

SALUTING DADE'S SCHOLAR-ATHLETES

By MIKE PHILLIPS
Herald Sports Writer

Sharon Bloom came up with the idea, and it's working better than even she expected. Like most good ideas, it was simple: Students tutoring students. She started a year ago tutoring 10 kids at 6:30 a.m. at North Miami High. This year 25 students — mostly athletes — showed up for the extra help.

"I know how hard it is to be an athlete and to get good grades," Bloom said. "And I thought this could help."

Bloom also knows how to juggle athletics and academics, and that's why she was chosen as one of The Herald's 10 Scholar-Athletes for 1991. Bloom was the captain of North Miami's soccer, badminton and ten-

nis teams this year and will graduate with a 4.98 grade-point average. And don't forget, she was up at 5:30 a.m. getting ready to tutor athletes such as Ochiel Swaby and Lawrence Wright, who both received scholarships to the University of Miami.

Bloom is one of five girls chosen.

Carol City's Marysue James, who helped the Chiefs win the Class 4A state basketball title as a junior and was one of the best defensive centers in the state, was just as tough to beat in the classroom, where she maintained a 4.03 GPA.

Kelly Krey played volleyball, soccer and softball at Hialeah-Miami Lakes, where those teams have been among Dade's best for the past three years. She will graduate with a 4.45 GPA.

Yolanda Hobbs won three state track titles at Northwestern and she also played volleyball and basketball at a school that succeeds in both sports. She was also fast in the classroom, where she maintained a 3.99 GPA.

Lisa Sayfie led Ransom Everglades to the Class 2A state volleyball championship game her junior and senior years, and helped the Raiders win their first state title as a senior. She also averaged 17 points and 7.8 rebounds in basketball. Sayfie, one of the few volleyball players in Florida to receive a Division I scholarship, also ran on the track team as a sophomore. She will graduate with an 8.6 GPA, which translates into a 4.0, before moving on to Clemson.

Rene Abdalah is an amazing story. He

arrived in Miami four years ago without any English skills, and will graduate from Coral Gables with a 4.12 GPA. He was one of Dade's best offensive linemen, and also qualified for the Region 4-4A track meet in the discus. More important, he qualified for an academic scholarship to Brown.

South Dade's Allan Brantley is a throwback. You don't see many kids playing football and baseball anymore, but Brantley played both well, making 97 tackles as a linebacker and batting .317 with three homers and 31 RBI. If you like those numbers, try these: He will graduate fifth in his class with a 4.56 GPA.

Norland's Jacob Goldwire was one of the best defensive backs in the state and will attend Ball State on a football scholarship.

He hit the books even harder than opposing football players and has a 3.9 GPA.

Marcos Mestre was the Class 3A-2A-1A All-Dade quarterback, throwing for 1,100 yards and 11 TDs. He also pitched for the baseball team and won 10 games over two seasons. His two-year earned-run average is 1.90. His GPA is even better at 3.89.

Gulliver's Ilan Rzadkowsky-Raoli (that's Jack-O-Wal-Ski Rau-o-Ly) is without question Dade's top swimmer. He has been an All-American all four years in high school and swam the second-fastest 200 individual medley time (1:50.4) in the nation this year. He turned down more than 50 swimming scholarship offers, including one from Stanford. Why? So he can take his 4.9 GPA off to Harvard.

THE NOMINEES

■ **American:** Shanon D. Hetser, softball, 3.412; Paul Walsh, water polo, swimming, 3.792.

■ **Belen:** Marcos Mestre, football, baseball, 3.89.

■ **Berkshire:** Ian Abbott, basketball, 3.9.

■ **Brito Miami Private:** Maria Belazaran, volleyball, softball, 3.36.

■ **Carol City:** Marysue James, basketball, 4.03; Cliff Richards, soccer, 3.51.

■ **Carrollton:** Sofia Lacayo, softball, soccer, volleyball, 3.73.

■ **Central:** Jennifer Tulloch, basketball, track, 3.93; Anthony Bellamy, football, 3.43.

■ **Columbus:** Nelson Fonseca, basketball, 3.83.

■ **Coral Gables:** Katherine Nelson, soccer, cross-country, 4.203; Rene Abdalah, football, track, lacrosse, 4.12.

■ **Coral Park:** Nannette Figueroa, volleyball, softball, basketball, 3.82; Amaury Castillo, wrestling, 3.02.

■ **Curley:** Kressadioua Vieux, track, basketball, volleyball, 3.706; Martin Mennes, football, basketball, 4.0.

