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## 2016 award recipients to be honored at KC Sports Commission Banquet presented by Southwest

KANSAS CITY, MO (April 18, 2016) – The Kansas City Sports Commission is excited to celebrate their 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary with the City of Champions by honoring five outstanding individuals for their commitment and achievements in sports during the 43rd Kansas City Sports Commission Awards Banquet presented by Southwest Airlines on Monday, April 18.

**Waddell & Reed Executive of the Year:** Brenda Tinnen – Tinnen is the General Manager and Senior Vice President of Sprint Center. She is credited with the most successful venue launch outside of New York or Los Angeles when she opened Sprint Center. Over 18 years, Tinnen has managed AEG properties in Minneapolis, Houston, Phoenix and Los Angeles.

**Kansas City Marriott Downtown Sportsman of the Year:** Eric Berry – Berry has been a Kansas City Chiefs Safety since being drafted fifth overall in the 2010 NFL Draft. In his first season with the Chiefs, Berry started all 16 games and became the first Chiefs rookie to be selected to the Pro Bowl since linebacker Derrick Thomas. In December 2014, Berry was diagnosed with Hodgkin's lymphoma and returned to the team for the 2015 season after going through chemo in the off season. He was named to the Pro Bowl, the AP All-Pro team and was named the 2016 AP Comeback Player of the Year as he helped the Chiefs to an 11-5 record and Wild Card berth.

**Kansas City Life Sportswoman of the Year:** Becky Sauerbrunn – Sauerbrunn is a defender for the 2-time NWSL Champions FC Kansas City Blues. In 2015 Sauerbrunn was named NWSL Defender of the Year for a third straight year and FC Kansas City was crowned NWSL Champions for a second year in a row. Sauerbrunn was also one of two players who played and started in all seven matches for the U.S. Women's National Team/FIFA World Cup winners and was the only player on the roster to have played every single minute of those matches.

**Burns & McDonnell Coach of the Year:** Ned Yost – Yost has been the Kansas City Royals Manager since 2010. In 2013, the Royals had their first winning season since 2003 with an 86-76 record. 2015 turned out to be a good year for Yost and the Royals. He led the team to a 7-0 start, marking the second best start to a season in team history. Yost became the longest-tenured manager in Royals history and on June 18 he became the winningest manager in Royals history. The Royals proceeded to become the American League Champions and World Series Champions, the first since 1985 and the first for Yost as manager.

**Children's Mercy Community Champion:** Chief Darryl Forte – City of Kansas City, Mo. Police Chief Forte is a positive influence who inspires people not only in the Police Department but within the Kansas City community. Through the use of sports and activities, Police Athletic League (PAL) officers are bridging the gap between police departments and the communities they serve. Chief Forte's vision is not just an inspiration to the Kansas City community but communities around the country.

Special recognition will be given to George Toma and Bob Davis at the banquet. For most of his career, Toma has been the head groundskeeper for the Truman Sports Complex, which includes the Kansas City Royals' Kauffman Stadium and the Kansas City Chiefs' Arrowhead Stadium. He also has prepared the field for all 50 Super Bowls for the NFL and was called upon to supervise the grounds crews during the 1984 and 1996 Olympic Games and the 1994 World Cup.

Bob Davis is an American sportscaster who was the play-by-play for Fort Hays State University from 1968-1984 then he became the play-by-play for Kansas Jayhawks football and men's basketball teams. In addition he was on the Kansas City Royals broadcast team for 17 years. Davis is a 13-time Kansas Sportscaster of the Year Award winner, a two-time Oscar Stauffer Award winner for excellence in high school sports and was named the 2001 Dick Vitale's "Sweet Sixteen" list of best college basketball broadcasters.

The Awards Banquet will be Monday, April 18 at the Kansas City Marriott Downtown-Muehlebach Tower. A reception will start at 5:30 p.m. with dinner and the program starting at 7 p.m. To purchase a sponsorship package call 816.389.4191 or visit [sportkc.org](http://sportkc.org).

The Kansas City Sports Commission is excited to celebrate their 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary with the City of Champions. Since 1966, its mission has been to promote Kansas City through sports, and your support is essential to accomplishing that mission.

**About The Kansas City Sports Commission and Foundation**

The mission of the Kansas City Sports Commission & Foundation is to drive Kansas City's overall sports strategy, to enrich the quality of life, create economic impact and raise visibility for our region. As a privately-funded nonprofit, we are entirely dependent on your support. For the latest on Kansas City Sports Commission news, follow on [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) and [YouTube](#). Also follow the Waddell & Reed Kansas City Marathon on [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#).

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