



FINALISTS

The entries for the KBA Excellence in Broadcasting Awards were selected by independent panels of professional broadcasters judging every individual entry. Judges scored each entry, and the highest average scores determined the finalists. The finalist list is presented in random order. This list does not reflect scores or any placement (first, second or third). The winners for each category will be announced at the KBA Annual Membership Conference on Sunday, September 14th at the Owensboro Convention Center in Owensboro, KY

RADIO FINALISTS:

Behind the Scenes: Kristen Martin, WXCM-FM; Brian Burkhardt, WEKU-FM.
Shelby Ashley, WKMS-FM.

Broadcast Leadership Award: Mike Savage, WEKU-FM; Chris Houchens, Commonwealth Broadcasting Corporation.

Locally Produced Commercial: Brad Klein, WSON AM/FM, "Bel Air Land - Coffee Order"; Tess Cowan and Bill Booth, WKTG -FM, "Thunder Hockey"; Ben McCarty, Commonwealth Broadcasting Corporation - Glasgow, "Coca-Cola - A Bit More Holiday Magic".

Morning Show: Mac Daniels and Ben McCarty, Commonwealth Broadcasting Corporation – Glasgow, "The REAL Trader"; Brian Walker and Trisha Caudill, WQXE-FM, "Brian & Trisha"; Jason Crockett and Ken Heron, WJLI-FM, "JC and Ken Show".

News Reporter of the Year: Ed Marlowe, WKDZ-FM; Hannah Saad, WKMS-FM; Lisa Autry, WKYU-FM.

On-Air Personality of the Year: Daniel Hurt, WKMS-FM; Wendy Barnett, WEKU-FM; Tracy Ross, WKMS-FM.

Overall Digital Presence: Heritage Media of Kentucky; WKMS-FM; WEKU-FM.

Overall Newscast/News Coverage: WKYU-FM; WEKU-FM, "I-75 Shooter"; WEKU-FM, "Letcher County Judge Shot and Killed".

Rookie of the Year: Derek Parham, WKYU-FM; Will Perkins, Commonwealth Broadcasting Corporation – Glasgow.

Special Program or Feature: Samantha Morrill, WMKY-FM, "Goddard Methodist Church in Fleming County Celebrates Bicentennial"; Michael J. Collins, WKYU-FM, "Legends of the 'Greatest Cave Explorer Ever Known' Live on a Century Later at Mammoth Cave"; Sam Dick, WEKU-FM, "Kentuckian Helps Addicts Recover".

Sports Announcer of the Year: Nathan Lyttle, WSGS-FM, "14th Region Championship"; Sam Gormley, Heritage Media of Kentucky, "Grayson County's Run to First Region Championship Game since 2009"; Jay Turner, Commonwealth Broadcasting Corporation – Glasgow.

Station of the Year: WCVK-FM; WKYU-FM; WEKU-FM.

Talk Show: Brad Payne, Matt Brigance and Vic Evans, WLME-FM, "Beyond the Bench"; Steve Turner and Vic Evans, WLME-FM, "Live at 5"; Blake Smith, WVJS-FM, "Let's Talk Racing".

Uniquely Kentucky (public service): Commonwealth Broadcasting Corporation - Glasgow, "WCLU"; Sam Dick, WEKU-FM; Brian Basham and Rob Nichols, WBIO-FM, "Volunteer Owensboro".

Use of Streaming Video: Todd Steenbergen, Will Perkins and Chris Houchens; Commonwealth Broadcasting Corporation – Glasgow, "Chamber of Commerce Red Carpet"; Vic Evans, Derek Strickland and Jalen Daugherty; WLME-FM, "3rd Region Basketball Tournament"; Sam Gormley and Mark Buckles; Heritage Media of Kentucky, "K105 Digital Productions".

TV FINALISTS:

Behind the Scenes: Chris Bratton, WNKY-TV, Chief Videographer; Kathy Werner, WNKY-TV, Director of Programming & Traffic.

Broadcast Leadership Award: Julie Milam, WNKY-TV; Kasey Freeman, WBKO-TV.

Daytime Newscast: WLEX-TV; WLKY-TV, "Major Snowstorm/Tornado Coverage"; WKYT-TV.

