

MEDIA RELEASE

For immediate release

March 6, 2019

Saskatchewan Sport Awards Recognizes Outstanding Coaches, Officials and Volunteers

Sask Sport Inc. is pleased to announce the outstanding recipients of Saskatchewan's amateur sport 2018 Coach Dedication, Coach of the Year, Official and Volunteer Awards:

- **Female Coach Dedication Award:** Andrea Wolf, Wapella, Softball
- **Male Coach Dedication Award:** Udo Baecker, Regina, Soccer & Kaspar Wirz, Saskatoon, Para Nordic Skiing
- **Coach of the Year:** Tom Sargeant, Saskatoon, Football
- **Female Official Award:** Loretta Lyons, Outlook, Athletics
- **Male Official Award:** Al Theede, Saskatoon, Cross Country Skiing
- **Volunteer Award:** Derek Rope, Saskatoon, Athletics
- **Volunteer Award:** Richard Smith, Fort Qu'Appelle, Golf

“Congratulations to this year’s exceptional coaches, officials and volunteers for their generous contribution to amateur sport in Saskatchewan,” said Leslie Blyth, volunteer Chair of the Board of Directors for Sask Sport Inc. “Your dedication and commitment to Saskatchewan athletes help fuel dreams and empower inspirational performances. It is the skilled and talented coaches, officials and volunteers that truly make sport participation opportunities *possible* in our province, and we thank you for your support and leadership.”

These deserving coaches, official and volunteers will be honored at the Saskatchewan Sport Awards ceremony in Saskatoon on March 28. At the ceremony, awards will also be delivered to recipients of the 2018 Athlete of the Year award categories of Youth-Female, Youth-Male, Female, Male, Team and Master.

The Saskatchewan Sport Awards celebrates the outstanding achievements of Saskatchewan's amateur athletes, coaches, officials and volunteers. Detailed profiles of these deserving award finalists and recipients are available at www.sasksport.sk.ca/SportAwards.

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

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For more information visit <http://www.sasksport.sk.ca/SportAwards/media.html> for Saskatchewan Sport Awards or contact:

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Saskatchewan Sport Awards

2018 Coaches, Officials and Volunteers finalist biographies

COACH DEDICATION AWARD — FEMALE

Andrea Wolf | Wapella | Softball

Nominated by Softball Saskatchewan

- Coached the University of Regina Cougars to a Canadian Collegiate Softball Championship in 2018.
- Head coach of Saskatchewan women's team at the Canada Games as well as the Western Canada Games, where Team Saskatchewan won bronze in 2015.
- Instructor for CanPitch and Softball Saskatchewan training programs who currently mentors new coaches in the latter's high-performance program.
- Completed numerous professional development programs, including an Advanced Coach Diploma in 2018.

COACH DEDICATION AWARD — MALE

Udo Baecker | Regina | Soccer

Nominated by Saskatchewan Soccer Association

- 35-year contributor to the development of soccer within Saskatchewan as coach, mentor, learning facilitator and Master Coach Developer.
- Long-time coach who led youth club teams to national club championships, select teams at all-star competitions and a senior women's team to regional championships and World Master Games.
- Coached teams at Saskatchewan Summer Games, Western Canada Summer Games, Canada Games and North American Indigenous Games.
- Served on many Saskatchewan Soccer Association and Canada Soccer Association committees and led the implementation of Respect in Sport within Saskatchewan for the sport of soccer.

Kaspar Wirz | Saskatoon | Para Nordic Skiing

Nominated by Saskatchewan Ski Association

- Former coach of Canada's Para-Nordic team whose program produced multiple Paralympic medallists.
- Certified Level 4 coach in both cross-country skiing and biathlon.
- Participated in committees for Cross Country Canada, the International Paralympics Committee and the Canadian Paralympic Committee.
- Recipient of multiple coaching awards, including the Petro-Canada Coaching Excellence Award.

COACH OF THE YEAR

Tom Sargeant | Saskatoon | Football

Nominated by Football Saskatchewan

- Twenty-year coach of the Saskatoon Hilltops.
- Helped lead the Hilltops to a perfect regular season in 2018.
- Coached the Hilltops to the team's fifth consecutive Prairie Football Conference title and Canadian Bowl Championship in 2018.
- Won the Prairie Football Conference Coach of the Year award in 2018.

OFFICIAL AWARD — FEMALE

Loretta Lyons | Outlook | Athletics

Nominated by Saskatchewan Athletics

- Certified track and field official for three decades who continues to mentor and evaluate new officials.
- Holds Level 3 vertical and Level 5 horizontal jumps certifications and is also a trained run, jump and throw instructor.
- Officiated at many provincial national and international events, including the Saskatchewan Summer Games, Canada Summer Games, North American Indigenous Games and World Masters Summer Games.
- Past recipient of the Bob Adams Foundation Official of the Year and Saskatchewan Athletics Official of the Year awards.

OFFICIAL AWARD — MALE

Al Theede | Saskatoon | Cross Country Skiing

Nominated by Cross Country Saskatchewan

- Certified as a cross-country ski official at Levels 1, 2 and 3 and recognized as a Divisional Technical Delegate by Cross Country Canada.
- Currently one of only two officials in the province delivering Levels 1 and 2 official training.
- Served as a Technical Delegate or Chief of Timing and Results at many local, provincial and interprovincial events, including the Western Canadian Cross Country Ski Championships and multiple Saskatchewan Winter Games.
- Helped to introduce electronic race timing to competitions in Saskatchewan.
- Served as Director for Coaching and Officials for Cross Country Saskatchewan

VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION AWARD

Derek Rope | Saskatoon | Athletics

Nominated by Saskatchewan Athletics

- Chair of Aboriginal Track and Field since 2008 and Saskatchewan Athletics board member from 2011-17.
- Organized more than 10 community track and field clinics for athletes since 2017 while also running several coaching symposiums.
- Received a Saskatchewan Athletics coaching award in 2017 for his contributions as Team Saskatchewan Athletics Development Co-ordinator at the North American Indigenous Games.
- Served as meet director for the Aboriginal Indoor Track and Field Championships in Saskatoon.

Richard Smith | Fort Qu'Appelle | Golf

Nominated by Golf Saskatchewan

- Volunteer with Golf Saskatchewan for 16 years.
- Long-time Golf Saskatchewan board member who has served on programs and member services, course rating, handicap and executive committees.
- Golf Saskatchewan President from 2014-15 and recipient of the organization's Long-Term and Exemplary Voluntary Service Award.
- Member of Golf Canada's course rating and handicap committee for eight years and chair of the committee for the last four years.