

## MEDIA RELEASE

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For immediate release

### 2016 Athlete of the Year Award Finalists Announced

Sask Sport Inc. is pleased to announce the 2016 Athlete of the Year award finalists for the Saskatchewan Sport Awards. Every year, three finalists are selected for each of the six Athlete of the Year Award categories: Youth-Male, Youth-Female, Male, Female, Team and Master. The award recipients are then chosen by Sask Sport Inc.'s active and affiliate members and announced at a later date.

The finalists for the 2016 Athlete of the Year Awards are:

#### 2016 YOUTH-MALE ATHLETE OF THE YEAR FINALISTS:

- **Graeme Fish, 19, Moose Jaw, Speed Skating**  
Nominated by Saskatchewan Amateur Speed Skating Association
- **Brian Palaschuk, 18, Regina, Swimming**  
Nominated by Swim Saskatchewan Inc.
- **Rylan Wiens, 14, Pike Lake, Diving**  
Nominated by Dive Sask

#### 2016 YOUTH-FEMALE ATHLETE OF THE YEAR FINALISTS:

- **Samantha Ryan, 17, Saskatoon, Para-Swimming**  
Nominated by Swim Saskatchewan Inc.
- **Gabrielle Sanson, 17, Moose Jaw, Speed Skating**  
Nominated by Saskatchewan Amateur Speed Skating Association
- **Julee Stewart, 18, Regina, Baton Twirling**  
Nominated by Saskatchewan Baton Twirling Association

#### 2016 MALE ATHLETE OF THE YEAR FINALISTS:

- **Logan Campbell, 29, Saskatoon, Sailing**  
Nominated by Saskatchewan Sailing Clubs Association
- **William Dutton, 26, Humboldt, Speed Skating**  
Nominated by Saskatchewan Amateur Speed Skating Association
- **Gavin Schmitt, 30, Saskatoon, Volleyball**  
Nominated by Saskatchewan Volleyball Association

## **2016 FEMALE ATHLETE OF THE YEAR FINALISTS:**

- **Jillian Gallays, 30, St. Brieux, Wrestling**  
Nominated by Saskatchewan Amateur Wrestling Association
- **Marsha Hudey, 26, White City, Speed Skating**  
Nominated by Saskatchewan Amateur Speed Skating Association
- **Brianne Theisen Eaton, 27, Humboldt, Athletics**  
Nominated by Saskatchewan Athletics

## **2016 TEAM OF THE YEAR FINALISTS:**

- **Sundown Optimist Buffalo Gals Team Calambre, Regina, Baton Twirling**  
Nominated by Saskatchewan Baton Twirling Association
- **Team Saskatchewan Baseball, Saskatoon**  
Nominated by Saskatchewan Baseball
- **University of Saskatchewan Huskies Women's Basketball Team, Saskatoon**  
Nominated by Huskie Athletics

## **2016 MASTER ATHLETE OF THE YEAR FINALISTS:**

- **Edith Machattie, 43, Saskatoon, Canoe Kayak**  
Nominated by Canoe Kayak Saskatchewan
- **Douglas McLaren, 40, Fort Qu'Appelle, Athletics**  
Nominated by Saskatchewan Athletics
- **Carl Waterer, 66, Saskatoon, Swimming**  
Nominated by Swim Saskatchewan Inc.

“The common themes surrounding our finalists for the Athlete of the Year Awards are hard work and dedication. These athletes have shown a commitment to sport, and the result of this can be seen in their accomplishments at the regional, national and international levels,” said Tavia Laliberte, Chair of Sask Sport Inc. “I would like to congratulate the Athlete of the Year award finalists for their outstanding achievements, for serving as role models, and for inspiring people of every age across our province to pursue their goals and dreams, and to do their best. Thanks, as well, to the support system that has helped these athletes flourish, including provincial and community sport organizations, administrators, coaches, officials, volunteers and parents. Sport is more than a game and we are #saskproud of these outstanding athletes!”

