Elaine Heller, ABC Female AOTY

Contributed by ABC Board Author
Last Updated Monday, 13 December 2010

Elaine Heller
ABC Female Athlete of the YearThe ABC has selected the Female Athlete of the Year: Elaine Heller.In the male-dominated world of barefoot waterskiing, Elaine Heller is the “Warrior Princess.” She refuses to maintain the status quo for women in the sport and continually pushes the limit of her own ability. She is one of the few women in history, to barefoot jump inverted. Heller played a large part of the U.S. Elite Team’s success at the 2010 Barefoot World Championships in Brandenburg, Germany, contributing team points in all three events. The U.S. team won its 13th consecutive world team title by narrowly beating the very competitive Australian team. Heller won gold medals in Jumping, Slalom and Overall, plus the bronze medal in tricks. She also set a new women’s world jumping record of 21 meters (69 feet) in the second round, surpassing a world record jump set by Australia’s Ashley Stebbeings in the first round. Heller also had an incredible U.S. Nationals performance this year winning the gold in tricks, slalom, jump and the overall. She is currently in her sophomore year at the University of Wisconsin, majoring in business. Her goal is to one day own and operate a sports-based business prominently featuring Barefoot Waterskiing. Her current enterprise, The Blue Moo Barefoot Academy, will be the foundation of this business.
Heller has broken the “fiberglass ceiling” in barefooting and continues to set the bar high for women and men across the world. Heller hopes her success will help send the message that barefooting like a world champion is as attainable for girls as it is for boys.