**Netball Volunteers net awards at Northamptonshire Sports Awards**

On Thursday 7th November coaches, volunteers, unsung heroes of sport and their families, friends and supporters came together with local dignitaries to celebrate a great year of sporting achievements in the county.  Two of our finest netball volunteers were nominated for two awards: Young Sports Leader of the Leader – Paige Dillon and Long time contribution to Sport – Marion Neale.

Nominee profiles:

**Marion Neale**

Involved with Netball for over 50 years, Marion has played numerous roles in the sport locally. She helped form the Wellingborough league in 1971, and was chair person of the league fro 15 years. She was on the county committee for 5 years. She has been a long term supporter of Alfa netball Club and has helped organise leagues, officials and coaching throughout Northants for many years.

**Paige Dillon**

Paige is an exceptionally talented young leader who has been involved in leadership and volunteering for several years, both at school and in the community. At Campion School, Paige helps runs many lunchtime and after school clubs, as well as umpiring netball at local school fixtures. In the community she has helped at various netball competitions. She has logged over 400 hours of volunteering, is a level 1 qualified coach and umpire.

Marion Neale was runner up in her category and was very overwhelmed by her nomination to reach the county finals for her contribution towards netball.  Paige Dillon fought off stiff competition and won her category of Northamptonshire’s Young leader of the Year.  In September, Paige was also presented at England Netball’s Goalden Globe Awards for completing over 400 hours for the ‘Pass on your Passion’ volunteer programme.

Yvonne Blunt, Chair of Northamptonshire County Netball Association said *‘It was a fabulous and well organised evening with two nominations from our Netball world up for grabs.  Makes it even more special when you see a nomination come to fruition.  Big congratulations to Paige Dillon for winning this prestigious award – Young Sports Leader of the Year, as I know how hard she has worked for it.*

*Huge pride and congratulations also to Marion Neale for being shortlisted for the Long Time contribution to Sport.  Marion always  smiles and shines, which is a reflection of her personality and the years of dedication she has given to the sport she loves.*

*Brilliant ambassadors for our sport.*

A big thank you to Linda Sherry from Campion School and Suzanne Coleman for taking the time to nominate our wonderful Volunteers.