The 2016 award recipients, chosen from the Athlete of the Year finalists, along with the 2016 Volunteer, Coach of the Year, Male Dedication Coach, Female Dedication Coach, Male Official, and Female Official award recipients, will be announced in March, and the awards will be presented to all recipients at the Saskatchewan Sport Awards ceremony being held March 23 in Saskatoon

The Saskatchewan Sport Awards is an annual awards program of Sask Sport Inc. designed to celebrate and promote the outstanding achievements of Saskatchewan amateur athletes, coaches, officials and volunteers.

For more information on the 2016 Athlete of the Year Award finalists, visit <http://www.sasksport.sk.ca/SportAwards>. You can also follow us on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/CSCSaskatchewan> or on Twitter at <https://twitter.com/CSCSaskatchewan>

Sask Sport Inc. would like to thank Global TV for being the production and promotion partner for the Saskatchewan Sports Awards, and to acknowledge the main fundraiser for amateur sport in the province, Saskatchewan Lotteries.

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For more information contact Della Ruopp at (306) 780-9375, email [druopp@sasksport.sk.ca](mailto:druopp@sasksport.sk.ca) or visit <http://www.sasksport.sk.ca/SportAwards/media.html>.

## **SASKATCHEWAN SPORT AWARDS 2016 ATHLETE OF THE YEAR FINALIST BIOGRAPHIES**

### **2016 YOUTH-MALE ATHLETE OF THE YEAR AWARD FINALISTS**

#### **Graeme Fish, 19, Moose Jaw, Speed Skating**

##### **Nominated by Saskatchewan Amateur Speed Skating Association**

- Won the gold in the 5000m, silver in the Mass Start distance, and a bronze in the 1500m at the Canadian Junior Long Track Championships. Nine provinces participated in the event and he was the top long distance skater.
- Won silver in the 5000m, skating the fastest junior time, at the Canada Cup 1 in Quebec. Also finished 14<sup>th</sup> in the 1500m. There were 41 skaters from seven provinces in the event.
- Earned a spot on Canada's National Development Team as a junior after setting a personal best time in the 5000m and finishing 12<sup>th</sup> at the World Cup Trials in Montreal, where six provinces took part.

#### **Brian Palaschuk, 18, Regina, Swimming**

##### **Nominated by Swim Saskatchewan Inc.**

- Won the bronze medal in the Men's 4X200m relay and finished seventh in the Men's 200m Freestyle individual event, as a member of Team Canada, at the Junior Pan Pacific Championships (Long Course), which featured competitors from six countries. He qualified for the Canadian Junior Pan Pacific Team by placing first in the B Final of the Men's 400m Individual Medley at the Canadian Olympic Trials (Long Course). There were 665 swimmers from all provinces and 15 countries at the trials.
- At the Canadian Swimming Championships, he finished sixth in the Men's Open 800m Freestyle, ninth in the Men's Open 400m Freestyle and 400 Individual Medley and 12th in the Men's Open 200 Freestyle. There were approximately 500 swimmers from more than 70 Canadian clubs at the event.

- Won the gold medal in the Men's 17-and-over 400m Individual Medley at the Speedo Eastern Canadian Open (Long Course), an event with 850 swimmers from 126 Canadian clubs. Won the gold in the Men's 800m 17-and-over Freestyle event and set a provincial record, while earning bronze medals in the Men's 17-and-over 200m Freestyle and 200m Individual Medley events.
- Won bronze medals in the Men's 4X100m and 4X200m Freestyle Relays and set new provincial records at the Canada West Championships.

**Rylan Wiens, 14, Pike Lake, Diving**  
**Nominated by Dive Sask**

- At the Junior World Diving Championships finished fourth in the Mixed Team Event, missing the podium by seven points. There were 22 countries present.
- Won the gold in Platform, the bronze in Men's 3m Synchro, and placed fourth in the 3m at the Junior Elite National Diving Championships. Six provinces were at the meet. At this event he became the first athlete in Diving Canada history to receive a perfect "10" from the judges for one of his platform dives.
- Won gold in the 3m event at the Manitoba Provincials, which consisted of competitors from three provinces.

