



# LA SPORTS AWARDS



THE 11<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL

**LA SPORTS AWARDS**

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2016





Dear Friends:

Welcome to the 11th Annual LA Sports Awards, featuring the "Greatest Sports Moments of 2015" for the Los Angeles/Orange County area, including presentations to the local Sportsman, Sportswomen, Sports Executive, and Coach of the Year. This year we are especially pleased to also be presenting a Lifetime Achievement Award to Vin Scully.

As detailed in this program, awards will be presented tonight in each of these categories. Each of our honorees will receive a special award created by Tiffany & Co.

The year's overall Top 10 moments were selected and ranked by a blue-ribbon Media Panel. Drawing from a list of 15 nominated moments, the panel's selections were combined with the results of online fan voting on the LA Sports Awards Facebook page ([www.Facebook.com/LASportsAwards/](http://www.Facebook.com/LASportsAwards/)). Online balloting took place from January 11 to January 25, resulting in the final list of 10 moments which will be counted down during our show.

As reflected in tonight's nominations, the greater Los Angeles/Orange County area is second to none when it comes to offering residents a wide variety of sports, with a dedicated fan base for each. For the excitement they gave us throughout 2015, we salute all of the athletes, coaches and teams who are being honored this evening. Their "greatest moments" have been great moments for our community as well.

Enjoy the evening!

Tony Sciarrino  
Dinner Chair  
Senior Vice President and Market Executive  
Bank of America Merrill Lynch





For purposes of tonight's event, a "moment" can be a specific instant in time (a winning goal, hit or shot), an individual or team milestone, an upset victory, a remarkable game or series of games, a special event or a career achievement. Nominated moments must have taken place in the local area or have involved a local athlete or team.



THE LOS ANGELES SPORTS COUNCIL  
*PRESENTS*  
THE 11<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL LA SPORTS AWARDS  
FEBRUARY 25, 2016  
AT THE BEVERLY HILTON HOTEL



Jeanne Zelasko is a versatile journalist who has garnered a broad array of journalism experience during her career.

As a television reporter, she has covered a variety of sports, including the NFL, NHL, college basketball and auto racing.

From 2001-2008, Zelasko hosted the Emmy Award-winning "Fox Saturday Baseball Game of the Week" pre-game show.

More recently, she is co-host of the "Plaschke & Zelasko" radio show on The Beast 980.

## WELCOME

## MASTER OF CEREMONIES

Jeanne Zelasko

## REMARKS

Tony Sciarino  
*Dinner Chair*

## DINNER

## REMARKS

Eric Garcetti  
*Mayor of Los Angeles*

## PRESENTATION OF AWARDS

Lifetime Achievement Award

Sportsman of the Year

Sportswomen of the Year

Sports Executive of the Year

Coach of the Year

The Greatest Moment of 2015

*Special thank you to our television partners*



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Proceeds from this event will benefit the Los Angeles Sports Council, a private, non-profit corporation whose mission is to promote economic development through sports in the Los Angeles/Orange County area. On behalf of the community, the Sports Council bids against other cities for the right to host major sporting events, often staging or helping to stage events after successful bids. The Sports Council's efforts have netted more than \$1 billion in overall economic impact to the region.

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## LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD



### VIN SCULLY



Widely regarded as the greatest baseball announcer of all-time, Vin Scully has been with the Dodgers since its days in Brooklyn. The upcoming season will be Vin's 67th and final season with the Dodgers, the longest time any broadcaster has been with a single team in professional sports history.

Tonight, he is being honored as the first-ever recipient of the L.A. Sports Council's *Lifetime Achievement Award*.

"I can't think of a person more deserving of this recognition," said Sports Council President David Simon. "Even more remarkable than his longevity is the consistently high quality and integrity his announcing has represented over the years."

For generations of Southern California baseball fans, Scully's dulcet voice, lyrically descriptive style, and signature introduction to Dodger games - "*It's time for Dodger baseball!*" - have provided the soundtrack of summer.

During his legendary career he has been behind the microphone for many of the game's most iconic moments, including 25 World Series, three perfect games, 19 no-hitters and Dodger Kirk Gibson's famous walk-off home run in the 1988 World Series.

In 1982, Scully was inducted into the broadcaster's wing of the National Baseball Hall of Fame.