■ **Dade Christian:** AnnMarie Font, cross-country, track, soccer, 3.89; Lonnie R. Williams, cross-country, soccer, tennis, track, 4.21.

■ **Edison:** Guerda JeanBaptiste, volleyball, 3.615; Kenneth Milligan, baseball, 3.4.

■ **Gulliver:** Kasey Sher, volleyball, basketball, softball, 4.0; Ilan Rzadkowsky-Raoli, swimming, tennis, 4.9.

■ **Hialeah:** Emirce Garcia, soccer, badminton, volley., track, 3.65; Paul De La Osa, baseball, 3.61.

■ **Hialeah-Miami Lakes:** Kelly Krey, softball, volleyball, soccer, 4.45; Joseph Scott, cross-country, golf, 4.643.

■ **Homestead:** Susan Causey, swimming, soccer, softball, 4.556; Douglas Abernathy, baseball, bowling, 4.329.



SHARON CLARE BLOOM, North Miami

■ **Class rank:** Third in class of 553.

■ **Academics:** AP English, AP biology, AP calculus, AP government/economics, honors marine biology; 4.98 GPA; will attend North Carolina; voted one of top four young women in Florida; captain of the Brain Bowl team.

■ **Athletics:** Captain of 8-4-3 soccer team with nine goals, eight assists; captain of the tennis team with 15-6 record; captain of the badminton team with 14-0 record.

YOLANDA HOBBS, Northwestern

■ **Class rank:** Fifth of 340.

■ **Academics:** AP English, honors economics, physics, law studies; 3.99 GPA.

■ **Athletics:** Won Class 4A state championship in 100 and 200 as sophomore; won state title in long jump as senior and second in the 100 and 200; three-time first-team All-Dade track athlete; three-year member of basketball team and starter as a senior; starter for volleyball team as senior.

MARYSUE JAMES, Carol City

■ **Class rank:** Eleventh in class.

■ **Academics:** AP government/economics, AP calculus, honors English, anatomy/physiology; 4.03 GPA; will attend Georgia Southern University on basketball scholarship.

■ **Athletics:** All-American honorable mention by Street and Smith magazine; helped team to 1990 Class 4A state title; one of the best defensive post players in South Florida on one of the top teams in the nation over the past two years.

KELLY KREY, Hialeah-Miami Lakes

4.92; Alex Paz, basketball, 4.26.

- **Louderes:** Kelly Simpson, volleyball, 3.785.
- **Miami Beach:** Xiomara Rios, bowling, basketball, badminton, 3.1; Joshua A. Calkins, football, water polo, 4.8.
- **Miami Christian:** Daniel Roblejo, football, basketball, baseball, 3.03.
- **Miami Country Day:** Kechia Chin Nuke, volleyball, softball, soccer, 4.0; Manny Diaz, baseball, football, basketball, 3.2.
- **Miami High:** Lourdes Oquendo, volleyball, softball, soccer, 3.1; Gerardo Remy, basketball, 3.0.
- **Miami Springs:** Lori Cimino, soccer, track, softball, 3.148; Sean McDonald, water polo, football, 3.199.
- **Norland:** Charlotte Azcuna, tennis, badminton, 4.6; Jacob Goldwire, football, track, 3.9.
- **North Miami:** Sharon Clare Bloom, badminton, tennis, soccer, 4.98; Fitzgerald Casimir, cross-country, wrestling, 4.381.
- **North Miami Beach:** Betty Leung, badminton, 5.0; Kraig Reed, track, cross-country, football, wrestling, 3.4.
- **Northwestern:** Yolanda Hobbs, track, basketball, volleyball, 3.99; Walback Bonhome, football, track, wrestling, 3.348.
- **Pace:** Pamela Zambrano, volleyball, tennis, 3.929; Jack Sawyer, football, track, 3.027.
- **Palmer:** Zach Messa, football, cross-country, soccer, golf, 3.2.
- **Palmetto:** Rachel Wallach, cross-country, tennis, track, 4.013; Robert Stoker, swimming, water polo, 4.819.
- **Princeton Christian:** Nicole McCord, volleyball, softball, 3.47; Arturo De Leon, football, basketball, baseball, 3.6.
- **Ransom Everglades:** Lisa Sayfie, volleyball, basketball, track, 8.6; Charles Lloyd Gasenheimer, cross-country, track, 8.56.
- **St. Brendan:** Laura Sotolongo, basketball, softball, 3.7; Carlos A. Mas, baseball, 4.0.
- **South Dade:** Natasha Wyss, tennis, 4.193; Allan Brantley, football, baseball, 4.56.
- **South Miami:** Tanya Young, volleyball, basketball, cross-country, 3.0; Alex Ramirez, cross-country, basketball, track, 3.25.
- **Southridge:** Brittany Casanave, swimming, water polo, 3.358; Nathan Hill, bowling, 3.480.
- **Southwest:** Ivette Motola, cross-country, track, 4.821; Armando Rodriguez-Roig, swimming, 4.571.
- **Sunset:** Susan Cistone, swimming, water polo, 3.96; Van Martin, cross-country, track, soccer, 3.92.
- **Trinity Episcopal:** Evans Dunwoody, volleyball, tennis, 3.6; Matthew Nichols, football, soccer, lacrosse, 4.5.
- **Westminster Christian:** Susie Wightman, track, volleyball, soccer, 3.17; Chris Bovenkamp, football, basketball, golf, 4.29.
- **Westwood Christian:** Joyce Fernandez, basketball, 4.04.

