

January 16, 2018 – An impressive collection of the greatest men, women and teams in sport have been nominated for the 2018 Laureus World Sports Awards, following a ballot by the world's sports media.

Tennis superstar **Roger Federer's** impressive return to form after a knee injury, which saw him win his fifth Australian Open and eighth Wimbledon titles, sees him nominated in both the *Laureus World Sportsman of the Year* and *Laureus World Comeback of the Year* categories. Federer, who is currently a four-time Award winner could become the most decorated Laureus Award winner at the 2018 ceremony in Monaco on February 27.

The football world also features heavily, with **Cristiano Ronaldo** up for *Laureus World Sportsman of the Year*, **Real Madrid** nominated for *Laureus World Team of the Year*, **Kylian Mbappé** in contention for *Laureus World Breakthrough of the Year* and **FC Barcelona** and **Chapecoense** nominated for the *Laureus World Comeback of the Year Award*.

Joining **Federer** and **Ronaldo** in what is sure to be a hotly contested *Laureus World Sportsman of the Year* category is athletics world championships 10,000m gold and 5,000m silver medal-winning athlete **Mo Farah**, four-time Tour de France winner **Chris Froome**, four-time Formula One world champion **Lewis Hamilton** and French and US Open champion **Rafael Nadal**.

In the *Laureus World Sportswoman of the Year* category Wimbledon champion **Garbiñe Muguruza** and three-time 800m world world champion **Caster Semenya** join an all-American quartet of Australian Open champion **Serena Williams**, 16-time world athletics championship medalist **Allyson Felix**, 19-year-old swimming sensation **Katie Ledecky** and Overall World Cup champion skier **Mikaela Shiffrin**.

An array of sports compile the six Nominees in the *Laureus World Team of the Year* category; tennis' **France Davis Cup Team**, NBA Champions **Golden State Warriors**, Formula One World Champions **Mercedes-AMG Petronas**, Super Bowl champions **New England Patriots**, sailing's **New Zealand America's Cup Team**, and Champions League winners **Real Madrid**.

After a stellar year in the ring in which he unified the WBA, IBO and IBF heavyweight titles, boxer **Anthony Joshua** is nominated in the *Laureus World Breakthrough of the Year* category. Nominated alongside Joshua are French football star **Kylian Mbappé**, French Open champion **Jelena Ostapenko**, Spanish golfer **Sergio Garcia**, Greek NBA basketball player **Giannis Antetokounmpo** and American swimming star **Caeleb Dressel**.

Following their remarkable Champions League 6-1 comeback against Paris St Germain, **FC Barcelona** are in contention for the *Laureus World Comeback of the Year* category. After impressive returns to form after their respective injuries, **Roger Federer**, Italian MotoGP star **Valentino Rossi** and 100m hurdle world champion **Sally Pearson** are also in consideration alongside 100m sprint world champion **Justin Gatlin** and Brazilian football club **Chapecoense**, who made a remarkable return to competition after being involved in a tragic plane crash.

A group of the greatest para-athletes of 2017 make up the incredible group of Nominees for the *Laureus World Sportsperson of the Year with a Disability* category. **Marcel Hug**, who won three

world titles and five leading marathons is joined by three-time Grand Slam winning wheelchair tennis player **Yui Kamiji**, four-time world champion cross-country skier **Oksana Masters**, snowboarder **Bibian Mentel-Spee**, Ironman Para world champion **Jetze Plat** and T44 Long Jump world champion **Markus Rehm**.

Surfing world champions **Tyler Wright** and **John John Florence** lead the Nominations for the *Laureus World Action Sportsperson of the Year*. Also shortlisted are champion snowboarders **Anna Gasser** and **Mark McMorris**, skateboarder **Nyjah Huston** and French sailor **Armel Le Cléac'h**, who set a new record of 74 days for completing the Vendée Globe, the single-handed non-stop race around the world.

The winners, as voted for by members of the Laureus World Sports Academy, will be revealed in Monaco on February 27. For more information and to stay updated in the build up to the 2018 Laureus World Sports Awards, visit awards.laureus.com and follow #Laureus18 on social media platforms. To apply for media accreditation for the Awards, visit laureus.com/accreditation.

In the *Laureus Best Sporting Moment of the Year* category, five emotional and heartwarming Moments, which look beyond the scoreboard and highlight the true value of sport have been selected from five monthly global online polls. Sports fans around the world voted for **The Iowa Hawkeyes** and their fans' heart-warming 'Kinnick Wave', six-year-old football fan **Bradley Lowery** and the special bond he formed with best friend, England striker **Jermain Defoe**; **Kimi Räikkönen** and his six-year-old fan **Thomas Danel**, Brazilian football team **Chapecoense** and inspirational 18-year-old motor racing driver **Billy Monger**. Votes can be cast at myLaureus.com from January 2 until February 26, with the winner being announced on stage at the Awards in Monaco.