Drabble by Kevin Fagan, Oct. 9, 2015, used with permission

## Congratulations, Vin and Sandi, for a lifetime of achievements!

Peter O'Malley, Terry O'Malley Seidler  
and families

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## CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR FRIEND VIN SCULLY

ON RECEIVING THE  
LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

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## PREVIOUS AWARD WINNERS



2014

**Greatest Moment**

Kings defeat New York, 4 games to 1, to win their second Stanley Cup in 3 years.

**Sportsmen of the Year**

Clayton Kershaw, Los Angeles Dodgers and Mike Trout, Los Angeles Angels of Anaheim

**Sportswoman of the Year**

Gracie Gold, Figure Skating Champion

**Sports Executive of the Year**

Dean Lombardi, Los Angeles Kings

**Coach of the Year**

Doc Rivers, Los Angeles Clippers

**High School Sports Award**

Jordan Walker, Santiago HS Football



2013

**Greatest Moment**

UCLA wins the NCAA College World Series for the first time in school history.

**Sportsman of the Year**

Chris Paul, Los Angeles Clippers

**Sportswomen of the Year**

Diana Nyad, Long Distance Swimmer and Candace Parker, Los Angeles Sparks

**Sports Executive of the Year**

Stan Kasten, President and CEO, Los Angeles Dodgers

**Coach of the Year**

John Savage, UCLA Baseball

**High School Sports Award**

St. John Bosco Football wins its first California state championship.



2012

**Greatest Moment**

Kings defeat New Jersey, 4 games to 2, to win the Stanley Cup for the first time.

**Sportsman of the Year**

Jonathan Quick, Los Angeles Kings

**Sportswomen of the Year**

Misty May-Treanor and Kerri Walsh Jennings, Beach Volleyball

**Sports Executive of the Year**

Tim Leiweke, President & CEO, AEG

**Coach of the Year**

Darryl Sutter, Los Angeles Kings

**High School Sports Award**

Jewelyn Sawyer, Gahr HS Basketball



2011

**Greatest Moment**

Galaxy defeats Houston, 1-0, to win the MLS Cup at the Home Depot Center.

**Sportsman of the Year**

Clayton Kershaw, Los Angeles Dodgers

**Sportswoman of the Year**

Carmelita Jeter, World Champion Sprinter

**Sports Executive of the Year**

Arte Moreno, Owner, Los Angeles Angels of Anaheim

**Coach of the Year**

Lane Kiffin, USC

**High School Sports Award**

Blair Boyce, Villa Park HS Football



2010

**Greatest Moment**

Lakers defeat Boston in a dramatic Game 7, 83-79, to win consecutive NBA titles.

**Sportsman of the Year**

Derek Fisher, Los Angeles Lakers

**Sportswoman of the Year**

Megan Langenfeld, UCLA Softball

**Sports Executive of the Year**

Tim Leiweke, President & CEO, AEG

**Coach of the Year**

Bruce Arena, Los Angeles Galaxy



2009

**Greatest Moment**

Lakers defeat Orlando, 4 games to 1, to win the NBA title.

**Sportsman of the Year**

Pau Gasol, Los Angeles Lakers

**Sportswoman of the Year**

Allyson Felix, World Champion Sprinter

**Sports Executive of the Year**

Dr. Jerry Buss, Owner, Los Angeles Lakers

**Coach of the Year**

Mike Scioscia, Los Angeles Angels of Anaheim

**Exceptional Athletic Performance of the Year**

Zenyatta wins the Breeders' Cup Classic at Santa Anita Race Track



2008

**Greatest Moment**

Manny Ramirez turns Los Angeles into "Mannywood" and leads the Dodgers to the National League Championship Series.

**Sportsman of the Year**

Kobe Bryant, Los Angeles Lakers

**Sportswoman of the Year**

Candace Parker, Los Angeles Sparks

**Sports Executive of the Year**

Mitch Kupchak, General Manager, Los Angeles Lakers

**Coach of the Year**

Phil Jackson, Los Angeles Lakers



2007

**Greatest Moment**

Ducks win the Stanley Cup, beating Ottawa 4 games to 1 in the Final, with the clincher coming in a 6-2 rout at Honda Center.

**Sportsman of the Year**

David Beckham, Los Angeles Galaxy

**Sportswoman of the Year**

Allyson Felix, World Champion Sprinter

**Sports Executive of the Year**

Brian Burke, General Manager, Anaheim Ducks



2006

**Greatest Moment**

Kobe Bryant scores 81 points in a game, most ever by a Laker and the second-highest point total in NBA history, as the Lakers defeat Toronto, 122-104, at Staples Center.

