

JEFF DICKINS MEMORIAL AWARD

Jeff Dickins was a sportswriter at The Hamilton Spectator who died suddenly in 2003 at the age of 48. In his 26 years at The Spectator, he wrote about professional baseball, hockey and football but drew the most satisfaction from covering amateur sports. Whether it was McMaster Marauders and the university leagues or high school athletics, Dickins loved the atmosphere of competitors playing for the sake of participation.

The award in his name is given annually to a high school student who has demonstrated a commitment to athletic participation, while maintaining a high academic standard and being involved in the community.

CRITERIA

The three criteria are athletic involvement, academic achievements and community involvement

Athletic involvement should not be limited to abilities and skills demonstrated in any number of sports, but should include those students who act as trainers, fundraisers, or managers of teams. There may be individuals whose contributions to a team are not reflected on score sheets.

Academic achievement points to the student's ability to consistently maintain high grades while competing or being involved in multiple sports, although participation in a single school sport would not necessarily disqualify one for consideration. For example, an individual could be a member of the school's rowing team and a member of a provincial or national team which has earned recognition for its efforts. By the same token a student could be a manager of a school team and coach or manage a team away from the school.

Community involvement would show a student-athlete's participation outside the school environment. Volunteer work with various social agencies, visiting seniors in nursing homes, and coaching non-school teams, are just some of the possible considerations.

NOMINATIONS

Consideration for this award comes from the individual schools who are encouraged to seek nominations from the entire school bodies, not just coaches or athletic department heads. But it should be the schools and not parents. Letters from individuals and organizations in support of a candidate could be included with the nominations.

ELIGIBILITY

A grade 12 student from the Hamilton or Halton board who will be going on to post-secondary education.

THE AWARD

The award is something quite distinct from the honours student-athletes now receive as athletes of the year. We give a specially designed plaque and a monetary gift from the Jeff Dickins Memorial Bursary.

Jeff Dickins Memorial Award
In recognition of a high school student's athletic participation, academic and community involvement

Nomination Form

Name: _____

Grade: _____ **School:** _____

Athletic participation: _____

Academic achievement: _____

Community involvement: _____

Please attach any material submitted in support of the nomination, including such items as transcript of marks, testimonials, commendations or citations. Comments requiring more space than the form allows can be included on separate sheets of paper.

Nomination deadline is Dec. 15, 2009.

Completed nomination forms should be mailed to:
The Jeff Dickins Memorial Award
c/o The Sports Department
The Hamilton Spectator
44 Frid St.
Hamilton, ON, L8N 3G3

or email: kaitken@thespec.com