

Beth Clark
7697 Beard Rd.
Byron, MI 48418

October 1, 2016

4-H Sportsperson Award Selection Committee:

It is my distinct pleasure to recommend Wyatt Mazich for the Michigan 4-H Sportsperson of the Year award.

Over his years as a swine exhibitor, Wyatt has established himself as one of the best showman in the state of Michigan. However, if you sit down and talk with Wyatt, you would never know it. He is without a doubt one of the humblest and most dedicated youth exhibitors that I've ever met. At only 14 years old, Wyatt has established himself as a leader in our club. He is always the first person to volunteer to help out, whether it be an extra barn duty shift or to cover chores for an exhibitor with a conflict. He also goes above and beyond to mentor younger exhibitors, taking time to practice showmanship with them and answer their questions.

This year, Wyatt spent the majority of the summer in a sling, recovering from shoulder surgery. He still participated in jackpot shows every single weekend, honing his skills and learning to show with his non-dominant hand. I know of at least four times that the judge slid him down the line in the showmanship finals, citing the awkwardness of the sling as the reason he didn't win the class. Wyatt never complained or pouted; he just refocused and did the best he could with the hand he was dealt.

Wyatt overcame a challenging summer show season and ended by taking home champion intermediate swine showman honors at the Shiawassee County Fair. Later that week, he told me that the best part wasn't his victory, it was that two of his best friends joined him in the final three. In our county, exhibitors may only win each age division of showmanship sweepstakes once. This means that if you win the intermediate division as a 14-year-old, you may still participate in showmanship at 15, but if you win your specie, the runner-up represents that barn in sweepstakes. While practicing for the round robin, Wyatt told me that he wanted to win very badly. I made a remark to the effect of, "well, yes, everyone likes to win." He very seriously replied, "I need to win this year so that next year one of my friends can have the chance."

Wyatt is a fierce competitor. He always gives his best and believes that his hard work will pay off. He is also one of the most kind-hearted, respectful teenagers that I've ever worked with. In fact, Wyatt is the main reason that the rest of our 4-H club refers to my husband and I as "Mr. Kevin" and "Ms. Beth". As he informed me once, he feels that it would be rude for the 4-Hers to refer to us only by first name.

I truly believe that Wyatt represents the best that Michigan 4-H has to offer. The respect that he continually shows to his livestock, competitors, others around him and the traditions of the sport itself are second to none. Please feel free to reach out to me via phone at (810) 845-8657 or email at olivere7@iastate.edu if I can answer additional questions about his eligibility for this award.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



Beth Clark
Leader, Final Drive 4-H Club