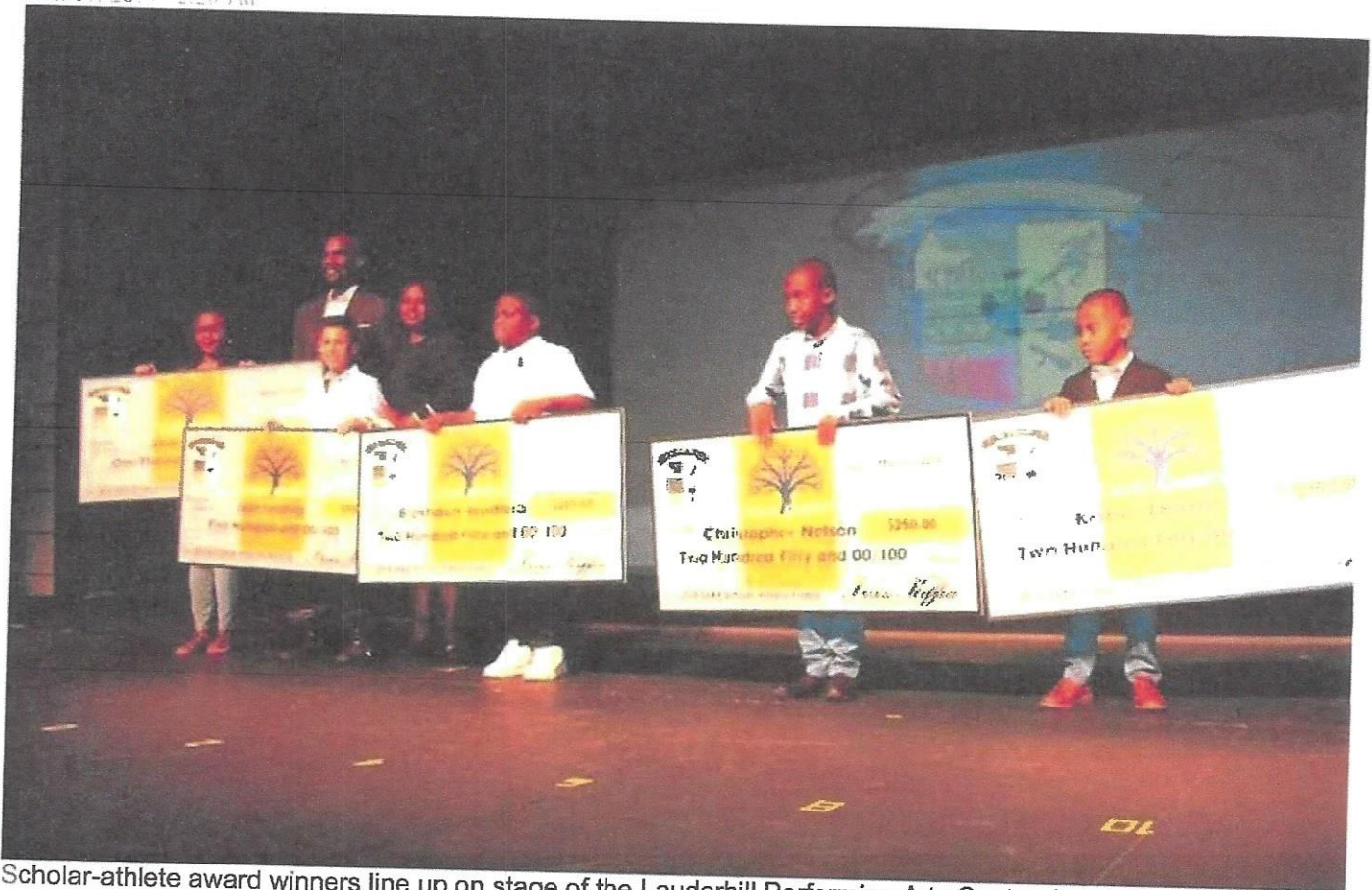


SAKE Awards honor scholar-athletes and volunteers in Lauderhill

By Emmett Hall

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| SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT



Scholar-athlete award winners line up on stage of the Lauderhill Performing Arts Center during the annual SAKE awards ceremony. (Lauderhill/Courtesy)

It is always a cause of celebration for the city of Lauderhill when the SAKE (Sports Advancing Kids Education) Awards come around every year to honor scholar-athletes and volunteers. The 11th annual awards event took place at the Lauderhill Performing Arts Center.

SAKE was initiated by former Lauderhill Commissioner Hayward J. Benson Jr. and the baton has been passed on to newly elected Commissioner Denise D. Grant who has vowed to continue the popular city tradition. The program has awarded \$28,000 in scholarship funds to 45 children during the 11-year period.

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Student-athletes and sporting teams in Lauderhill were recognized for their athletic and academic achievements. The 2019 scholar athlete winners are Breshaun Bradford, Kobie Dormer, Christian Hamilton, Juan Londono, Christopher Nelson and Scholar Athlete of the Year Jade Scott.

Scott is a member of the F.O.R.E (Foresight, Ownership, Respect and Excellence) Life Golf program and is a 4.0 student at Renaissance Charter School. She is recognized as one of the top golfers in her age division in Broward County and has qualified for the Junior LPGA. Scott received a \$1,000 scholarship.

The Sportsmanship Award went to Nicholas Lennear of the Lauderhill Lions football program. Mirlene Dubreuze received the Volunteer of the Year award for her work with the Lauderhill Lions soccer program, while Danny Garcia of the Giants Youth Baseball program was honored with the Charles Bingham Coach of the Year award.

Christopher Jean Francois of the Lions Youth Soccer league and Trevaughn Martinez of the Lauderhill Broncos football program shared the Leadership Award. The Lauderhill Lions 9U club received the Team of the Year recognition. The Monford Johnson Community Service Award was given to legendary soccer coach Lenny Taylor.

Taylor started the Lauderhill Lions soccer program in the 1980s and is considered the father of the Lauderhill Lions soccer program.

"We sent more kids off to college on soccer scholarships than any other program in Florida," Taylor said. "It is a fantastic feeling to be recognized by the city of Lauderhill. It was a wonderful ceremony and I'm extremely happy to receive this award."

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