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## MEDIA RELEASE

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# Sask Sport Inc. announces the 2016 Saskatchewan Sport Award Recipients

Sask Sport Inc. is pleased to announce the outstanding recipients of the 2016 Saskatchewan Sport Awards.

Saskatchewan athletes are recognized for the 2016 Athlete of the Year Awards in the categories of Youth Male, Youth Female, Male, Female, Team and Master. Saskatchewan coaches, officials and volunteers are awarded in the categories of 2016 Coach of the Year, Coach Dedication Male and Female, Male and Female Officials, and Volunteer.

“On behalf of Sask Sport Inc. and the entire amateur sport community in the province, congratulations to the award recipients, finalists, and nominees of the 2016 Saskatchewan Sport Awards,” said Tavia Laliberte, Chair of Sask Sport Inc. “All of the outstanding nominees for these awards are so deserving of the recognition, and have achieved a high degree of excellence and dedication to sport. Through the positive examples you set for others, you continue to make us all #SaskProud and prove that in our province, sport is more than a game.”

Nominations in all award categories were submitted by Sask Sport Inc.’s active and affiliate members. A voting process involving these members was used to determine the recipients of the 2016 Athlete of the Year awards.

The recipients for the 2016 Saskatchewan Sports Awards are:

### **2016 YOUTH MALE ATHLETE OF THE YEAR:**

#### **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 14th 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 12th at the World Cup Trials in Montreal, where six provinces took part.

The other finalists were:

- Brian Palaschuk, 18, Regina, Swim Saskatchewan Inc.
- Rylan Wiens, 14, Pike Lake, Dive Sask

See their bios and feature stories at

<http://www.sasksport.sk.ca/SportAwards/youthMale2016.html>

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

##### **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.

The other finalists were:

- Gabrielle Sanson, 17, Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan Amateur Speed Skating Association
- Julee Stewart, 18, Regina, Saskatchewan Baton Twirling Association

See their bios and feature stories at

<http://www.sasksport.sk.ca/SportAwards/youthFemale2016.html>

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

##### **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.

The other finalists were:

- Logan Campbell, 29, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan Sailing Clubs Association
- William Dutton, 26, Humboldt, Saskatchewan Amateur Speed Skating Association

See their bios and feature stories at <http://www.sasksport.sk.ca/SportAwards/male2016.html>

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

##### **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.

The other finalists were:

- Jillian Gallays, 30, St. Brieux, Saskatchewan Amateur Wrestling Association
- Marsha Hudey, 26, White City, Saskatchewan Amateur Speed Skating Association

See their bios and feature stories at <http://www.sasksport.sk.ca/SportAwards/female2016.html>

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

##### **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 5th 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.

The other finalists were:

- Douglas McLaren, 40, Fort Qu'Appelle, Saskatchewan Athletics
- Edith MacHattie, 43, Saskatoon, Canoe Kayak Saskatchewan

Their bios and feature stories at <http://www.sasksport.sk.ca/SportAwards/master2016.html>

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

#### **University of Saskatchewan Huskies Women's Basketball Team • Saskatoon • Basketball Nominated by University of Saskatchewan**

- 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.

The other finalists were:

- Sundown Optimist Buffalo Gals Team Calambre, Regina, Saskatchewan Baton Twirling Association
- Team Saskatchewan Baseball, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan Baseball Association

See their bios and feature stories at <http://www.sasksport.sk.ca/SportAwards/team2016.html>

The following award recipients were determined by the Sask Sport Inc. Awards Committee:

**2016 COACH OF THE YEAR:**

**Lisa Thomaidis • Saskatoon • Basketball**  
**Nominated by University of Saskatchewan**

Thomaidis coached the University of Saskatchewan Huskies women's basketball team to win the Canadian Interuniversity Sport (CIS) Women's Basketball championship for the first time in team history. 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. She also guided the Canadian women's national basketball team to a 3-2 record in round robin play and seventh overall at the Rio Olympics.

**2016 MALE COACH DEDICATION AWARD:**

**Jason Schneider • Saskatoon • Golf**  
**Nominated by Saskatchewan Golf Association**

Schneider is the assistant pro and junior director at the Wildwood Golf Course in Saskatoon, where he developed a junior program that was designated a National Junior Golf Development Centre by Golf Canada. His thoughtful and patient approach to coaching has enabled him to coach at the Saskatchewan Summer Games, the Western Canadian Summer Games, Golf Canada National Championships, and the upcoming Canada Summer Games. He has been instrumental in helping develop a high performance program in conjunction with the Golf Saskatchewan high performance committee. Schneider has also received many coaching certifications over the years, including CNC (Coaching New Competitors) 2014, CDC (Coaching Developing Competitors) 2016 and PGA of Canada Class "A" Professional Status.

