



MELVIN “Mel” PARKER

MEMORIAL AWARD



“Honoring Maryland AAU’s Top Male & Female Athlete”

An award in honor of



MELVIN “Mel” PARKER

The Maryland District of the Amateur Athletic Union of the United States, Inc. (MD/AAU) annually recognizes the memory, the many leadership contributions, and coaching accomplishments of the late Mr. Melvin “Mel” Parker.

A longtime coach of boys’ and girls’ basketball, Melvin “Mel” Parker contributed significantly to the advancement of amateur athletics in Maryland. This is attested to by his 10-year tenure as President of the Maryland District of the Amateur Athletic Union and 10 years in leadership roles with the Peninsula Athletic League as basketball chairman and coach.

The Melvin “Mel” Parker Award is awarded annually to the top male and female athlete who achieves a high standard of performance in AAU sanctioned district, regional, or national competition and in recognition of their commitment and achievement in their chosen sport. The award is presented to top two (2) individuals, male and female, in the category of:

- Elementary to Middle School, ages 7-14; and
- High School, ages 15-18 under

The athlete may have participated in an individual or team sport. The honor was conceived as a way to focus attention on their participation in athletics, school and community activities, and qualities of leadership, character, and sportsmanship.

The awardees are honored at the Annual Maryland AAU Outstanding Athletes, Coaches and Volunteers Awards Banquet. The MD/AAU Sports Awards Banquet Committee invites athletes, coaches, volunteers, and others to nominate applicants. The deadline for submitting applications is October 6th.

Additional information regarding the application and award criteria can be found at:
www.marylandaau.com.



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AWARD NOMINATION INFORMATION

SIGNIFICANCE

The Maryland District of the Amateur Athletic Union of the United States, Inc. (MD/AAU) sponsors the Melvin “Mel” Parker Memorial Award in memory of the past MD/AAU District President and Boys’ Basketball Chairman and Coach. The Melvin “Mel” Parker Memorial Award was created to honor MD/AAU’s top male and female athlete who have achieved a high standard of performance in AAU-sanctioned and other sporting events. This award is based on participation in athletics, school and community activities, and qualities of leadership, character, and sportsmanship.

MELVIN “Mel” PARKER (1925 – 2006)

Melvin Parker served as the President of the Maryland District for 10 years; and Boys Basketball Chairman for 10 years. Under his leadership, and with the support of other MD/AAU legends including Bill Stevens, John Considine, and Ruth Zentz, the MD/AAU district expanded the number of AAU sports programs offered for youths and adults – increasing memberships and exposure to national AAU sporting events.

Mel Parker took an active role with the Peninsula Athletic League as boys and girls basketball chairman and coach. He was also very active in the community and served as the president of the Bay Highlands Civic Association from 1970-1990

Melvin Parker was known for his wit, charm, persistence and loyalty. An avid and talented athlete, Mel helped young athletes discover and nurture their own athletic abilities. He tirelessly poured his heart and soul into supporting and guiding his players and was not only a celebrated coach, but a mentor and father to many. Mel strived for excellence and helped his players bring out the best in themselves. He believed the best player was not the one with the best athletic ability, but the one with the best sportsmanship, one that was not only competitive, but exemplified discipline and encouraged his team mates. His legacy will continue to inspire the best in the AAU and its players for generations to come.



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PROCEDURE & AWARDS

PROCEDURE:

- All nomination application forms should be filled out completely and signed by the nominating person and MD/AAU Sport Director.
- **The deadline for submission of the completed application is OCTOBER 16, 2026.**
- All completed nomination forms shall be forwarded to the respective MD/AAU Sport Director and in turn submitted to the Chairman of the Banquet Committee, who will submit to the Melvin Parker Award Selection Committee for review.
- All information will be reviewed by the MD/AAU Melvin Parker Awards Selection Committee. This committee will make their recommendation to the Banquet Chairperson.
- The selection process will utilize criteria stated in the application.
- The award is presented to the top two (2) individuals, male and female, in the category of:
 - Elementary to Middle School, ages 7-14; and
 - High School, ages 15-18 under
- Winners will be honored at the "Annual MD/AAU Outstanding Athletes, Coaches, and Volunteers Awards Banquet"
- *(Incomplete information may result in the candidate not being properly considered. If the space on this form is insufficient to input all comments, additional plain sheets of paper may be used as continuation sheets.)*
- "Neither race, color, creed nor religious affiliation" will be used to distinguish an athlete's eligibility for nomination.

