

Positive Athlete Names 'Most Positive' Athletes in Colorado for the 2025 School Year

High Schoolers Recognized at Awards Experience with Special Guest Pro Football Hall of Famer and Positive Athlete's Lead Athlete Champ Bailey

DENVER, CO, UNITED STATES, June 4, 2025 /EINPresswire.com/ -- For the first time ever, the Positive Athlete organization has recognized local athletes from all across the state of Colorado as high-character kids who have been nominated and confirmed by their schools as the most representative of "How Positive Athletes O.P.E.R.A.T.E.".

Optimistic
Puts Team First
Encouraging
Respectful
Admits Imperfections

“

I'm excited to follow them as they lean in to take advantage of the ever-growing resources offered by Positive Athlete—not just to winners but to all nominees.”

Champ Bailey

True Heart for Others
Embraces Service

This year, Positive Athlete named 14 different Colorado high schoolers as the Top 7 “Most Positive” male and female student-athletes across the state, while also recognizing with two coaches and one athletic director as “Most Positive” within their respective areas. The Top 7 theme stems from the number of attributes (7) called out above.



Pro Football Hall of Famer Champ Bailey joined 2025 Positive Athlete Colorado award winners for a group photo.

More than 440 nominations from coaches, principals, athletic directors, teachers, and parents were submitted for the Positive Athlete program state-wide, representing 197 different public

and private high schools (equivalent to 53% of all Colorado high schools with formalized athletics programs). Nominations covered all 27 state sanctioned sports as well as e-sports, archery, equestrian, martial arts, motocross, ultimate, Unified Sports, and more. The Colorado awards are part of the national expansion of Positive Athlete, which was created by sports industry veteran Scott Pederson in the early 2010's as a movement for more positivity in youth sports. In addition to excellence on the field, each nominated Positive Athlete was required to show the above characteristics in order to be nominated.

Here is a list of the 2024-2025 State Award Winners:

NAME AND HIGH SCHOOL

Alex Beasley, Lewis-Palmer (Monument, CO)
Avery Leman, Poudre (Fort Collins, CO)
Jaden Francis, Elizabeth (Elizabeth, CO)
Jay Peltier (coach), Summit (Breckenridge, CO)
Katherine Lorck, Cheyenne Mountain (Colorado Springs, CO)
Kevin Prosser III, Rangeview (Aurora, CO)
Kinsley Mayo, La Junta Jr/Sr (La Junta, CO)
Liam Graham, Standley Lake (Westminster, CO)
Megan Waters, Lakewood (Lakewood, CO)
Peighton Marrero, Strasburg (Strasburg, CO)
Ray Lopez (coach), Abraham Lincoln (Denver, CO)
Rhett McDonald, Wiley (Wiley, CO)
Roxann Serna (AD), Centennial (San Luis, CO)
Ryan Cornell, Longmont (Longmont, CO)
Sage Adkins, Rock Canyon (Littleton, CO)
Simon Lunsford, Green Mountain (Lakewood, CO)
Staia Yohe-Savage, George Washington (Denver, CO)

All of these award winners were recognized at the 2025 Colorado Positive Athlete Awards on June 2 at DCSD Legacy Campus, with special guest Pro Football Hall of Famer and Positive Athlete's Lead Athlete Champ Bailey.

"I'd seen their Positive Athlete nominations and bios but meeting and celebrating the winners in person exceeded all expectations," said Bailey. "It's easy to see why they are the future leaders in their communities and the workforce. I'm excited to follow them as they lean in to take advantage of the ever-growing resources offered by Positive Athlete—not just to winners but to all nominees."

Five scholarships were awarded, totaling \$8,000. These recipients included Avery Leman winning the female O.P.E.R.A.T.E Award and Liam Graham winning the male O.P.E.R.A.T.E. Award, each receiving \$2,500 toward the academic institution or trade school of their choice. Additionally, Kinsley Mayo, Rhett McDonald and Staia Yohe-Savage received Positivity Champ Awards

including a \$1,000 scholarship.

Nominations will reopen in the Fall for next school year but Positive Athlete is currently taking pre-nominations at www.PositiveAthlete.org, which will trigger an automatic reminder when nominations reopen.

About Positive Athlete

Positive Athlete, Inc. is a national organization dedicated to promoting positivity in youth athletics through awards, scholarships, and leadership opportunities. The program highlights student-athletes who inspire through their character, commitment, and resilience. Nationally, more than \$100,000 in scholarships will be awarded by Positive Athlete for the 2024-2025 school year.

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