

The Iain Wilson
Character Through
Competition Award



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JULIA DOUBSON AND JAN ERIK Næss WIN \$1,000 TRAVEL GRANTS AS IAIN WILSON CHARACTER THROUGH COMPETITION AWARDEES

Philadelphia, PA -- The Wilson Family, in partnership with Orienteering USA, is pleased to announce the winners of the third annual Iain Wilson Character Through Competition Award. This award honors the memory of Iain Wilson by recognizing young athletes whose efforts demonstrate character through their commitment to growth and improvement in the sport as well as their contribution to the orienteering community through service and teamwork. This year's winners, Julia Doubson of the Bay Area Orienteering Club and Jan Erik Naess of the Chicago Area Orienteering Club (CAOC), will each receive a \$1,000 travel grant.

Doubson, a native of Palo Alto, California, has been recognized by her coaches and peers for her competitive drive and leadership abilities. Julia has taken the decision-making, planning and critical thinking skills she has developed in orienteering into her academic and other athletic pursuits. Doubson finished third in the junior team trials in Kentucky last year at just 15 years old.



Jan Erik Naess

Naess, who lives in Clarendon Hills, Illinois, most recently finished first in M-21E competition at the Orienteering Cincinnati Games. His voracious appetite for instruction, guidance and teamwork was clear in his own reflections and coaches recommendations. He regularly volunteers at CAOC events, providing encouragement to others, comparing route choices and developing a community of orienteers.



Julia Doubson

Doubson and Naess are multi-sport athletes who have excelled in cross country and speed skating respectively. Both athletes competed in their first Junior World Orienteering Championships (JWOC) in Rauland, Norway last summer and plan to use grant funding to support travel and training for JWOC 2016. Doubson and Naess will be recognized at the U.S. Interscholastic Championship, to be held April 1-3 in Fairfield and Harrison, Ohio.

Awardees are selected through a competitive application and review process. Iain's father Graeme writes, "Once again, we were thrilled with the commitment and dedication of our applicants. Julia and Jan Erik are excellent young ambassadors for the sport, leaving those they meet feeling encouraged and good about the world."

Writes Glen Schorr, Executive Director of Orienteering USA, "The Iain Wilson Awards continue to support our growing community of youth athletes while recognizing orienteering's ability to cultivate life skills that can be applied beyond the course."

About Orienteering USA

As the sport's national federation, Orienteering USA represents thousands of orienteers throughout the country. For more information or to join visit www.orienteeringusa.org.

About The Iain Wilson Character Through Competition Award

The Iain Wilson Awards were established in 2013 to support the efforts of young U.S. orienteers. Learn more about the award at www.orienteeringusa.com/wilsonaward or write to iainwilsonaward@comcast.net.