



For immediate release

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Celebrating amateur sport athletes and volunteers at the Saskatchewan Sport Awards

Sask Sport Inc. is pleased to announce the finalists for the 2007 Athlete of the Year Awards and the recipients of the Saskatchewan Volunteer Recognition Awards. The awards will be presented at the Saskatchewan Sport Awards Dinner on Wednesday, March 19 at the Conexus Arts Centre in Regina. Cocktails will be at 5:30 p.m. and dinner will be at 6:30 p.m. with the Awards presentation to follow. Tickets for the evening are \$50 per individual or \$400 for a table.

The Sask Sport Awards annually recognize the outstanding achievements of Saskatchewan amateur athletes as well as the generous individuals who volunteer their time and talents for the betterment of amateur sport in the province.

“Sask Sport is proud to celebrate the accomplishments of our amateur sport athletes and volunteers over the past year. The nominees, finalists, and recipients of the awards truly showcase the important role that sport can play in an individual’s life. Sport helps people lead healthy lifestyles, build friendships, and realize dreams,” said Gord Lang, Sask Sport Inc. President.

The Athlete of the Year Awards are divided into six categories: Master, Youth Male, Youth Female, Male, Female, and Team. Nominees for the Athlete of the Year Awards are submitted to the Sask Sport Inc. Awards and Recognition Committee by the Provincial Sport Governing Bodies. This year, the committee received 36 nominations for the Athlete of the Year Award, from which three finalists were selected for each category. The volunteer Presidents of the Provincial Sport Governing Bodies and the Saskatchewan sports media will then vote to select a recipient in each category. The votes will be compiled and audited by The Virtus Group and the recipients will be declared at the awards dinner.

Three Volunteer Recognition Award recipients were selected by the Sask Sport Inc. Awards and Recognition Committee from a total of 14 nominations. **Biographies of the finalists and all of the nominees are attached and also available at http://www.sasksport.sk.ca/sask_sport_awards.php**

The finalists for the Athlete of the Year Award are:

Master:

- **Mickey Kupchyk**, Regina, Saskatchewan Amateur Speed Skating Association
- **Carol Lafayette-Boyd**, Regina, Saskatchewan Athletics
- **Fiona Vincent**, Regina, Canoe/Kayak Saskatchewan

Youth Male:

- **Jayd Lukenchuk**, Saskatoon, Gymnastics Saskatchewan
- **Connor Malloy**, Regina, Saskatchewan Amateur Wrestling Association
- **Shylo Wollf**, Saskatoon, Canoe/Kayak Saskatchewan

Youth Female:

- **Melissa Armstrong**, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan Baseball Association
- **Trista Neilly**, Saskatoon, Canoe/Kayak Saskatchewan
- **Jacqueline Rennebohm**, Regina, Swim Saskatchewan Inc.

Male:

- **Jeff Adamson**, Grasswood, Saskatchewan Amateur Wrestling Association
- **Teale Orban**, Regina, Football Saskatchewan
- **Lucian Phillips**, Prince Albert, Saskatchewan Taekwon-Do Federation International Inc.

Female:

- **Kia Byers**, Regina, Canoe/Kayak Saskatchewan
- **Ilana Duff**, Bradwell, Saskatchewan Wheelchair Sports Association
- **Kelsie Hendry**, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan Athletics

Team:

- **Bruno Axemen Broomball Team**, Saskatchewan Broomball Association
- **Prince Albert Mintos 'AAA' Midget Hockey Club**, Saskatchewan Hockey Association
- **Saskatoon Hilltops Football Club**, Football Saskatchewan

The recipients of the Volunteer Recognition Award are:

- **David Dice**, Prince Albert, Saskatchewan Athletics
- **Floyd Fry**, Regina, Canoe/Kayak Saskatchewan
- **Leanne Smith**, Saskatoon, Synchro Saskatchewan

Special thanks to the award sponsors: Global TV, McMaster Photographers, Saskatchewan Lotteries, and the Canadian Sport Centre Saskatchewan.