AWARDS CRITERIA

- Achieved exceptional performance results and noteworthy success in terms of medaling at a district or AAU sanctioned competition or any national AAU competition.
- Displayed good sportsmanship, conduct, character, leadership, concern for others, and a true sports spirit while providing an outstanding performance in a district, regional, or national AAU competition.
- Maintained a minimum academic grade point average (GPA) of 3.00/B during most-recent school year. (Report card must be submitted with application).
- Demonstrated an active role in school activities and extracurricular/community groups.
- Participated in Maryland AAU sports for a minimum of two years.



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ATHLETE NOMINATION APPLICATION

Nominee's Information

Sport: _____

Athlete's Name: _____ Age: _____ Gender: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Parent/Legal Guardian Name: _____

Email: _____

Club Name: _____

Club Contact (name & phone #): _____

School Name: _____

School Contact (name & phone #): _____

School Address: _____

City/State/Zip Code: _____

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This citation should summarize the nominee's National (and International where applicable), Maryland, and Regional AAU achievements and other sports related performances, school activities and community involvement. Should the nominee be selected for the Award, this citation will be used, so please ensure information is precise and accurate.

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NOMINEE'S SPORTING RECORD (for award year ending **August 31st**) *Please include the age group, name of the events, performances & achievements, and placing (e.g. MD/AAU District Championships, bantam boys, 100m, 13.3 seconds, 1st place)*

ACHIEVEMENTS in National AAU Competitions (*International experiences should also be noted.*)

Age Group	EVENT	Performance/Achievement	Placing

ACHIEVEMENTS in Maryland AAU District Competitions & other AAU-sanctioned events

Age Group	EVENT	Performance/Achievement	Placing

Other Sports Related ACHIEVEMENTS & AWARDS

Age Group	EVENT	Achievement/Award	Placing

School ACTIVITIES & Community INVOLVEMENT
Copy of report card attached.

School GPA: _____

Grade Level	Extra-curricular/Community Group	Activity	Position



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COMMENTS AND ENDORSEMENTS OF NOMINEE

(These comments and endorsements are required as evidence of support for the nominee’s achievements.)

- **Why should the nominee be considered for this award?**
- **How has their chosen sport contributed to their personal/skill development?**

Person Nominating (Comments):

I attest that, to the best of my knowledge, the information provided to the Melvin Parker Award Selection Committee regarding the nominee is both fair and accurate. I also attest that I consider this nominee worthy of the Melvin “Mel” Parker Memorial Award and I am fully supportive of the application.

Name

Signature

Date

MD/AAU Sport Director (Comments):

As the MD/AAU Sport Director most familiar with the nominee’s achievements, I attest that the nominee is worthy of the Melvin “Mel” Parker Memorial Award and that the information provided to the Melvin Parker Award Selection Committee regarding the nominee is both fair and accurate.

Name

Signature

Date

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APPLICANT APPRAISAL *(for Committee use only):*

Criteria	Qualified	Better Qualified	Best Qualified
Achieved exceptional performance results and noteworthy success in terms of medaling at a district or AAU sanctioned competition or any national AAU competition.			
Displayed good sportsmanship, conduct, character, leadership, concern for others, and a true sports spirit while providing an outstanding performance in a district, regional, or national AAU competition.			
Maintained a minimum academic grade point average (GPA) of 3.00/B during most-recent school year (Report card must be submitted with application).			
Demonstrated an active role in scholastic activities and community programs.			
Participated in Maryland AAU sports for a minimum of two years.			