**Sportsman of the Year**

Elton Brand, Los Angeles Clippers

**Sportswoman of the Year**

Lisa Leslie, Los Angeles Sparks

**Sports Co-Executives of the Year**

Ned Colletti, General Manager, Los Angeles Dodgers and Brian Burke, General Manager, Anaheim Ducks



2005

**Greatest Moment**

USC crushes Oklahoma, 55-19, in the BCS title game played at the Orange Bowl in Miami, earning the Trojans a second consecutive football national championship.

**Sportsman of the Year**

Matt Leinart, USC Football

**Sportswomen of the Year**

Misty May-Treanor and Kerri Walsh, Beach Volleyball

**Sports Executive of the Year**

Arte Moreno, Owner, Los Angeles Angels of Anaheim









## TONIGHT'S SPECIAL HONOREES

*SPORTSMAN OF THE YEAR*

**BLAKE GRIFFIN**

*SPORTSWOMEN OF THE YEAR*

**U.S. WOMEN'S NATIONAL SOCCER TEAM**

*SPORTS EXECUTIVE OF THE YEAR*

**PATRICK MCCLENAHAN**

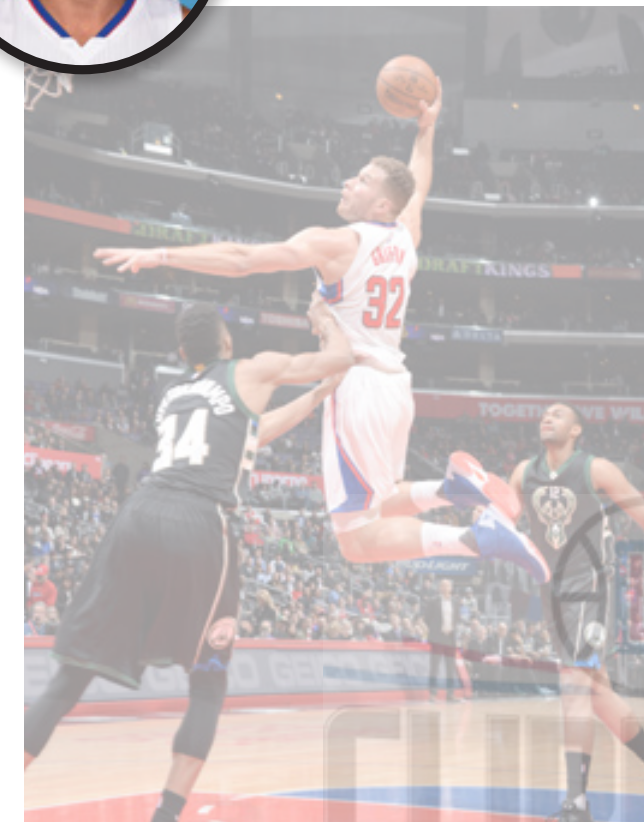
*COACH OF THE YEAR*

**CLAY HELTON**

## SPORTSMAN OF THE YEAR



### BLAKE GRIFFIN



Blake Griffin further solidified himself as one of the NBA's brightest and most popular stars in 2015. He led the Clippers in scoring during the regular season with 21.9 points per game, which ranked eighth in the league, and was chosen by NBA fans worldwide as a starting forward for the Western Conference in the NBA All-Star Game (though he was unable to participate due to injury).

His game reached new heights in the first round of the NBA playoffs, where his exceptional play led the Clippers to victory over the San Antonio Spurs in seven games.

Griffin was the dominant player in that series, averaging 24 points and 13 rebounds per game (including a triple-double in the series clincher) to knock off the defending champions.

In the second round against Houston, Griffin again posted remarkable stats, although the Clippers fell to the Rockets in seven games.

Overall, in 14 playoff games in 2015, the five-time All-Star averaged 25.5 points, 12.7 rebounds and 6.1 assists.

Griffin is the third Clippers player to win the Sportsman award, joining 2013 honoree Chris Paul and 2006 recipient Elton Brand.



## SPORTSWOMEN OF THE YEAR



### U.S. WOMEN'S NATIONAL SOCCER TEAM

Four years after a heartbreaking loss to Japan in the FIFA Women's World Cup final, team captain Carli Lloyd and her U.S. teammates made absolutely sure there would be no repeat in the rematch.