**2016 YOUTH-FEMALE ATHLETE OF THE YEAR AWARD FINALISTS**

**Samantha Ryan, 17, Saskatoon, Para-Swimming**  
**Nominated by Swim Saskatchewan Inc.**

- At the 2016 Rio Paralympic Games, which included 621 swimmers from more than 150 countries, Samantha finished fifth in the Women's 100m Butterfly S10, 17th in the Women's 100m Freestyle S10 and 18th in the Women's 50m Freestyle S10.
- Broke a Long Course (LC) Canadian record in the 100m Butterfly (1:09.73) and also holds 50m, 100m and 200m Butterfly LC records. She was ranked seventh in world in the International Paralympic Committee Women's Long Course 100m Butterfly S10 list.
- Won gold in the Women's 100m Butterfly Multi Class at the Canadian Para Swimming Trials, which featured 97 swimmers from 58 Canadian clubs. She also finished fifth in Women's 400m freestyle multi class, sixth in Women's 100m Freestyle multi class, and seventh in Women's 50m Freestyle multi class.
- Won gold in the Women's 100m Butterfly Multi Class, the silver in the Women's 50m Freestyle Multi Class, and the bronze in both the Women's 100m backstroke multi class and 100m Freestyle multi class at the Speedo CanAm Para Swimming Championship.

**Gabrielle Sanson, 17, Moose Jaw, Speed Skating**  
**Nominated by Saskatchewan Amateur Speed Skating Association**

- At the Junior World Long Track Championships in China, competing against 45 athletes from 12 countries, Gabrielle finished fifth in Team Pursuit and Team Sprint. She also placed 27<sup>th</sup> in the 500m and 33<sup>rd</sup> in the 1000m.
- Qualified for the Junior Worlds by placing third in the 1000m and fourth in the 1,500m at the Canadian Junior Long Track Championships in Winnipeg, which consisted of 42 participants from nine provinces.
- Won a gold medal in the 200m and a silver medal in the 400m at the Saskatchewan High Schools Athletic Association Provincial Track and Field Championships.

**Julee Stewart, 18, Regina, Baton Twirling**  
**Nominated by Saskatchewan Baton Twirling Association**

- At the World Baton Twirling Federation World Championships, which played host to 17 countries, Julee placed fourth in Team, sixth in Senior Pairs and seventh in Senior Women's Freestyle.
- Her seventh place finish was the highest by an individual Canadian athlete since 2012.
- Won gold in the Freestyle, Pairs, Medley, Solo, and Solodance, while winning silver in 2-Baton and 3-baton at the Canadian Baton Twirling National Championships, competing against competitors from six provinces.
- The Canadian Baton Twirling Federation named her Grand Champion in Medley, Solodance and Duet and was both the Overall and Senior Athlete of the Year.

**2016 MALE ATHLETE OF THE YEAR AWARD FINALISTS**

**Logan Campbell, 29, Saskatoon, Sailing**  
**Nominated by Saskatchewan Sailing Clubs Association**

- Won a bronze medal at the 2016 Rio Paralympic Games, competing against athletes from 18 countries.
- Won the gold at the Miami World Cup, which featured representatives from 15 countries.
- Placed seventh against athletes from 20 countries at the 2016 World Championships in the Netherlands.

**William Dutton, 26, Humboldt, Speed Skating**  
**Nominated by Saskatchewan Amateur Speed Skating Association**

- Won the silver in the 500m out of 36 competitors at an International Skating Union (ISU) World Cup in Calgary, which featured 21 countries. His time of 00:34.25 broke the provincial record and was the sixth fastest time ever skated.
- Won a gold medal in Men's Team Sprint and silver in the 500m at an International Skating Union (ISU) World Cup in Salt Lake City. There were 20 competitors from 10 countries at this event.
- At the World Single Distance Championships in Russia, placed seventh out of 24 people from a dozen countries in the 500m.
- At the ISU World Cup in the Netherlands was the second fastest Canadian at the competition finishing 10<sup>th</sup> in the 500m out of 12 athletes from six countries.

