**15817, Kim Donovan**

Coaches were important.

Good Evening Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am thrilled to be here tonight and share in the joy of being inducted into my alma mater’s Hall of Fame. I have so many good memories of my time here at school that includes my fellow inductees, the teachers and staff, the coaches, and of course all of our families. None of us would have thought back in high school that we would be here tonight celebrating our life’s accomplishments with each other.

I owe my greatest thanks and gratitude to my family who made huge sacrifices so that I could accomplish my dreams. They drove countless hours, many times through the night, so that I could arrive at the varied locations for my competitions and reach for my dreams. My family has always known me so well. They knew when to console me and when to give a motivational speech. They knew when to encourage me and when to tell me to stop whining. They always knew what I needed to hear to get me moving forward. They were and still are my support network and my motivation.

Another thing my family did is push me in the right direction in school. They insisted that I make the grade academically and helped me to work my way through the school system, learning how to meet and exceed the expectations of teachers and administrators and learning how to effectively communicate with those same people.

This school gave me the perfect opportunity to combine my academics and my athletics since in addition to a wonderful academic program they also have a strong athletic department. It’s not just a simple, basic chance to participate in sports, but a well-organized sports program that provided me with a platform with which I could succeed. The athletic program here gave me multiple opportunities as well as providing me with terrific coaches to help me on my way.

Personally, I think the coaches here are the best. They are skilled, knowledgeable, and experienced in the sports, but they also know how to mentor and encourage students to do their best. I can think of many times when either my classes or my competitions were maxing out my abilities, thereby stretching my competitive edge. My coaches took a hint from how my family treated me and knew just how to push me to reach and exceed my limits and therefore achieve victory.

Each inductee will have an individual and personal story to tell you tonight. But, one thing that we’ll all be able to agree upon is that this school, combined with a terrific family, made the difference in my success. I wouldn’t be standing here tonight being inducted into your Hall of Fame without the unique combination of a terrific school system, exceptional teachers and coaches, and the best family in the whole world.

So, I’d like to humbly thank everyone responsible for making this night special for me and my fellow inductees. We are honored to receive this award and thankful for the foundation you provided for us so that we could be a success in life.

Thank you