LAUREUS WORLD SPORTS AWARDS 2018

NOMINEES



LAUREUS WORLD SPORTSMAN OF THE YEAR

Awarded to the sportsman who best demonstrates supreme athletic performance and achievement – such as consecutive or multiple world, continental, international or national and major championship titles or the establishment of world records or best performances.

Nominees are listed in alphabetical order.



Mo Farah (UK) Athletics

In his final track season before switching to the marathon, he won the 10,000 metres gold and 5,000 metres silver medals in the World Championships in London. His 10k win was his sixth world title. Has also won the 5k / 10k double twice in the Olympic Games.



Roger Federer (Switzerland) Tennis

Won his fifth Australian Open and eighth Wimbledon title in 2017, becoming only the second man in the Open Era to win Wimbledon without dropping a set. Has now won a record 19 Grand Slam men's singles titles. Also won the Sunshine Double - Indian Wells and Miami Masters. His victory in the Swiss Indoors in October was his 95th career title.



Chris Froome (UK) Cycling

Winner of the Tour de France for the third straight time, and the fourth time in five years. Only Anquetil, Merckx, Hinault and Indurain have won five. Just one month later he also won the Vuelta a España, becoming the first man to do the Tour-Vuelta double in the same year, since the Vuelta moved to its current position in the racing calendar.



Lewis Hamilton (UK) Motor Racing

Driving for the Mercedes-AMG Petronas team, he won his fourth Formula One world title in 2017, equalling Sebastian Vettel and Alain Prost. Only Michael Schumacher (seven) and Juan Manuel Fangio (five) are ahead of him. He won nine Grand Prix during the year and is now Britain's most successful F1 driver, having overtaken Jackie Stewart who won three.



Rafael Nadal (Spain) Tennis

Won two Grand Slam tournaments in a season for the first time since 2013, including a record 10th French Open, in which he only lost 35 games in seven matches. Also won his third US Open. He is now second on the all-time list of Grand Slam winners with 16, overtaking Pete Sampras. He finished the year as world No.1.



Cristiano Ronaldo (Portugal) Football

Became the first man to score in three Champions League finals, when Real Madrid beat Juventus in May; the Spanish club's third success in four years. During 2016/17 he became the first man to score 100 goals in the Champions League, and also reached 400 career goals for Real Madrid and 600 goals in total. In August, for Portugal, he scored his fifth international hat-trick, surpassing Pele's record.

LAUREUS WORLD SPORTSWOMAN OF THE YEAR

Awarded to the sportswoman who best demonstrates supreme athletic performance and achievement - such as consecutive or multiple world, continental, international or national and major championship titles or the establishment of world records or best performances.

Nominees are listed in alphabetical order.



Allyson Felix (USA) Athletics

Became the most decorated athlete in the history of the World Championships when she won gold medals in the 4x100m relay and 4x400m relay, plus bronze in the 400m in London to give her a career total of 16 medals, including 11 gold. Allyson has also won six Olympic gold medals.



Katie Ledecky (USA) Swimming

Confirmed her enormous potential as a great swimmer in Budapest by winning five gold medals and a silver at the World Championships. Although just 19, she already holds a record total of 14 women's world titles and is also a five-time Olympic gold medallist. She is the current world record holder at 400, 800 and 1,500m freestyle.



Garbiñe Muguruza (Spain) Tennis

As 14th seed, beat Venus Williams in straight sets to win Wimbledon, her second Grand Slam success after the French Open in 2016. She lost in the US Open fourth round, but still reached world No.1 ranking, which she held for four weeks.



Caster Semenya (South Africa) Athletics

Won gold in 800 metres and bronze in 1,500 metres at the 2017 World Championships in London. It was her third World Championship gold medal at 800m, an event she currently dominates. She is also the reigning 2012 and 2016 Olympic Games champion at the distance.



Mikaela Shiffrin (USA) Skiing

The brilliant young skier won 11 races to take her first Overall World Cup, and her fourth Slalom title in five years. She also won her third straight World Championship Slalom gold, the first to achieve this since 1939, plus silver in the Giant Slalom. In 2014, she was the youngest ever Olympic Slalom gold medallist at 18.



Serena Williams (USA) Tennis

Defeated sister Venus to win the Australian Open for the seventh time, an Open Era record. It was her 23rd Grand Slam success, overtaking Steffi Graf's 22. The win returned her to No.1 in the world rankings at the age of 35. However, in April, she announced she was pregnant and missed the remaining eight months of the season.

