

NEWS

Iowa High School Athletic Association
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Casey Blake Featured on IHSAA Sportsmanship-Citizenship Poster

Casey Blake, who has been named as one of Iowa's top ten prep male athletes of all-time, is the featured personality on the Iowa High School Athletic Association's 2011-12 Sportsmanship-Citizenship poster. The Indianola athlete who was a four sport star in high school, a three-time Division I NCAA Baseball All-American and a two-time Academic All-American is currently in his 13th season as a major league diamond star.

The Blake's poster which will be in each Iowa elementary and secondary school is themed around, "Character Starts at Home." He is a native of Indianola and continues to make his home there.

Blake burst on the Indianola sports scene winning varsity letters in football, basketball, track and baseball. He was a two-time all-state choice in each baseball, football and basketball as well a three-time letter winner and state qualifier in track and field. He was the leading scorer on Indianola's 1992 state runner-up basketball team and a member of their third place team in 1990. During his junior and senior seasons he was one of the top three-point field shooters in any class. He also starred for the school's 1989 and 1991 football teams that qualified for the playoffs. He was a two-time State Track medal winner in the 400 meter hurdles and as a senior was third in the event at the Drake Relays.

He and his wife Abbie (Archibald) also an all around prep star at Indianola, kicked off the Indianola Community Gift Foundation in 2010 with a matching one million dollar gift to construct a facility that the community's boys and girls can use to excel.

Following an outstanding collegiate career at Wichita State, which saw him earn All American honors and Academic All-American status, Blake debuted in the major leagues in 1999 with Toronto. After brief stays with Minnesota and Baltimore he became a regular with Cleveland in 2003, until being traded to the Los Angeles Dodgers in 2008.

His high school basketball coach Bert Hanson noted, "While in school and since, Casey is one of the most humble athletes we have had in Indianola. He was a leader in every sense of the word. He always strived to get better but of equal importance, he wanted and helped others to get better. That is a quality he has carried through his life as personified by his career. An important component of his commitment is his family's million dollar matching gift to the Indianola Community Gift Foundation to create a facility to help youth to be the best they can be.

Assistant Executive Director Alan Beste, who heads the development of the poster remarked, "Casey has all the attributes we look for in a featured personality for the poster – great participation in high school athletics and school activities; high character, a sense of team and community, and a strong record of following through on the values of educational athletics later in life."

Previous Iowa athletes who have been featured on IHSAA posters follow.

2010 - Dallas Clark, Twin River Valley, Bode

2009 - LoLo Jones, Des Moines Roosevelt

2008 - Zach Johnson, Cedar Rapids Regis

2007 - Adam Haluska, Carroll

2006 - Jeff Clement, Marshalltown
2005 - Chad Hennings, Benton Community
2004 - Coach Ed Thomas, Aplington-Parkersburg
2003 - Nick Collision, Iowa Falls; Kyle Korver, Pella; Kirk Henrich, Sioux City West
2003 - Bruce Nelson, Emmetsburg
2002 - Nick Ackerman, Colfax-Mingo
2001 - Eric Juergens, Maquoketa
2000 - Kurt Warner, Cedar Rapids Regis
1999 - General John Lorber, Orange City
1999 - Tim Dwight, Iowa City, City
1998 - Ryan Bowen, Fort Madison
1998 - Tavian Banks, Bettendorf; Tim Dwight, Iowa City, City; Matt Sherman, Saint Ansgar
1997 - Adam Timmerman, Cherokee
1996 - Casey Wiegmann, Aplington-Parkersburg
1995 - Fred Hoiberg, Ames