SELECTION PROCESS

The 10 Scholar-Athlete finalists were selected by a three-member panel of Herald judges — Paul Anger, executive sports editor; Bill Van Smith, metro sports editor; and Mike Phillips, high school sports editor. They reviewed nominations from public and private school principals in Dade County.

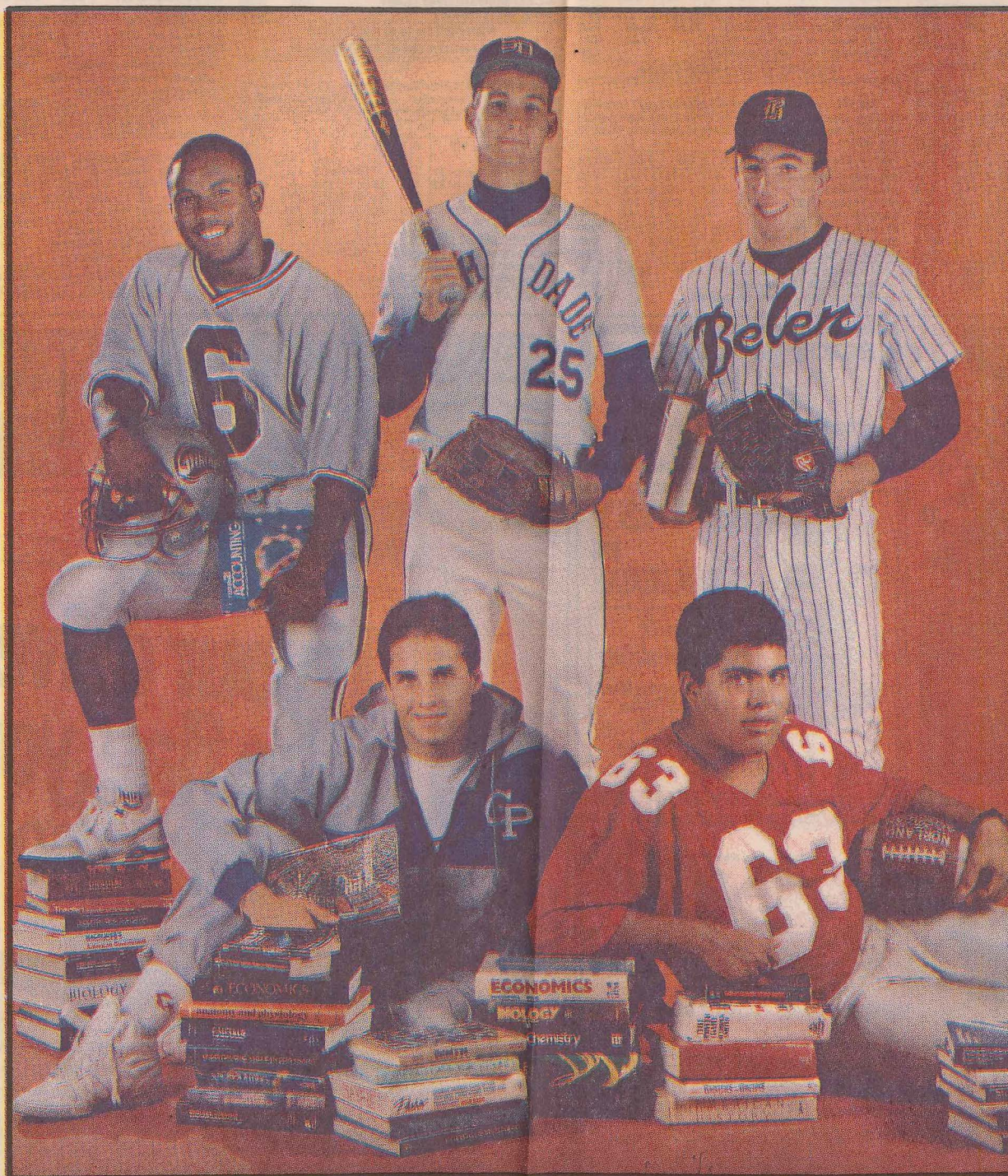
Nominees had to be seniors, have a minimum 3.0 grade-point average and must have won a letter in at least one sport. Further considerations were number of sports played, selection to All-Dade teams, courses taken and strength of GPA.

