

STEINGIRL2022

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INFORMATION: Dan Watkins at steinmarkaward@gmail.com,

By Dan Watkins

Amanda Licht, Kent Denver, recipient of 2022 CHSCA Freddie Steinmark Award

Amanda Licht not only excelled at multiple sports, but did so at two different schools. The three-sport Kent Denver student and University of Wisconsin Softball commit began her school year leading the Cherry Creek softball program, where she was a first team All-State selection, as well as the Centennial League Player of the Year. In the winter season, Amanda returned to Kent Denver for basketball where she was a four-time Metro League All-Conference selection while also earning All-State Honors. In the spring, she finished her year in the track program where she set multiple school records and received All State honors in both the Shot and Discus at the state track meet.

Amanda was thrilled about being named the 50th female winner of the Freddie Steinmark Award. She had learned about the Steinmark Award initially through her dad, and then by watching the film, "My All American" about Freddie's story. When informed that she had won the award, she exclaimed, "Wow, this is incredible, I have chills, this is crazy. Freddie's story is so inspiring and I am proud to be associated with his legacy."

Amanda's athletic accomplishments are many throughout her three sports. She led Cherry Creek on the diamond with a .517 batting average and 1.069 slugging percentage. Although coming from a different school she fit right in and connected with the team at Cherry Creek. Coach Pablo Severtson stated, "She makes us all better players. She has that special quality about her that brings people together." Her success led her to being named the Centennial League Player of the Year, 1st Team All State, and signing with the University of Wisconsin during the fall season. On the court, she helped lead Kent Denver to a 14-9 mark and averaged over 16 points per game to earn her fourth straight Metro League All-Conference honors and Honorable Mention All-State selection. She completed her career with over 1146 points, 368 rebounds, 157 assists and 125 steals. While balancing her club softball team in the spring, she continued with her fourth year of Track and Field as captain, and completed her high school career finishing 2nd in the state in Shot Put and 4th in state in Discus.

Amanda takes pride in being a leader and doing things the right way to set an example for all those around her, much like Freddie Steinmark did during his time at Wheat Ridge High School. She stated, "I've had the privilege of being chosen a team captain in all three of my sports. Being a leader is more than the title; it is about influencing teammates and younger athletes how to perform at a high level, all while setting a good example for what it means to be part of the team." She continued, "Comradery among fellow athletes is not just important on the field, court, or track but in all aspects of life." A true sentiment Freddie took pride in throughout his short life.

In the classroom, she approaches her academics at the highest level having received top marks in multiple AP and Honors classes and plans to study Chemical Engineering. Spanish teacher, Eric Dawson shared "Amanda is like having a young professional in class, she's poised, practical and mature, yet she is still able to maintain a

self-effacing awareness and sense of grace. She approaches new material with fierce logic, doing her best to understand and analyze concepts.”

At school, Amanda is involved in a variety of clubs and activities, including the MidFirst Bank program which is the largest student run bank in America. There she has gained experience as a teller, as well as being the Director of Communications for the bank. She explained, the real-world experience and chance to work with those in leadership positions has been beneficial and a lot of fun.

It’s obvious Amanda keeps a busy schedule but also loves her family time and helping others. She is involved in many volunteer activities, but her favorite is Wish for Wheels where she has spent several summers assembling bikes and actively searching for communities of underprivileged second graders to whom they can donate bikes and helmets. “Nothing is more gratifying to see those kids’ faces light up and provide a resource which will also give them a sense of independence and freedom.”

The Steinmark Award was established in 1972 and honors Freddie Steinmark, who excelled in football, basketball, and baseball while attending Wheat Ridge High School in the 1960s. He was also an outstanding student and was active in several school and community-oriented endeavors before attending the University of Texas, where he helped the Longhorns to the national football title in 1969. Freddie died from cancer in 1971 at the age of 22. Student athletes nominated for the award must be seniors who have maintained a GPA of at least 3.0 and participated in at least two varsity sports, having earned at least All-Conference in one sport and All-State in another.

Amanda is the 50th winner of the girls’ Steinmark Award since it was first presented to girls in 1974. The first girl to win the Steinmark Award was Anne Vento of Pueblo Centennial in 1974. There were two winners of the award in 1984. Dave Logan of Wheat Ridge High School, and now the extremely well-known sports announcer for the Denver Broncos and other sports endeavors, was the first boys’ winner of the award in 1972.

In 2021, Addison O’Grady of Grandview received the girls’ Steinmark and Avery Shunneson of Thomas Jefferson was the recipient for the boys.

Finalists for the 2022 Steinmark Award: Ella Johnson, Glenwood Springs, Trista Marx, Limon; Riley Stewart, Cherry Creek,