

TEAMS®

CONFERENCE & EXPO

ESPN's Jessica Mendoza to Emcee 2015 *SportsTravel* Awards

*The leading awards program for the sports-event industry
will be held November 10 at the Thomas & Mack Center in Las Vegas*

LOS ANGELES, CA (October 13, 2015) — Olympic Gold Medalist Jessica Mendoza—the first woman to work as an analyst during a Major League Baseball post-season game—will emcee the 2015 *SportsTravel* Awards ceremony. The winners of the 2015 *SportsTravel* Awards will be announced during a gala ceremony on the evening of Tuesday, November 10, at the Thomas & Mack Center in Las Vegas. The *SportsTravel* Awards are presented in conjunction with the TEAMS Conference & Expo, the largest annual gathering of sports-event organizers in the world, which will be held November 9–12 at the Mandalay Bay Convention Center in Las Vegas.

Mendoza, who has captured the nation's attention for her work on ESPN's Sunday Night Baseball and as an analyst during ESPN's coverage of MLB's post-season, was a standout amateur athlete, a collegiate All-American and played professional softball.



"I can think of no one more appropriate to emcee our annual celebration of excellence in sports than Jessica Mendoza," said Timothy Schneider, publisher of *SportsTravel* magazine. "Jessica embodies the essence of the *SportsTravel* Awards program and is a broadcasting talent with whom sports fans are sure to fall in love. We are proud to be showcasing her talents at TEAMS." In addition to emceeing the *SportsTravel* Awards, Mendoza will serve as a professional broadcaster-moderator during the educational sessions at TEAMS.

Called an "ascendant voice" in sports broadcasting by the *New York Times*, Mendoza replaced Curt Schilling as the analyst for ESPN's Sunday Night Baseball broadcasts in September. Mendoza's list of sports achievements is lengthy: At Camarillo (California) High School, she played softball and basketball and was named "Female Athlete of the Year" in her junior and senior years. She was named the *Los Angeles Times* "Player of the Year" in 1998.

During her time at Stanford University, Mendoza was a four-time NCAA first-team All-American—making her only the fifth player in NCAA history to accomplish that feat. She helped lead the Cardinal to their first-ever NCAA Women's College World Series appearance. Mendoza was named Stanford's "Athlete of the Year" three times and graduated with a master's degree in social sciences and education.

In 2004, Mendoza was a starting outfielder for Team USA, which won the gold medal at the Olympic Games in Athens. She was a member of the U.S. national softball team that played in 48 cities and traveled more than 43,000 miles in preparation for the 2008 Olympic Games in Beijing. In Beijing, Mendoza again played in the outfield for Team USA, which won the silver medal. Mendoza played professionally in the National Pro Fastpitch league and for the USSSA Pride, which won the Cowles Cup Championship in 2010.

Mendoza got her start with ESPN as a color analyst during the NCAA Women's College World Series, the NCAA Men's College World Series and the Little League World Series, and as a sideline reporter for ESPN. Mendoza is a past president of the Women's Sports Foundation, an athletic ambassador for Team Darfur and a board member of the National Education Association.

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The TEAMS Conference & Expo is organized by Los Angeles-based [Schneider Publishing](#), which publishes *SportsTravel*, the sports world's event magazine, and *Association News*, America's most-read magazine for association executives. TEAMS '16 will be held September 26–29, 2016, in Atlantic City, New Jersey. In addition to TEAMS, Schneider Publishing organizes [Meetings Quest](#), North America's longest-running series of trade shows for meeting planners. The group travel markets served by Schneider Publishing generate 106 million hotel room nights annually.

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