Evening Newscast: Scottie Scheffler, WLKY-TV, "Local Tornado"; Brandon Jent, Greg Phelps and John Boel, WAVE-TV, "Plant Explosion & Construction Worker Rescue"; WLEX-TV.

Locally Produced Commercial: Cash McKayla, WBKO-TV, "Family Enrichment Center Run Walk for Children"; Nathaniel Bowman, WBKO-TV, "Drake's Farm Service"; Cash McKayla, WBKO-TV, "Woodlands Elite Cheer".

Meteorologist of the Year: Chris Allen, WNKY-TV; Matt Milosevich, WLKY-TV; Alexa Minton, WKYT-TV.

News Anchor of the Year: Caray Grace, WLKY-TV; Amber Philpott, WKYT-TV; Krista Spadaccini, WDKY-TV.

News Reporter of the Year: Alyssa Williams, WKYT-TV; Phil Pendleton, WKYT-TV; Logan Perrone, WAVE-TV.

Overall Digital Presence: WKYT-TV; WLKY-TV; WDRB-TV.

Rookie of the Year: Adi Schanie, WDRB-TV; Ajay Patel, WLEX-TV; Grant Henderson, WNKY-TV.

Special Program or Feature: Marresa Burke, Jeff Knight and Scott Isaacs, WAVE-TV, "Untangling an Unknown Man's Family Tree"; WLEX-TV, "Spotlight on Kentucky"; Dalton Godbey and Tom Round, WDRB-TV, "Crossroads".

Sportscaster of the Year: Maggie Davis, WLEX-TV; Mason Horodyski, WHAS-TV; Kent Taylor, WLKY-TV.

Station of the Year: WLKY-TV; WLEX-TV; WKYT-TV.

Uniquely Kentucky (public service): Bryce Patterson, Morgan Reagle and Charity Blanton, WPSD-TV, "The Crossroads Suncast: Severe Weather Response"; Greg Phelps, Jennifer Britton and Devin Kroh, WAVE-TV, "2024 Kentucky Derby"; WDKY-TV. "Our Home, Your News".

Videographer of the Year: Scott Eckhardt, WLKY-TV; Jon Black, WLKY-TV; Barton Bill, WKYT-TV.

COMBINED CATEGORIES FINALISTS:

Broadcast Sales: Tracy Mason Perry, WHOP-AM; Erin Graf, WKYT-TV, Jill Goodwin, WNKY-TV.

COLLEGE RADIO FINALISTS:

News Reporter of the Year: Brayden Wilson, Morehead State University; Zacharie Lamb, Murray State University; Braeden Trent, Morehead State University.

College Program of the Year: Murray State University.

Newscast/Coverage: Sydney Graham, Morehead State University; Braeden Trent, Morehead State University; Kadence Montgomery, Morehead State University.

Overall Digital Presence: Murray State University; Sydney Graham, Morehead State University.

Special Program or Feature: Cole McIntire, Western Kentucky University – Radio, "New WKU Basketball Coach"; Zoe Lewis, Murray State University, "Persistent Overcrowding Issues at Western Kentucky Animal Shelters Could be Tied to COVID-19 Impacts"; Sydney Graham, Morehead State University, "Morehead Planning Commission Approves Zoning for Medical Marijuana Businesses in City Limits".

Student Broadcaster of the Year: Zacharie Lamb, Murray State University; Zoe Lewis, Murray State University; Braeden Trent, Morehead State University.

COLLEGE TV FINALISTS:

News Reporter of the Year: Adi Schanie, Western Kentucky University – TV; Ree Kirksey, Western Kentucky University – TV.

College Program of the Year: Western Kentucky University – TV.

Newscast/Coverage: Western Kentucky University – TV.

Overall Digital Presence: Murray State News – TV; Western Kentucky University – TV, "The Extra Point Digital".

Special Program or Feature: Western Kentucky University – TV, "Dylan Black"; Western Kentucky University – TV, "Seminole"; Asbury University, "Quiet Before Flight".

Student Broadcaster of the Year: Ryan Murphy, Western Kentucky University – TV; Cole McIntire, Western Kentucky University – TV.