

# McGwire, Sosa, Moss, Davis all capture awards at ESPYs

By JEFF GOODMAN  
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW YORK — Mark McGwire hit another home run Monday night, winning three ESPYs for shattering the most revered record in American sports.

McGwire won ESPN's awards for Male Athlete of the Year, Showstopper of the Year and baseball's top performer for hitting 70 homers to break Roger Maris' record of 61 and reinvigorating an entire sport.

The show, sponsored by the ESPN cable network, presented awards in 28 categories, including 19 Performer of the Year awards and nine Cross-Cutter categories with nominees from any sport.

"It was a magical season for myself, the Yankees, David Wells' perfect game, Cal Ripken stopping his streak ... to the home run race between Sammy (Sosa) and I," McGwire said. "I want to thank the fans. I'm glad baseball is back and on top."

McGwire and Sosa, who hit 66 home runs and battled McGwire until the final weekend for the title of baseball home run king, received the loudest standing ovations from the crowd at Radio City Music Hall.

Sosa won the first ever Humanitarian Award for his work helping victims of Hurricane Georges in his native Dominican Republic.

Golfer Mark O'Meara, the first golfer since 1990 to win the Masters and British Open in the same year, and Tennessee basketball star Chamique Holdsclaw were the only other multiple award winners.

O'Meara took the awards for Performance Under Pressure and top men's golfer. Holdsclaw was honored as Female Athlete of the Year and top women's college basketball player.

The New York Yankees won three awards after setting a record with 125 wins and sweeping the San Diego Padres in the

World Series. The Yankees were selected as the Team of the Year, Joe Torre won Coach/Manager of the Year and Wells earned the Dramatic Individual Performance of the Year for pitching a perfect game.

Billie Jean King won the Arthur Ashe Award for Courage for her fight to bring equality to women's sports.

Other top awards went to Randy Moss (Breakthrough Athlete of the Year), Eric Davis (Comeback Athlete of the Year), Michael Jordan (Men's Pro Basketball), Terrell Davis (Pro Football), Dominik Hasek (Hockey), Antawn Jamison (Men's College Basketball) and Ricky Williams (College Football).

Pete Sampras set a record by winning his sixth straight ESPY as Male Tennis Player of the Year. Jeff Gordon was named the top performer in auto racing one day after winning the Daytona 500.

## Agnew

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book of Matthew—the fourth chapter and verses one through 11.

He spoke from the subject "Temptations: Defeating the enemy by standing on the word of God"

Though he was noticeably nervous at first, Agnew quickly settled down and spoke with the same confidence that he steps on the gridiron with.

"The enemy is going to attack you wherever you are vulnerable," he said. "Are we going to stand on the word or fall for the trick of the enemy?"

On and on Agnew spoke giving real life examples of each scripture he uttered.

By the end of his 30 minute sermon, Agnew had worked up a sweat but the soft spoken Winston-Salem native was reserved in giving an assessment of his first preaching experience.

"I think I did O.K.," Agnew said.

But many of his friends had more to say.

"I knew he was going to have a great future but I didn't know



Agnew, surrounded by family and friends.

Photo by Damon Ford



Rev. Anthony Hines, pastor of NICCC, introduces Agnew.

how great," said Keith Wilkes, football coach of Carver High School. "I can see God in him."

Anthony L. Hines, the pastor of New Institutional Christian Center Church, agrees and says Agnew is more than just a member of his church.

"(He's) a very special friend ... a very humble spirit, easy to work with," Hines said. "He's just right for service in the king-

dom."

But Agnew, who accepted his call to the ministry in June of last year never looked at himself as a preacher.

"I ran-I ran for a while," he said. "But if the Lord wants you to do something, you're going to

do it."

And the 31-year-old husband and father of three sons is more than a willing servant.

Because he grew up in the tough drug infested area of Piedmont Circle, Agnew's heart goes out to the youth.

"I have compassion for all kids who grow up in public housing because I know what they're going through," Agnew said. "We have to reach out to these kids and help them."

For the past couple of years he's done just that by sponsoring a Celebrity Golf Classic during Fathers Day weekend over the summer. All the monies that are raised go to support the Ray Agnew, Jr. College Scholarship Fund.

At the present time, Agnew is enrolled at Brooks Bible Institute in St. Louis.

While some of his pro colleagues may say Christianity is a handicap on the field, Agnew says the exact opposite.

"For me, it made me more of a competitor because I compete for Jesus now," he said. "Just because you're a Christian, you don't have to be passive."

In his mind, it's a players attitude that makes a difference. Agnew doesn't look to take cheap shots, or end anyone's career, but he does understand his job.

"My job is to make tackles and I'm going to hit (my opponent) as hard as I can," Agnew said. "And maybe I'll say 'God bless you' as I pick him up."

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