LAUREUS WORLD TEAM OF THE YEAR

Awarded to the team that best demonstrates supreme performance and achievements - such as world, continental, international or national and major championship titles. The team of the year could represent a country, a province, a county, a state, a professional sporting body, franchise or club.

Nominees are listed in alphabetical order.



France Davis Cup Tennis Team

Led by captain Yannick Noah, France won tennis's Davis Cup for the 10th time, beating Belgium 3-2 in the final. It was France's first victory in 16 years. The team was Richard Gasquet, Pierre-Hugues Herbert, Lucas Pouille and Jo-Wilfried Tsonga.



Golden State Warriors (USA) Basketball

Newly traded Kevin Durant led the Warriors to victory over LeBron James' Cleveland Cavaliers to win the NBA Finals for the second time in three years. Durant and Warriors' Stephen Curry, Draymond Green and Klay Thompson were all named for the 2017 NBA All-Star game.



Mercedes-AMG Petronas Formula One Team (Germany)

With drivers Lewis Hamilton and Valtteri Bottas, the team won both the Constructors World Championship and the individual World Championship for the fourth successive year. It was Hamilton's third individual world title with the Mercedes team in 2017, and his fourth in total. Mercedes won 12 of the 20 Grand Prix, with Hamilton winning nine and Bottas three.



New Zealand America's Cup Sailing Team

Won the greatest prize in sailing in 2017, gaining revenge over the US Oracle Team. Four years ago, they suffered a crushing 9-8 defeat to Oracle in San Francisco, having led 8-1. On this occasion they won 7-1, steered to victory by Peter Burling, the youngest ever helmsman in America's Cup history.



New England Patriots (USA) American Football

Came back from 28-3 down to win 34-28 for their fifth Super Bowl success under coach Bill Belichick and quarterback Tom Brady. The Patriots have appeared in the Super Bowl nine times, the most of any team, seven of them since the arrival of Belichick and Brady in 2000.



Real Madrid (Spain) Football

Won a record 12th Champions League/European Cup, beating Juventus 4-1 in Cardiff. It was their third success in four years. Cristiano Ronaldo scored twice, becoming first man to score in three Champions League finals. Since he became coach in January 2016, Zinedine Zidane has won back-to-back Champions Leagues, two UEFA Super Cups, the FIFA Club World Cup and the 2016/17 La Liga title.

LAUREUS WORLD BREAKTHROUGH OF THE YEAR

Awarded to the sportsperson or team whose performance as a newcomer suggests the greatest potential for an outstanding career, or to an established sportsman or sportswoman who produces a significant step-up in class to a considerably higher level of sporting achievement.

Nominees are listed in alphabetical order.



Giannis Antetokounmpo (Greece) Basketball

At 22, the Milwaukee Bucks playmaker became the first man in NBA history to finish in the top 20 in points, rebounds, assists, steals and blocks. He was named 'Most Improved Player' at the 2017 NBA Awards, becoming the first Bucks player to achieve this.



Caeleb Dressel (USA) Swimming

At just 20, he became the first swimmer to win three World Championship gold medals in a day. He finished the meet in Budapest with seven gold medals, equalling Michael Phelps record from 2007. He won individual golds in the 50 and 100 metres freestyle and 100 metres butterfly, plus four golds in relays, two in world record times.



Sergio Garcia (Spain) Golf

Finally won a Major Championship, The Masters, at the age of 37. Over a career of 18 years, Garcia had won 31 tournaments, but in Majors had finished second four times and in the top ten on 22 occasions. However, in April, he beat Justin Rose in a play-off at Augusta to achieve his goal.



Anthony Joshua (UK) Boxing

Beat long-time champion Wladimir Klitschko in April to unify the WBA (Super), IBO and IBF world heavyweight titles. He followed this up with his first successful defence against Carlos Takam in October. The former 2012 Olympic gold medal winner has won all his 20 professional fights inside the distance, by KO (5) or TKO (15).



Kylian Mbappé (France) Football

Aged 18, scored 26 goals in 2016/17 in Champions League and French Ligue 1 for Monaco, which led to him joining Paris Saint-Germain on loan with an option to buy, which could make him one of the most expensive players in history. Scored for PSG on his European debut against Celtic, making him the first teenager to score for two different clubs in the Champions League.



