**Photographer of the Year 2019**

Comments from Mark Murray

**1st - Maddie Provost - Rock Canyon High School**

A strong portfolio. I really like images #2 and 3 but there are a lot of really nice photos. I do think that some would really benefit from tighter cropping. Get rid of anything that doesn't add to the story. This could include some of the ground on the player on the far left in #2 and everyone but the two players in #4. Half of the photo in #11 is just the floor, which we don't need. Be careful about putting your subject directly in the center like you do in a lot of the photos.

**2nd - Michael Place - Mountain Vista High School**

Strong portfolio. All of the images capture great moments and showcase your skills as a photojournalist. The first photo was a great way to start the portfolio by capturing the fun moment between the cheerleaders. I'm torn as to whether or not you need the third girl in the frame and would suggest you try cropping her out to see what you think. Other strong reaction images include #4 and #5. I do think that #9 could be left out of the portfolio. We just can't see enough faces in the photo for it to work as well as the others do.  
And while they aren't required for this contest I appreciate the complete captions you provided for each photo. They helped provide details to the images that would be missed without them.

**3rd - Declan Palmer - Arapahoe High School**

Very nice portfolio. Some strong images, especially #1, 3 and 7. You definitely have a good eye for storytelling. I would encourage you to crop some of the images tighter - #2 should lose the player on the far right to tighten up the shot. You could also crop out everyone but the two main players in #6 since we have a lot of backs of heads. I think #4 is probably the weakest photo in the group. It just isn't as sharp as I'd like to see and without a caption I'm not sure of the story behind the image.

**Special Recognition - Katie McKenna - Castle Rock Middle School**

You've captured some really fun moments in your portfolio. Thanks for submitting your entry for the 2019 CSMA Photographer of the Year contest! I especially like the photo of the students cheering - both the image with the boy in the Adidas shirt and the one with the boy with the glasses. In both cases you did a great job of capturing very candid emotions. And all of your photos show strong technical quality as well. I would like to see you crop a few of the photos tighter. Get rid of the empty space that doesn't add to the story. This would include the photo of guys with the pumpkin (crop out the students in the background that aren't paying attention) and the photo of the girl with the microphone (lose the empty space on the right.) I'm sure that the high school teacher is excited about having you join their staff next year.

The top portfolio captured beautiful moments in fantastic detail that showcased the eye of the photographer. The photos demonstrated interesting angles and striking compositions that invited the viewer to explore the content of the photos. Judicious use of black and white added to the starkness of some of the images.

The second and third place portfolios stood out from the other entries because of the strong coverage and the variety of subject matter from sports action and reaction to performances and even editorial illustrations. The photographers demonstrated strong technical quality and storytelling in their images.

Special recognition goes to the one middle school entry. Even though she competed against high school students her work demonstrated great technical quality and featured fun moments from around the school. The student’s work showcased a strong understanding of good photojournalism in capturing candid moments.