**Gavin Schmitt, 30, Saskatoon, Volleyball**  
**Nominated by Saskatchewan Volleyball Association**

- Competed at the 2016 Rio Olympic Games as Captain of Team Canada's Men's Volleyball team and had a fifth place finish out of 12 teams.
- Led Canada in scoring with 73 points in six matches, which included upset victories over the eventual gold medalists U.S.A. and bronze medalists Italy.
- Guided Canada to the gold at the 2016 World League, in Division 2, which saw 12 countries compete in various host cities. Canada went 8-1 and moved up to Division 1 for the first time, to compete against the other top 10 countries in the world.

## **2016 FEMALE ATHLETE OF THE YEAR AWARD FINALISTS**

### **Jillian Gallays, 30, St. Brieux, Wrestling**

#### **Nominated by Saskatchewan Amateur Wrestling Association**

- At the 2016 Rio Olympic Games competed in the 53 kg category, against 18 athletes.
- Won a gold medal and went undefeated at the Pan Am Olympic Qualifier in Texas. Competed against nine other athletes from three countries. Her success at this event qualified her for the 2016 Rio Olympic Games.

### **Marsha Hudey, 26, White City, Speed Skating**

#### **Nominated by Saskatchewan Amateur Speed Skating Association**

- Won gold in the 500m and qualified for the Canadian Long Track team at the Fall World Cup Selections in Montreal. Also won silver in the 1,000m.
- At the International Skating Union (ISU) World Cup in China, placed fourth out of 20 competitors from eight countries in the 500m. The top Canadian and only 0.07 seconds behind the third-place finisher.
- Finished fourth out of 20 athletes from nine countries at an ISU World Cup in Japan, once again finishing 0.07 seconds out of third place.

### **Brianne Theisen Eaton, 27, Humboldt, Athletics**

#### **Nominated by Saskatchewan Athletics**

- Won a bronze medal in heptathlon at the 2016 Rio Olympic Games, becoming the first Canadian Olympian to ever medal in that event. There were 31 participants in the field.
- As part of her bronze-medal performance, she had personal-best performances in high jump (1.86m) and overall score (6,653). She finished the Olympics ranked #2 in Canada in high jump.
- Won a gold medal in heptathlon in a field of 33 athletes from 20 countries at the Hypo-Meeting in Austria. Set a Saskatchewan Athletics Native/Open Outdoor record in the 100m hurdles (12.93). She also posted personal bests in the 200m (23.33) and javelin (47.74).
- Won gold out of 12 competitors in pentathlon at the International Association of Athletics Federations World (IAAF) Indoor Championships. Set Saskatchewan Athletics Native/Open Indoor records for senior women in the 60m hurdles (8.04), long jump (6.42m) and overall score (4,881). Achieved a personal best in the 800m (2:09.99). There were 12 participants from nine countries.

## **2016 TEAM ATHLETE OF THE YEAR AWARD FINALISTS**

### **Sundown Optimist Buffalo Gals Team Calambre, Regina, Baton Twirling**

#### **Nominated by Saskatchewan Baton Twirling Association**

- Represented Canada at the World Baton Twirling Federation World Championship, placing fourth out of 11 teams.
- There were 17 countries represented at the event.
- Traditionally, Canada has come in fifth at the event so finishing fourth is considered a significant accomplishment.
- Each country is allowed to send only one team if they meet scoring standards.

**Team Saskatchewan Baseball, Saskatoon**  
**Nominated by Saskatchewan Baseball**

- Won the gold medal at the Baseball Canada Cup after defeating Team British Columbia 6-1.
- Team member Brody Frerichs of Muenster received the Rawlings Top Hitter Award.
- It was the first time Saskatchewan has won the title since 1994 and the province remains one of only four provinces to have won the cup (BC, Ontario, Quebec).