Jelena Ostapenko (Latvia) Tennis

Ranked 47 in the world at the time, she became the first unseeded woman to win the French Open since 1933. At 20, she was the youngest Grand Slam winner since Maria Sharapova at the 2006 US Open. She also won the Korea Open later in the year.

LAUREUS WORLD COMEBACK OF THE YEAR

Awarded to the sportsperson or team who has overcome injury, illness, adversity, disappointment or failure and risen back to triumph in the sporting arena. The Award may also mark a historic fightback by an individual or a team in a sporting event or series of sports events.

Nominees are listed in alphabetical order.



FC Barcelona (Spain) Football

Beat Paris Saint-Germain 6-1, in the round of the last 16, to become the first team in Champions League history to overturn a first leg 4-0 deficit. In one of the greatest European ties ever seen, Barcelona were 5-3 down on aggregate in the 88th minute, but scored three goals in the final seven minutes, including injury time.



Roger Federer (Switzerland) Tennis

Missed the second half of 2016, including the Olympic Games, with recurrence of a knee injury, but came back strongly in 2017 to win his fifth Australian Open and eighth Wimbledon title, becoming only the second man in the Open Era to win Wimbledon without dropping a set. It was his 19th career Grand Slam victory.



Justin Gatlin (USA) Athletics

Following two bans for positive tests for illegal drugs in 2001 and 2006, the American sprinter completed his rehabilitation by winning a gold medal in the 100 metres in the 2017 World Championships in London in 9.92 secs, beating Usain Bolt into third place.



Sally Pearson (Australia) Athletics

Competing in her first global championship since 2013, having overcome serious wrist, hamstring and achilles injuries, she won the 100 metres hurdles gold medal in the World Championships in London, at the age of 30; the same track where she won the 2012 Olympics gold medal.



Valentino Rossi (Italy) Motor Cycling

Suffered displaced fractures of the tibia and fibula in his right leg in a training accident on August 31. He had metal supports inserted into the tibia and remarkably was back on the grid 25 days later to compete in the Aragon Grand Prix, where he finished fifth.



Chapecoense (Brazil) Football

Alan Ruschel made a courageous return to football following the tragic plane crash which killed 19 of the Chapecoense team in Colombia. FC Barcelona invited the rebuilt team to take part in a friendly in August and Ruschel played the first 35 minutes before leaving to a standing ovation. Other survivors, Jakson Follmann and Neto, appeared on the pitch before kick-off.

LAUREUS WORLD SPORTSPERSON OF THE YEAR WITH A DISABILITY

Awarded to the person who best demonstrates excellent athletic achievement and strong leadership qualities in a sport in the Paralympic programme

Nominees are listed in alphabetical order.



Marcel Hug (Switzerland) Athletics

The outstanding Swiss wheelchair racer had an impressive year, winning world titles over 800m, 1,500m and 5,000m in the highly competitive T54 class at the World Para Championships in London. He was also in excellent form over the longer distances, winning 'World Marathon Majors' races in Berlin, Boston, Chicago, New York and Tokyo.



Yui Kamiji (Japan) Wheelchair Tennis

Won 14 singles events out of the 18 she competed in, including three Grand Slams – Australian, French and US. She had a 54-4 winning record in singles and only twice failed to reach the final of a tournament she played in. She also won eight doubles titles in 2017, including Wimbledon and the French Open, and regained the world No 1 ranking.



Oksana Masters (USA) Cross-country Skiing

Competed in rowing at the London 2012 Olympics and cycling at Rio 2016, but switched to skiing in 2017, winning four World Championship gold medals and a bronze in women's cross-country and biathlon. Also won 10 gold, three silver and a bronze in a successful World Cup season. She finished with two gold medals at the World Cup final to take No.1 world ranking.



Bibian Mentel-Spee (Netherlands) Snowboarding

After leading the campaign to have snowboarding included in the Sochi 2014 Paralympics, she won two world titles in 2017 having spent most of 2016 out of action as she received treatment for lung cancer. She also runs the Mentelity Foundation, which encourages children with impairments to take part in wakeboarding, snowboarding and skateboarding.



