

## **GADA Awards 2026**

### **Student-Athlete Awards**

#### **Female Scholarship Finalists**

Olivia Sawyer – Decatur

Mary Elizabeth Gibbs – Blessed Trinity

Elizabeth Joswick – Pope

**Female Scholarship Award Winner** – Riley Harding – Athens Academy

#### **Male Scholarship Finalists**

Joe Douglas – Thomasville

Ryder Register – Blessed Trinity

Sellers Newman – Thomasville

**Male Scholarship Award Winner** - Henry Thomas Garrard – Athens Academy

**Lucia B. Norwood State Athletic Director of the Year** - Michael Dowis – North Oconee

**NIAAA State Award of Merit** – Kevin Grooms – Bibb Co.

**NIAAA Distinguished Service Award** – Josh Mathews – Pope

**NFHS Citation Award** – Don Baker – Cobb Co. School District

**Frank Kovaleski Professional Development Award** – Dr. Kechia Rowles – Rockdale Co.

**NIAAA HOF Class of 2026** – Joe Sanfilippo - Retired

**GADA Bob Stinchcomb Athletic Leadership Award** – Ricky Turner – Blessed Trinity

**GADA Frances Bryan Women in Athletics Award** – Tonya Sebring – Cherokee Co.

**GADA Johnny Seabrooks Legacy Award** – Dr. Kechia Rowles – Rockdale Co.

**GADA Distinguished Service** – Sam Crenshaw

**GADA HOF Class of 2025** – Grady Smith and Butch Brooks

**Class A - D2 Athletic Director of the Year** – Gabe Theiss – Schley Co.

**Class A - D1 Athletic Director of the Year** – Jeff Sloan – Lamar Co.

**Class 2A Athletic Director of the Year** – Brandon Jernigan – Pierce Co.

**Class 3A Athletic Director of the Year** – Ashley Lott – Fayette Co.

**Class 4A Athletic Director of the Year** – Ricky Turner – Blessed Trinity

**Class 5A Athletic Director of the Year** – Jason Brett – Houston Co.

**Class 6A Athletic Director of the Year** – Cleveland Edwards – Colquitt Co.

**2024 Region Athletic Directors of the Year**

**1-AAAAAA Cleveland Edwards – Colquitt Co.**

**2-AAAAAA Lee Heaberlin – East Coweta**

**3-AAAAAA Myra Camese - McEachern**

**4-AAAAAA San Nichols - Archer**

**5-AAAAAA Ryan Dyer – North Paulding**

**6-AAAAAA Daniel Garrett - Dacula**

**7-AAAAAA Chris Hall - Duluth**

**8-AAAAAA Brett Phipps**

**1-AAAAA Liz Driggers - Statesboro**

**2-AAAAA Jason Brett – Houston Co.**

**3-AAAAA Amber White, Dutchtown**

**4-AAAAA Sharon Richard – Arabia Mountain**

**5-AAAAA Gene Reynolds – East Paulding**

**6-AAAAA Scott Kelly - Lassiter**

**7-AAAAA Kirk Call – Johns Creek**

**8-AAAAA Ralph Neely - Apalachee**

**1-AAAA Justin McDonald – Wayne Co.**

**2-AAAA Beau Edwards – Ola**

**3-AAAA Dan Maehlman - Jonesboro**

**4-AAAA Dr. Mekia Troy - Creekside**

**5-AAAA Pamela Johnson - Lithonia**

**6-AAAA Ricky Turner – Blessed Trinity**

**7-AAAA Jeff Wallace - Hiram**

**8-AAAA Chris Smith – Madison Co.**

**1-AAA Rex Wade - Bainbridge**

**2-AAA Ashley Lott – Fayette Co.**

**3-AAA Phillip Lee – Calvary Day**

**4-AAA Rodney Holder, Harlem**

**5-AAA Alana Allen - Douglas**

**6-AAA Loyd Collins, White County**

**7-AAA Ray Reece - Adairsville**

**8-AAA Trevor Catrett**

**1-AA Danielle McKoy - Columbus**  
**2-AA Thomas Gochenour, Jackson**  
**3-AA Brandon Jernigan, Pierce County**  
**4-AA Cordaro Crawford - Thomson**  
**5-AA Greg Sullivan - Therrell**  
**6-AA Ashante Thompson - Columbia**  
**7-AA Mandy Hunter – Union County**  
**8-AA Cory Dickerson, Hart County**

**1-A DI Jarrett Luke – Berrien Co.**  
**2-A DI Tangee Hardnett, Northeast**  
**3-A DI Greg Phillips – Savannah Christian**  
**4-A DI Jeff Sloan – Lamar Co.**  
**5-A DI Lacy Gilbert - Wesleyan**  
**6-A DI Shane Lasseter – Heard County**  
**7-A DI Joey Mathis - Coosa**  
**8-A DI Jeannie Jourolmon – Elbert County**

**1-A DII Jake Page, Seminole County**  
**2-A DII Casey Soliday – Irwin County**  
**3-A DII Terry Markovcic – Screven County**  
**4-A DII Josh Owens – Wilcox County**  
**5-A DII Chris Kelley, Glascock County**  
**6-A DII Gabe Theiss – Schley Co.**  
**7-A DII Jason Lanham - Trion**  
**8-A DII Steven Simpson, Warren County**

#### **GIAA Lifetime Achievement Awards**

**4A – Greg Moore – First Presbyterian Day**  
**3A – Brett Martin – Valwood School**  
**2A – David Byrne – Southwest Georgia Academy**  
**1A – Kirk Hoffman – Flint River Academy**