

# UNITED STATES SPORTS ACADEMY

*America's Sports University*<sup>®</sup>



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## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **Missouri Sculptor Named Sport Artist of the Year**

DAPHNE, Ala. – Harry Weber, a man who has had a busy decade decorating the country with bronze statues of athletes and historical figures, has been named the American Sport Art Museum and Archives (ASAMA) 2011 Sport Artist of the Year, Sculptor.

Jack Scharr, the United States Sports Academy's Board of Trustees Chairman of ASAMA, will present the award to Weber at a gala honoring sport art at 6 p.m. on Friday, 22 October at the Foundry Art Centre in the St. Louis suburb of St. Charles, Mo.

The 21<sup>st</sup> century has been a busy time for Weber. Thirty-six of his 44 most noted works have been displayed at major venues within the last 10 years. This includes 10 statues displayed at the St. Louis Cardinals' newest version of the Busch Stadium.

Weber's sculptures are in a permanent collection at the Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown, N.Y. and are featured at the Museum of Fine Arts in Newport, R.I. Weber has won major awards at national juried competitions, and his bronze sculptures are in many private collections throughout the world.

Weber's 20-inch bronze statues of Larry Bird and former WNBA player Jackie Stiles are used for the trophies given to the men's and women's basketball Most Valuable Players of the Missouri Valley Conference.

His list of sports work is lengthy, but he has also been commissioned to create statues of historical figures. "Late May, 1805" is a diorama of the Lewis and Clark expedition involving many life-size bronze sculptures, a 60-foot mural, and a 12-foot waterfall. The diorama was installed inside the lobby of the Drury Plaza Hotel in downtown St. Louis, and has been designated a National Lewis and Clark site by the Federal Parks Department.

The Sport Artist of the Year Award is presented annually to an individual who captures the spirit and life of sport so that future generations can relive the drama of today's competition. The recipient may use a variety of art media to depict the breadth and scope of both the agony and the ecstasy of sport.

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Founded in 1984, ASAMA, a division of the United States Sports Academy, is dedicated to the preservation of sports art, history, and literature. The ASAMA collection is composed of more than 1,500 works of sport art across a variety of media, including paintings, sculptures, assemblages, prints, and photographs.

The museum is free and open to the public from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday.

The United States Sports Academy is an independent, non-profit, accredited, special mission sports university, created to serve the nation and world with programs in instruction, research, and service. The role of the Academy is to prepare men and women for careers in the profession of sports. For more information about the Academy, call 251-626-3303 or visit [www.ussa.edu](http://www.ussa.edu).

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