Jetze Plat (Netherlands) Triathlon and Cycling

At the UCI Para Cycling World Championships in South Africa, he won gold in the individual road race and time trial events. 12 days later he took gold at the ITU World Triathlon Grand Final, then won the handcycle division of the Berlin Marathon. In October he rounded off an amazing year, winning the Para triathlete category of the Ironman World Championships in a record time.



Markus Rehm (Germany) Athletics

Won the long jump T44 at the World Para Championships. His leap of 8.00m was more than one metre clear of the silver medallist. He also took gold in the 4x100m T42-46 relay. At home he supports disabled children with joint training sessions as a part of the German 'Youngsters training for the Paralympics' programme.

LAUREUS WORLD ACTION SPORTSPERSON OF THE YEAR

Awarded to the sportsman or sportswoman who best demonstrates supreme athletic performance and achievement in Action Sports in the qualifying year, such as winning world or national championships or the establishment of world records. Special recognition will go to those who push the limits of action sport even further by devising and executing new tricks and moves in competition.

Nominees are listed in alphabetical order.



John John Florence (USA) Surfing

Won his second straight World Championship in a dramatic finish at the Billabong Pipe Masters. He went into the event leading the world standings, but with Gabriel Medina, Jordy Smith and Julian Wilson all able to catch him. However, the 25-year-old finished runner-up in the event, ahead of them all, to secure the world title.



Anna Gasser (Austria) Snowboarding

In a brilliant 2017 took Big Air gold in the World Championships, won Overall, Big Air and Super Series in the World Cup, plus World Snowboard Tour Big Air and Slopestyle titles. Additionally she won three X-Games medals - gold in Slopestyle and bronze in Big Air in Hafjell, and silver in Big Air in Aspen.



Nyjah Huston (USA) Skateboarding

The biggest winner in Street League history had another massive year as he won his third Super Crown in Los Angeles, despite a head injury from a heavy fall nine days earlier. He also led the season's points standings for the fourth straight time and won a bronze medal in the X-Games in Minneapolis in July.



Armel Le Cléac'h (France) Sailing

Finished first in the Vendée Globe, the single-handed non-stop race around the world, acknowledged as the most extreme challenge in ocean racing. He created a new record of 74 days.



Mark McMorris (Canada) Snowboarding

After a broken femur in 2016, he came back in 2017 better than ever, winning the World Snowboard Tour in Slopestyle, and Freestyle Overall, Big Air and Super Series World Cup titles. Also won Big Air X-Games gold in Hafjell and bronze in Big Air and Slopestyle in Aspen.



Tyler Wright (Australia) Surfing

Won second straight World Championship following a five-woman finale in December. She did not win the event in Maui, but did not enough to hold off the challenge of her rivals. She had one win at Saquarema during the year, but was consistent throughout, despite a knee injury.

LAUREUS BEST SPORTING MOMENT OF THE YEAR

Voted for in a global poll by sports fans, the Laureus Best Sporting Moment Award demonstrates qualities such as fair play, sportsmanship, drama and dedication, and looks beyond the scoreboard or podium. The Moments symbolise the true values of sport and bring to life the message that sport has the power to change the world.

Nominees are listed in alphabetical order.



Billy Whizz is Back (UK)

18-year-old Formula 4 racer Billy Monger suffers life-changing injury but does not let it hold him back. Monger lost both lower legs but his positive attitude and will to return to the sport he loves brought him widespread support from the motorsport community.



Brave Bradley's Fight (UK)

Terminally ill 6-year-old Bradley Lowery inspires football fans through special bond with football star Jermain Defoe. Lowery, who passed away in July 2017, was an energetic and brave young man who united and inspired football fans around the world.



Eternal Champions (Brazil)

Chapecoense, the team torn apart by a devastating plane crash, inspires the football community with their miracle revival and comeback, none more so than defender and crash survivors Alan Ruschel, Jakson Follmann and Neto.



Wave For The Kids (USA)

In heart-warming act, Iowa Hawkeyes fans wave to sick kids in the children's hospital beside their stadium. At the end of the first quarter of each home match, the entire stadium turns to wave at the young people in the hospital overlooking the Kinnick Stadium. A special moment which has become a moving tradition.



When Tears Turn Into Smiles (France/Finland)

Ferrari fan Thomas Danel's day is turned around when he meets his hero, Kimi Raikkonen. After shedding tears of heartbreak as his hero crashed out of the Spanish Grand Prix, Thomas' fortunes turned as he was invited to spend time with his idol in the paddock.