To purchase tickets, contact 780-9300 in Regina or 975-0800 in Saskatoon.

For more information contact Pat Rediger at (306) 780-9307.

Master Athlete of the Year Award

FINALISTS

Mickey Kupchyk, Regina, Saskatchewan Amateur Speed Skating Association

Although Kupchyk, 52, has only competed in speed skating for two and a half years, he broke one North American, six Canadian and 16 provincial Masters speed skating records in 2007. These records included the 1,000 m North American record, and the 500 m, 1,000 m, 1,500 m and 3,000 m Canadian records. During the season, Kupchyk earned two gold medals at the North American Age Class LT Outdoor international event, a silver medal at the Alberta Open LT Indoor event, a goal medal at the Western Regional Short Track event, and a silver medal at the Western Regional LT Outdoor event. He also finished in 24th place out of 65 athletes at the Masters International Games Olympic Style event in Calgary.

Carol LaFayette-Boyd, Regina, Saskatchewan Athletics

LaFayette-Boyd, 65, set numerous records at several events this past year, including the Saskatchewan and Canadian Masters Outdoor triple jump record, the Saskatchewan and Canadian Masters record in the 100 m, 200 m and long jump events, and the World Record in the 200 m event. Her achievements led to several medals such as four gold medals at the Masters Provincials; five gold medals at the Canadian Masters Championships; two gold and two silver medals at the United States Masters Championships; and three gold, one silver and one bronze medal at the World Masters Championships. Saskatchewan Athletics also awarded LaFayette-Boyd the Female Masters Award in November 2007.

Fiona Vincent, Regina, Canoe/Kayak Saskatchewan

Vincent, 43, is the current president of Canoe/Kayak Saskatchewan and is heavily involved in all aspects of the sport, including competing in various national and international events. For 15 years, Vincent has competed in Marathon Canoeing events, and this year she was awarded with two first place finishes – one at the Canadian Marathon Canoe Nationals competition and the other at the Na Wahine O Ke Kai international event in Hawaii. At the Canadian Nationals, she set records in the Mixed C-2 and C-2 Women's events, and she set a Junior Masters record at the Na Wahine competition. Vincent also set records for first Canadian Canoe, first Veterans, first International and first Mixed at the Devizes to Westminster competition, including decimating the current Canadian Canoe record by one and a half hours.

Youth Male Athlete of the Year Award

FINALISTS

Jayd Lukenchuk, Saskatoon, Gymnastics Saskatchewan

Lukenchuk, 17, became the third youngest athlete in the Men's Artistic Gymnastics event at the Pan American Games in 2007 where he finished 28th, 29th, 30th, and 39th in his events, a significant feat for a junior competing at a senior international event. At the Japan International Invitational, Lukenchuk finished 12th. All Around out of 18 athletes in his event. At the 2007 Canada Winter Games, he set a record for a Saskatchewan Artistic Gymnastics Athlete by capturing five medals at the event – two gold, two silver and one bronze. He also set a Saskatchewan record at the Canadian Nationals Championship by earning nine top three finishes at the event. A seven year member of Team Saskatchewan, Lukenchuk was named Gymnastics Saskatchewan's Male Artistic Athlete of the Year in 2007.

Connor Malloy, Regina, Saskatchewan Amateur Wrestling Association

Competing in the 76 kilo freestyle category, Malloy, 17, captured gold medals at the SAWA Juvenile Provincials, CAWA Juvenile Nationals, FILA Cadet Trials and the Pan-American Championships, as well as a silver medal at the Canada Cup. Malloy also took home gold from the High School Provincials competition. His success at the High School Provincials and the FILA Cadet Trials earned him a spot on the Canadian National Team. Later in the year, Malloy earned a bronze medal in the folk style 160 lbs category and a fourth place finish in the freestyle 160 lbs category at the USA AAU Grand Nationals competition.