In the July 7 championship game, Lloyd scored a hat trick in the first 16 minutes as the Americans won, 5-2, in Vancouver, Canada, for their first World Cup title since 1999.

More than 25 million viewers saw the final, making it the most-watched soccer match in U.S. television history.

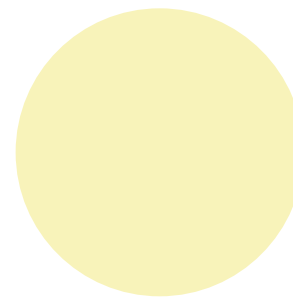
The Stars and Stripes' roster included a significant Southern California presence, and the team often conducted training camps at the StubHub Center in Carson.

Among those team members with ties to the region are Shannon Boxx (Redondo Beach), Whitney Engen (Rolling Hills Estates), Lauren Holiday (UCLA), Sydney Leroux (UCLA), Alex Morgan (Diamond Bar), Christen Press (Palos Verdes Estates) and Amy Rodriguez (Lake Forest/USC).

In addition, U.S. head coach Jill Ellis was the long-time head coach at UCLA, running the women's soccer program for 12 years.

The triumphant team was honored with its own ticker tape parade in New York City - the first for a women's sports team.

## SPORTS EXECUTIVE OF THE YEAR



### PATRICK McCLENAHAN



Special Olympics  
**WORLD  
GAMES**  
LOS ANGELES 2015

Patrick McClenahan ran the remarkably successful 2015 Special Olympics World Games, held in Los Angeles last summer. After leading the winning international bid campaign to bring the event here, he accepted the role of President and CEO. McClenahan built a team of 428 employees and raised more than \$100 million in cash and in-kind to put on the largest sports and humanitarian event held anywhere in the world in 2015.

More than 6,000 athletes from 164 countries - the largest gathering of nations for any event in the city's history - competed in 25 sports competitions over nine days.

A longtime media executive, McClenahan also negotiated the first-ever World Games global broadcast agreement with ESPN, which included live coverage of the spectacular Opening Ceremony at the Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum, attended by First Lady Michelle Obama.

McClenahan made it the Games' mission to create awareness that leads to acceptance and inclusion of people with intellectual disabilities. Last summer the fulfillment of that mission was on display for all of Los Angeles and the world to see.

Patrick and his wife, Karren, are the proud parents of Eric and Kelly. Kelly has Cerebral Palsy and is a key inspiration in Patrick's desire to serve those with special needs.





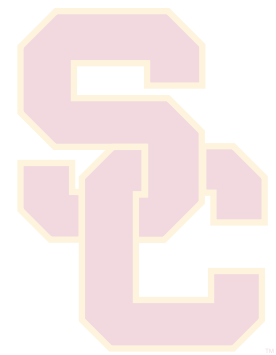
COACH OF THE YEAR



**CLAY HELTON**



Trojans



During the 2015 season, Clay Helton succeeded in keeping the USC football team together during what can only be described as an extremely challenging set of off-field circumstances.

