

Coach James C. Kuykendall Jr. Selected as Top Youth Sports Visionary of the Year by IAOTP

The International Association of Top Professionals (IAOTP) will honor Coach James C. Kuykendall Jr. at their Annual Awards Gala in NYC at the Plaza Hotel

NEW YORK, NY, UNITED STATES, July 14, 2026 /EINPresswire.com/ -- [Coach James C. Kuykendall Jr.](#), a respected youth sports leader, mentor, and softball coach, was recently selected as the Top Youth Sports Visionary of the Year for 2026 by the International Association of [Top Professionals](#) (IAOTP) for his outstanding leadership, dedication, and commitment to developing the next generation of athletes. The International Association of Top Professionals (IAOTP), a leading global professional organization known for its prestigious annual [awards gala](#) and exclusive vetting process, honors only the most accomplished and influential professionals each year.



Being selected as an award recipient by IAOTP is a prestigious distinction. Only a select group of distinguished professionals are chosen for membership based on their professional accomplishments, leadership abilities, academic achievements, longevity in their fields, meaningful affiliations, and contributions to their communities. All honorees are invited to attend IAOTP's annual awards gala, where they are recognized for their exceptional achievements and contributions.

www.iaotp.com/award-gala

With over two decades of experience in athletics, mentorship, and youth development, Coach Kuykendall has established himself as a transformational leader in youth sports. As the driving force behind the Texas Trailblazers softball organization and Head Coach of the Texas

Trailblazers 10U Select Team, he is dedicated to helping young athletes maximize their potential both on and off the field.

Coach Kuykendall is a trailblazer in entrepreneurship, demonstrating vision, leadership, and a commitment to building meaningful organizations. Through his entrepreneurial journey, he has established a successful construction company, developed a hospitality business, and founded a Christian school. Each endeavor has required the ability to lead teams, manage people, cultivate strong relationships, and create a shared vision among those he serves. His experiences as an entrepreneur have strengthened his leadership skills and continue to shape his ability to inspire, mentor, and positively influence others.



Coach Kuykendall provides private softball coaching and skill development programs primarily for athletes ages 8 through 12. His training philosophy emphasizes high-repetition skill development, confidence-building, mental toughness, leadership, accountability, and the creation of a positive team culture. His vision extends far beyond competition and winning games. He is deeply committed to developing confident, resilient young athletes through character-building, mindset development, communication skills, and personal responsibility.

In today's highly competitive youth sports environment, where performance often overshadows personal growth, Coach Kuykendall is intentionally creating a different model. He believes youth sports should serve as a platform for developing life skills that prepare young people for success in all areas of life. His leadership style combines discipline with encouragement, high expectations with emotional awareness, and competition with purpose.

Areas of expertise include leadership development, coaching, mentoring, athletic skill development, functional movement, mindset training, communication, goal setting, accountability, team culture development, and youth athlete empowerment.

As a sixth generation Texan, Coach Kuykendall was raised in a culture where athletics are deeply woven into community life and where competition, commitment, and teamwork are highly valued. He was immersed in the values and experiences that shaped his appreciation for athletics. The guidance of his coaches and the camaraderie of his teams played an important role in developing his passion for sports, while instilling the principles of discipline, commitment, teamwork, and leadership. These formative experiences continue to influence his approach to

coaching and his dedication to positively impacting the lives of young athletes.

Coach Kuykendall has earned the respect and admiration of athletes, parents, and fellow coaches for his unwavering commitment to excellence, evolution of knowledge and youth development. His ability to inspire young athletes while instilling confidence, resilience, and character has distinguished him as a true leader and visionary within the youth sports community.

This year, Coach Kuykendall will be featured in TIP (Top Industry Professionals) Magazine and honored at IAOTP's Annual Awards Gala at the iconic Plaza Hotel in New York City for his selection as Top Youth Sports Visionary of the Year for 2026.

Coach Kuykendall remains passionate about creating meaningful opportunities for young athletes and their families. Through the Texas Trailblazers organization, he has built a culture centered on integrity, accountability, teamwork, leadership, and personal growth. He believes the greatest victories are not measured solely by championships, but by the positive impact coaches have on the lives of the young people they serve.

Stephanie Ciriame, President of IAOTP, stated, "Choosing Coach James Kuykendall for this honor was an easy decision for our panel. He is inspirational, influential, and a true visionary in youth sports. His commitment to developing not only skilled athletes but confident, resilient young leaders is remarkable. We are honored to recognize his achievements and look forward to celebrating with him at this year's gala."

Looking back, Coach Kuykendall attributes his success to perseverance, hard work, faith, and the mentors who guided him throughout his athletic journey. When he is not coaching, he enjoys offshore fishing, camping, philanthropy, spending quality time with his family, and continuing to study new approaches to athlete development and leadership.

Looking toward the future, Coach Kuykendall remains committed to expanding his impact on youth athletics by developing innovative training programs, mentoring future coaches, and continuing to raise the standard for youth sports. His mission is to help young athletes develop the skills, confidence, mindset, and character necessary to thrive both in competition and in life.

About IAOTP

The International Association of Top Professionals (IAOTP) is an international boutique networking organization that handpicks the world's finest, most prestigious professionals from a variety of industries. These top professionals are provided opportunities to collaborate, share ideas, serve as keynote speakers, and influence others in their fields.

This is not an organization that anyone can join. Professionals are either nominated by

distinguished honorary members or invited directly by the President following a comprehensive interview and vetting process.

IAOTP's experts have provided thousands of elite professionals worldwide with the recognition, credibility, networking opportunities, and visibility they deserve while helping them build powerful personal and professional brands. IAOTP prides itself on being a one-of-a-kind organization that connects the best of the best in a unique and influential global network.

IAOTP remains one of the most elite and highly respected professional recognition organizations in the world.

For more information, please visit www.iaotp.com.

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