The top Scholar-Athletes — one boy, one girl — will be named May 29 at The Herald's All-Dade Awards Ceremonies.

Scholar-Athlete photos by AL DIAZ



THE GIRLS: In front, Miami Lakes' Kelly Krey and Northwestern's Yolanda Hobbs; in back, Ransom's Lisa Sayfie, Carol City's Marysue James and North Miami's Sharon Bloom.



THE BOYS: In front, Gulliver's Ilan Rzadkowolsky-Raoli and Coral Gables' Rene Abdalah; in back, Norland's Jacob Goldwire, South Dade's Allan Brantley and Belen's Marcos Mestre.

for district, region and section championship soccer team.

LISA SAYFIE, Ransom Everglades

■ **Class rank:** Ransom does not rank.

■ **Academics:** Has 8.6 GPA (converts into approximately 4.0); named one of top 10 writers in her class; will attend Clemson on volleyball scholarship.

■ **Athletics:** All-state volleyball player who is perhaps the best in Florida; led Ransom to Class 2A state final as a junior and senior when team won the title and she was named MVP; three-time first-team All-Dade player; had 431 kills as a senior; a three-year starter and captain of basketball team.

RENE ABDALAH, Coral Gables

■ **Class rank:** 82nd of 660.

■ **Academics:** AP calculus, AP physics, AP chemistry, AP English; 4.12 grade-point average; will attend Brown University on academic scholarship.

■ **Athletics:** Two-year starter on Gables offensive line; named to All-Dade third team in football; threw shot put and discus and qualified for the Region 4-4A track meet in the discus; also played defense for Gables club lacrosse team.

ALLAN BRANTLEY, South Dade

■ **Class rank:** Fifth of 350.

■ **Academics:** AP calculus, AP biology, honors English, honors economics; 4.56 GPA; turned down offer from Brown to pursue nuclear engineering degree at Florida.

■ **Athletics:** Starting linebacker for District 16-4A champs with 97 tackles, 32 assists, three QB sacks; hit .317 for baseball team with three home runs and 31 RBI.

JACOB GOLDWIRE Norland

■ **Class rank:** Seventh of 450.

■ **Academics:** AP English, AP chemistry, three honors classes; 3.9 GPA; will attend Ball State on football scholarship and will study criminal justice.

■ **Athletics:** One of the best defensive backs in the state; named to All-Dade second team; five interceptions as senior and 20 in career; second-team All-Dade in track as a junior.

MARCOS MESTRE, Belen Jesuit

■ **Class rank:** Fifth of 102.

■ **Academics:** AP calculus, advanced humanities, Latin American history, world literature, philosophy and peer ministry; 3.89 GPA; will attend University of Miami.

■ **Athletics:** All-Dade Class 3A-2A-1A first-team QB; threw for 1,100 yards and 11 TDs and rushed for four TDs; three-year starter on baseball team; made second-team All-Dade baseball as a pitcher; averaged two strikeouts per inning.

ILAN RZADKOWOLSKY-RAOLI, Gulliver Prep

■ **Class rank:** Gulliver does not rank, but he is in top 10.

■ **Academics:** AP English, AP calculus, AP modern European history and honors physics; 4.9 GPA; turned down more than 50 swimming scholarships, including Stanford, and will attend Harvard; winner of the Harvard Book Award.

■ **Athletics:** Four-year high school All-American swimmer with the second-fastest time (1:50.4) in the nation in the 200 individual medley; owns Dade County records in 200 IM and 100 butterfly; has been invited to represent the United States in the USA Olympic Festival in July.