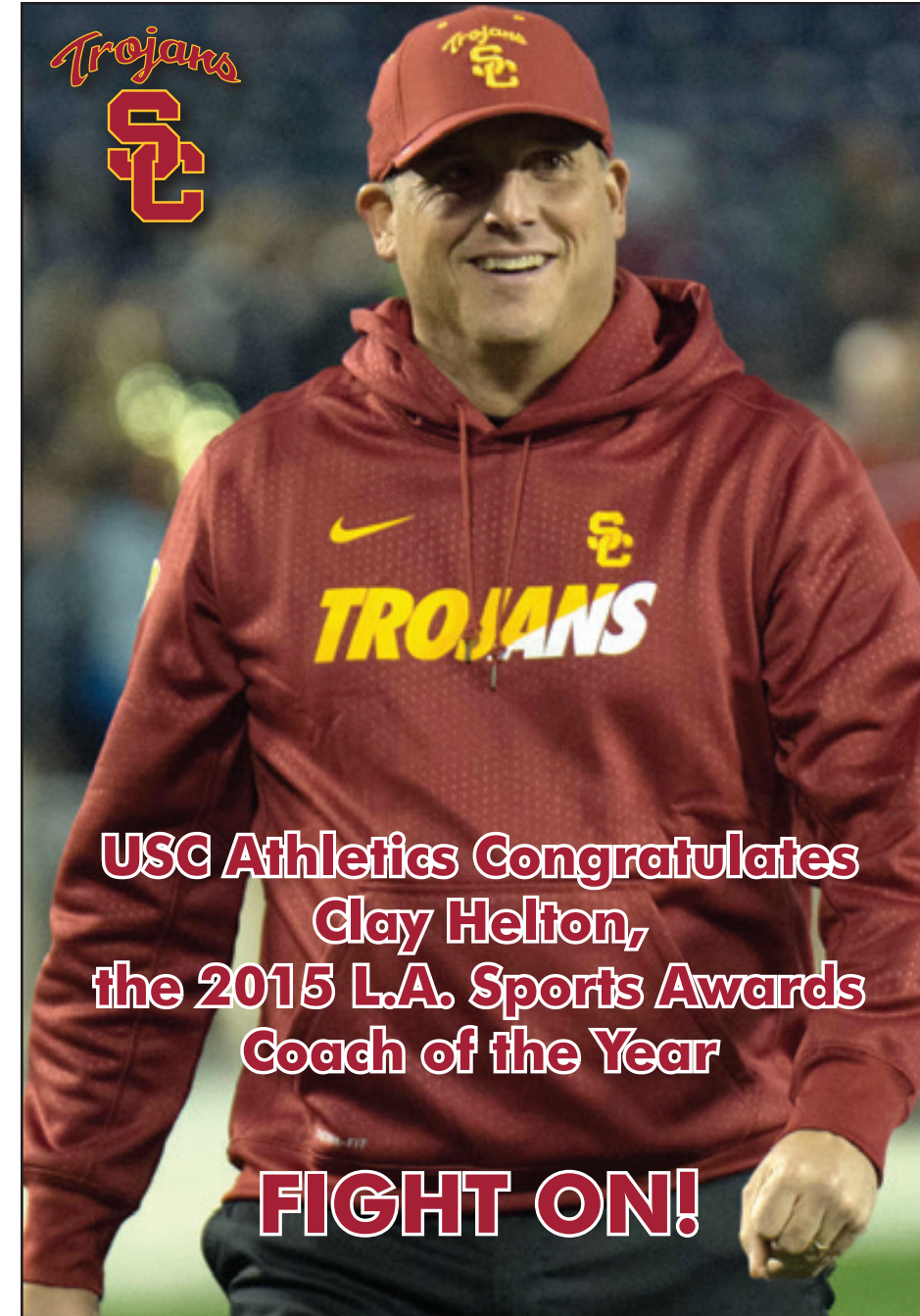
After head coach Steve Sarkisian took a leave of absence, and was subsequently fired mid-season, the Trojans football program was in disarray.

Helton, who began the year as USC's offensive coordinator, was named interim head coach, charged with the task of lifting the program from one of its lowest points in recent memory.

Under his leadership, the Trojans won four straight conference games and defeated UCLA to win the Pac-12 South and advance to the conference championship game for the first time in the game's five-year history.

On November 30, with the unanimous support of the players, Helton completed the rare transition in college football from interim to permanent head coach, signing a multi-year agreement.

Athletic Director Pat Haden called Helton "a man with unquestioned integrity... a leader of young men who brings high character, stability, toughness and resiliency to our program."



**USC Athletics Congratulates  
Clay Helton,  
the 2015 L.A. Sports Awards  
Coach of the Year**

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Congratulations to Patrick McClenahan on his selection as the 2015 Sports Executive of the Year.

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Top: 2016 Rio Olympic and Paralympic Games, Brazil  
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**LA SPORTS COUNCIL  
AND THEIR 2015 HONOREES**

Lifetime Achievement Award  
**Vin Scully**

Sportsman of the Year  
**Blake Griffin, Los Angeles Clippers**

Sportswomen of the Year  
**The U.S. Women's National Soccer Team,**  
Winners of the 2015 FIFA Women's World Cup

Sports Executive of the Year  
**Patrick McClenahan, President & CEO,**  
2015 Special Olympics World Games

Coach of the Year  
**USC Football Coach Clay Helton**



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Kind regards,  
Alan Rothenberg, Randy Bernstein and Jeff Marks



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**PRIME TICKET**



A young girl with dark hair, wearing a blue dress, is seen from behind, reaching up with her hands towards a small red and yellow kite flying in the sky. The scene is set in a grassy field during sunset or sunrise, with a city skyline visible in the background under a cloudy sky.

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Tony Sciarrino, SVP/Market Executive  
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