



Virginia Amateur Sports, INC

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Virginia Amateur Sports Announces 2024 Athletes of the Year

Virginia Amateur Sports, Inc (VAS) organizers of the Virginia Commonwealth Games at Liberty University, annual athletes of the year have been selected: Lamont Beverly of Fredericksburg was named VA Youth Athlete of the Year, and Rives Hargis of Winchester the VA Adult Athlete of the Year. These athletes were selected from the nominees in their category and nominations are submitted online annually. The winners were nominated to represent Virginia in the running for National Congress of State Games (NCSG) Athletes of the Year and those winners were announced in September.

Lamont (age 9) is from Fredericksburg and participated in the Able Track and Field events. This was not only his first Commonwealth Games but also his first sporting event. David Fletcher, his coach and PE teacher, said "Watching him train and compete you'll see a kid who loves life, supports and cheers for his teammates, tries hard, and never complains". Lamont earned 2 gold medals and one silver.

Rives (age 21) is from Winchester who participated in the wrestling event. Rives nomination showcased his "Outstanding work ethic, admirable sportsmanship, and desire to become not just a better athlete but a better person. After battling back from injury, surgery, and not having competed in over a year he still went out and had a hard-fought tournament to earn a silver medal".

While Virginia didn't have a national winner this year, several past winners of the National Congress of State Games Athlete of the Year have come from the VA Commonwealth Games, including: 2023 – Youth – Madalynn Grant – Track & Field – North Dinwiddie, VA, 2021- Youth Female - Olivia Goodwin – Swimming – Charlottesville, VA, 2020 – Adult Female – Ashlynn Moore – Track & Field – Roanoke, VA and 2017 – Youth Male – Daylin Toms – Wrestling – Cool Ridge, WV.



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About the Virginia Commonwealth Games at Liberty University: Modeled after the Olympics, the Virginia Commonwealth Games welcomes athletes regardless of age or skill level. The Games embody the values of participation, sportsmanship, and healthy living amongst residents of Virginia and surrounding eligible states. The rights holder for the event is **Virginia Amateur Sports** (VAS). VAS has been organizing the event for 35 years and it is truly a grassroots effort that relies on the dedication of thousands of volunteers and support from local sponsors and organizations across the Commonwealth. VAS is a member of the National Congress of State Games.

About the National Congress of State Games: The National Congress of State Games (NCSG) is a membership organization comprised of over 30 Summer State Games and 10 Winter State Games organizations and a member of the United States Olympic Committee's Multi Sports Organizational Council. The mission of the NCSG is to support State Games member organizations in the promotion of health, fitness and character building through Olympic – style competitions and physical activities. The NCSG is also the rights holder of the State Games of America, an Olympic-style event featuring competition between State Games medal winners (gold, silver, bronze) from across the nation.

For more information on the Games, including images for download, visit: www.CommonwealthGames.org/news
Member of the National Congress of State Games—learn more at www.stategames.org