**University of Saskatchewan Huskies Women's Basketball Team, Saskatoon**  
**Nominated by Huskie Athletics**

- Defeated the Ryerson Rams 85-71 to win the Canadian Interuniversity Sport (CIS) Women's Basketball championship for the first time in team history.
- Won the Canada West title by defeating the University of Regina 73-62.
- During the regular season, the Huskies finished first in the Pioneer Division with an 18-2 record, starting the season on a 16-game winning streak.
- Dalyce Emmerson of the Huskies was named the CIS Championship MVP and earned an All-Star nod. Teammate Laura Dally was also named an All-Star. At the Huskies Athletics Awards, Dally was named Female Athlete of the Year, Emmerson was named All-Round Female Athlete and Lisa Thomaidis was named Coach of the Year.

**2016 MASTER ATHLETE OF THE YEAR AWARD FINALISTS**

**Edith Machattie, 43, Saskatoon, Canoe Kayak**  
**Nominated by Canoe Kayak Saskatchewan**

- Won gold in mixed team and placed ninth overall out of 42 participants from the U.S. and Canada at the Classique de Canots in Quebec.
- Won gold in mixed team and 12<sup>th</sup> overall out of 46 participants from the U.S. and Canada at the General Clinton Canoe Regatta in New York.
- Won gold at the Au Sable Canoe Marathon in Michigan in mixed team and 14<sup>th</sup> overall out of 95 participants from the U.S. and Canada.
- Finished the year ranked the number one female marathon paddler out of 419 female paddlers in North America, according to the North American Paddler Ranking system.

**Douglas McLaren, 40, Fort Qu'Appelle, Athletics**  
**Nominated by Saskatchewan Athletics**

- Won gold in the 110m hurdles and the high jump, bronze in long jump, and placed fourth in 100m at the Americas Master Games in Vancouver. Four countries competed at the event.
- Won seven medals at the Canadian Masters Indoor Championships, including gold in the 50m hurdles, 60m hurdles, long jump and pentathlon, and silver in the 50m, 60m, and high jump. Set pending new Canadian masters indoor record in the 50m hurdles and 60 m hurdles. Two provinces participated in the competition.
- Won a gold medal in the 60m hurdles at the Boeing Indoor Classic in Manitoba, and set a pending Canadian Masters Indoor record. There were two provinces at the event.
- During the course of the year he set new Saskatchewan Athletics Native Indoor records in the 50m, 50m hurdles, 60m hurdles, long jump and pentathlon.

**Carl Waterer, 66, Saskatoon, Swimming  
Nominated by Swim Saskatchewan Inc.**

- Carl broke three National Records and six Provincial Records in the men's 65-69 age category during 2016. He broke two National Short Course (SC) Records in the 100 and 200 meter freestyle events, and one Long Course (LC) National Record in the 200 Freestyle.
- He broke the Canadian LC 200 Free record at the 2016 USA Masters Swimming Summer National Championship in Oregon. He also set 3 LC Provincial Records in Men's aged 65-69 freestyle category (50m, 100m, 200 Free), while winning the gold in 200m free and silver in the 100m free and 5<sup>th</sup> in 50m free. There were 66 swimmers in this age category from the U.S. and Canada.
- Won gold in the Men's 65-69 freestyle 50m, 100m and 200m events at the Masters Swimming Association of British Columbia Provincial Swimming Championships in Richmond, BC. His 200m freestyle time of 2:16.68 broke the National SC Record and was 1.3 seconds off the world record! He also broke a SC Provincial Record in the 50m free.
- At the Regina Masters Swim Club Invitational, was victorious in three Men's 65-69 Open Freestyle events (50m, 100m, 200m), and lowered the National record in the 100m by 0.6 seconds to 1:01.73