing her training for the Army Reserves. I will miss her dearly. She has taught me how to be a positive leader and how to show good sportsmanship to my teammates.

- **Leah Erdman Badger Aquatic Club** *nominated by Aidan Lohr*  
Leah Erdman (Badger Aquatics Club and Baraboo High School Swimming) is a very supportive and kind person. She shows great character and she also has an outstanding work ethic. Leah is at the end of the lane cheering on her teammates each and every meet, no matter if she is swimming the meet or only swimming one event that day. Sometimes she comes to meets she is not even swimming, just to support her teammates. I have never encountered Leah in a bad mood. Leah is always cheering you up from the mood you are in. She is never sad or mad after a race and she always has a positive attitude. I nominate Leah for the Wisconsin Swimming Sportsmanship Award.
- **Leah Erdman Badger Aquatic Club** *nominated by Ella Erdman*  
She always says good luck and good job to everyone, even swimmers who aren't on our team. Leah looks out for everyone, and you can go to her for anything. She never boasts, and is always positive on deck. Leah is an amazing teammate, and is very humble. Leah Erdman has amazing sportsmanship. This is why I have nominated her.
- **Leah Erdman Badger Aquatic Club** *nominated by Makayla Mittelstadt*  
She is a great person and she is always encouraging swimmers and telling us "good job" or "keep going, you are doing great." She also tells us every day after practice that we all did a great job, and to keep up the good work. Everyone on deck loves Leah for all of the outstanding things that she does and all of her loving compliments to urge us on or to congratulate us on our hard work. Leah is a real hard worker and tries to get through the whole set before practice is over. She is sometimes forced to exit the pool because she wants to finish the workout! She works hard and never gives up! All in all Leah is an outstanding swimmer and friend she always there to encourage team spirit and tell us great job through all of those hard and exhausting workouts.