**2016 FEMALE COACH DEDICATION AWARD:**

**Lynn Seguin • Saskatoon • Fencing**  
**Nominated by Saskatchewan Fencing Association**

Seguin is a veteran coach of 22 years and joined the Saskatoon Fencing Club in 2000. She coaches athletes ranging from beginner to high performance in all three weapon disciplines – foil, sabre and epee – in numerous clubs across Saskatchewan. She has obtained Level 4 National Coaching Certification Program in all weapon disciplines and achieved the status of fencing master, or Maitre d'Armes, from the Fencing Academy of Canada. Seguin serves as the provincial coach for the Saskatchewan Fencing Association and has chaired its technical committee for the last two years. She was also a participant in the Coaching Association of Canada's apprenticeship program and regularly attends both national and international coaching clinics.

## **2016 MALE OFFICIAL AWARD:**

### **Rocky Nickel • Moose Jaw • Baseball Nominated by Baseball Sask**

Nickel has been actively involved as an official in Saskatchewan since 1992. He has served close to 30 years on the provincial umpire executive committee, including two terms as provincial supervisor from 1995 to 2001 and from 2008 to 2016. He was also assistant supervisor from 2001 to 2007. He helped develop the Western Major Baseball League (WMBL) Umpire Association and served on numerous committees. Nickel has received the highest recommendation possible at each national championship he has worked, and he has been assigned to two international events (2002 World Youth Championships and 2005 World Qualifier). He has taught and evaluated thousands of umpires and been an exceptional mentor to umpires at all levels.

## **2016 FEMALE OFFICIAL AWARD:**

### **Chantal Boudreau • Regina • Soccer Nominated by Saskatchewan Soccer Association**

Boudreau has been officiating for six years and in 2015 was appointed as a Fédération Internationale de Football Association (FIFA) assistant referee, the highest level of certification. She is the first Saskatchewan resident to achieve this certification and has officiated at numerous international events including the Woman U20 CONCACAF Championships in Honduras and the 2015 Pan American Games in Toronto. Chantal is regularly asked to contribute to the Saskatchewan Elite Referee Program by presenting to up-and-coming referees and assisting in the development and growth of referees wishing to pursue higher certifications in their refereeing career.

## **2016 VOLUNTEER AWARDS:**

### **Bernadette McIntyre • Regina • Curling Nominated by CURLSASK**

For 30 years, McIntyre has been an active volunteer in Saskatchewan. She has been elected to numerous boards including the Regina Highland Curling Club, Curl Regina, CURLSASK, and the Canadian Curling Association. McIntyre has chaired major curling events in the province including the 1998 Scott Tournament of Hearts, the 2001 Roar of the Rings Canadian Curling Trials, the 2006 Tim Hortons Brier, 1992 SaskPower Scott Tournament of Hearts, Southern Women's Scott Championships (1988-1992), SGI Canada Charity Classic (1993-2003), 2014 CIS National Curling Championships, and 2016 Canadian Wheelchair Curling Championships. She was also on the leadership team for the 2013 Grey Cup Festival. Most recently she served as the Bid Committee Chair for Regina's successful bid to host the 2018 Tim Hortons Brier and the Pinty's Grand Slam of Curling - 2017 Tour Challenge.

**Carla Laevens • Leader • Skating**  
**Nominated by Skate Canada – Saskatchewan**

A gold level evaluator in all disciplines and a junior level competitive judge, Laevens has evaluated and judged various skating competitions and test days throughout the province over the past 25 years. She has been a member of the Skate Canada - Saskatchewan board of directors for 16 years, most recently serving as the skate development chairperson and chaperoning a number of key events such as the Skate Canada Challenge (Canadian qualifier). As a board member, she has also been a delegate for the Skate Canada annual general meeting and a member of the following committees: finance, human resources, officials, coaching and membership. She works tirelessly for skaters in the province by organizing camps and lining up monitors and guest coaches.

All of the award recipients will be honoured and presented with their award on Thursday, March 23 at TCU Place in Saskatoon.

Information on the 2016 Sport Awards finalists can also be found online at <http://www.sasksport.sk.ca/SportAwards>.

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Special thanks to Global TV, our production and promotion partner for the Saskatchewan Sports Awards.

*Saskatchewan Lotteries is the main fundraiser for amateur sport in Saskatchewan supporting over 300,000 registered participants.*

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