

**Contact: Todd McGann
Executive Director/COO
Washington Youth Soccer
253-476-2237 (phone)
todd@wsysa.com**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Washington Youth Soccer Awards \$19,000 To Inaugural Scholarship Winners

FEDERAL WAY, WASHINGTON (Wednesday, June 4) – After months of comprehensive review and deliberation, Washington Youth Soccer today announced the winners of its inaugural Scholarship Program. In total Washington Youth Soccer will award an unprecedented sum of \$19,000 to help provide financial support to young student athletes faced with rising college costs.

The winners listed below represent one male and one female scholarship recipient from each of Washington Youth Soccer's seven districts; each student will be awarded \$1,000 for the upcoming school year. Rounding out the scholarship process, district winners were then compared against one another to determine the overall winner and recipient of an additional \$5,000. Unlike other scholarships for athletic achievement, the Washington Youth Soccer Scholarship Program was open to members heading into their first year of college and focused primarily on academic merit. More importantly, scholarships were awarded to Washington Youth Soccer players that met the criteria regardless if he or she planned to continue a soccer career at the collegiate level.

The 2008 Washington Youth Soccer Scholarship Winners

District 1

Justin Yan (Seattle)

Club/Team: Laurelhurst-Viewridge
Seattle Youth Soccer Association
High School: James A Garfield HS
College: Yale University

Emma Nelson (Mill Creek)

Club/Team: Snohomish United
Snohomish Youth Soccer Association
High School: Archbishop Murphy
College: Undecided

District 2

Derek Klopp (Carnation)

Club/Team: Cascade FC
Snoqualmie Valley Youth Soccer Association
High School: Cedercrest HS
College: Undecided

Kate Langberg (Kirkland)

Club/Team: Juanita
Lake Washington Youth Soccer Association
High School: Ingelmoor HS
College: University of Washington

District 3

Jared Johnson (Tacoma)

Club/Team: Harbor FC
Tacoma Pierce County Junior Soccer Association
High School: Bellarmine Prep
College: Bethel University

Nicole Peterson (Federal Way)

Club/Team: Mount Rainier Futball Club
Mount Rainier Soccer Association
High School: Todd Beamer HS
College: Seton Hall University

District 4

Michael Thielk (Port Townsend)

Club/Team: Jefferson County Soccer Club
Northwest Sound Youth Soccer Association
High School: Port Townsend HS
College: University of Washington

Monique Morey (Port Orchard)

Club/Team: Westsound FC
Kitsap Peninsula Youth Soccer Association
High School: South Kitsap HS
College: Undecided

District 5

Nathan Barker (Vancouver)

Club/Team: Chinook Soccer Alliance
Columbia Youth Soccer Federation
High School: Columbia River HS
College: Georgetown / Boston College

Nicole Bene (Vancouver)

Club/Team: Tri-Mountain Avalanche
Columbia Youth Soccer Federation
High School: LaSalle HS
College: Gonzaga University

District 6

Alec Robillard (Moses Lake)

Club/Team: Moses Lake Youth Soccer Assoc. - Cougars

Columbia Basin Youth Soccer Association

High School: Moses Lake HS

College: Washington State University

Rachael Lowe (Richland)

Club/Team: Spokane Shadow

Spokane Youth Sports Association Soccer

High School: Richland HS

College: Carroll College

District 7

Benjamin Overton (Elma)

Club/Team: Elma McCleary Youth Soccer Club

Foothills Youth Soccer Association

High School: Elma HS

College: Undecided

Erin Stehr (Olympia)

Club/Team: Black Hills Football Club

Deschutes Youth Soccer Association

High School: Olympia HS

College: Undecided

Out of this highly talented group of scholarship winners, Washington Youth Soccer is proud to name Justin Yan as the overall scholarship winner and recipient of the additional \$5,000.

“After reviewing hundreds of applications, we were amazed to learn more about the young people in our organization and how they are making a positive impact both on and off the pitch in their communities,” stated Todd McGann, Washington Youth Soccer’s Executive Director, COO. “We believe that the things players learn in the youth soccer system – teamwork, dedication, discipline, passion, and a sense of pride – help to build a strong foundation for all of our kids regardless if they continue playing soccer at the next level or not. We congratulate all of our Scholarship winners, and the entire class of 2008 for their achievements and know that great things are headed their way.”

For additional information about the Washington Youth Soccer Scholarship Program, please visit wsysa.com. Applications for the 2008-2009 school year will be posted before October 1st, 2008.

About Washington Youth Soccer

Washington Youth Soccer is the largest youth soccer organization in Washington. Washington Youth Soccer is the state's affiliate for US Youth Soccer, which is the largest sports organization in the United States and the most populous member of the United States Soccer Federation, the governing body for soccer in the United States. The Washington Youth Soccer is the sixth largest membership in the nation; our organization represents over 125,000 players (ages 4-19) and their families, 15,000 coaches on 11,000 teams and 6,500 referees in the state of Washington. Washington Youth Soccer's mission is to foster the physical, mental and emotional growth and development of the State of Washington's youth through the sport of soccer at all levels of age and competition.

###