Shylo Wolf, Saskatoon, Canoe/Kayak Saskatchewan

Wolf, 16, earned seven gold and four silver medals at the Western Canada Summer Games; three gold and two silver medals at the Lake Placid International Regatta competition; and a gold, silver and bronze medal at the Canadian National Championships in 2007. Wolf is highly committed to the sport as he not only adheres to a strict training schedule, but he also attends spring training camps in the United States, attends cyber-school for his studies so that he can focus more of his attention on his training and competitions, and encourages and teaches upcoming athletes about the sport.

OTHER NOMINEES

Michael Qing, Regina, Swim Saskatchewan Inc. & Special Olympics Saskatchewan

At the Special Olympics World Summer Games, which featured roughly 500 athletes from 160 countries, Qing, 15, won four silver medals. He also earned four silver and one bronze medal at the Western Canada Summer Games, two gold and two silver medals at the Competitive Swimming for Swimmers with a Disability (SWAD) CAN/AM competition, a silver medal at the Moose Jaw Development Meet, a bronze medal at the Man-Sask. competition, and four gold and one silver medal at the 2007 Defisportif international event. At the Western Canadian Championships, Qing set five Down

Syndrome world records during a competition against able-body swimmers. He also set 46 personal best records during competitions against both able-body and SWAD athletes throughout the year. Remarkably, Qing has only competed in competitive swimming events for three years and in Special Olympic Saskatchewan sports for five years.

Joel Senick, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan Athletics

In 2007, Senick, 18, captured a silver medal at the Canadian Junior Championships in the 400 m event, breaking the Saskatchewan Athletics Junior and Senior records, and he also won a silver medal in the 4 x 400 m relay event to break the Saskatchewan Athletics Junior record. Earlier in the year, Senick won gold in the 400 m and 800 m events at the Provincial High School Championships; gold in the 400 m event at the Provincial Junior Championship; and gold in the 400 m event at the Provincial Senior Championships. He also set a Saskatchewan Athletics Junior and Senior record at the Simplot Games in Pocatello, Idaho. His performance at the Provincial Senior Championships earned him a spot at the 2007 Western Canada Summer Games.

Youth Female Athlete of the Year Award

FINALISTS

Melissa Armstrong, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan Baseball Association

Armstrong, 17, was a part of the Baseball Canada Open Women's Championship team from Alberta that took home a silver medal against teams from across Canada. She was Alberta's leading pitcher at the event, and her performance earned her a spot on the Canadian National Team where she competed at the Tri-Country International Competition in North Carolina. Competing against Japan and the United States, Team Canada earned gold, and Armstrong helped lead the team to victory by recording two wins and no losses, a 2.35 earned run average and batters hit only .222 against her during the event. Outside of baseball, Armstrong won a gold medal with the Clavet High School Basketball team; a fourth place finish at the Provincial Championships with the Clavet High School Volleyball team; and gold in Javelin at the SHSAA Provincial Championships.

Trista Neilly, Saskatoon, Canoe/Kayak Saskatchewan

In 2007, Neilly, 18, won a silver medal at the National Championships, and she finished fourth and seventh place at the National Team Trials. A total of 27 athletes from eight provinces competed at the National Championships, and 36 athletes from eight provinces were represented at the National Team Trials. Her performance at the National Championships earned her a spot on Canada's U23 team. At the Junior World Championships, Neilly finished in eighth place in the sprint event and 14th place in the marathon event. During these competitions, Neilly competed against 108 athletes from 46 countries in the sprint event, and 25 athletes from 29 countries in the marathon event.

Jacqueline Rennebohm, Regina, Swim Saskatchewan

Rennebohm, 18, has participated in Competitive Swimming for Swimmers with a Disability (SWAD) for six years. In 2007, Rennebohm competed at the Para Pan Am SWAD Trials where she set personal best times in three out of the five events, earning her a spot on Team Canada at the Para PanAm Games. At this competition, Rennebohm won a gold and silver medal as well as a fifth place finish. At the US Paralympic Open Championships, she captured three gold medals. She also won a silver medal, two fifth place finishes, a sixth and eighth place finish at the Canadian SWAD Open Championships. Her strong performances between September 2006 and August 2007 have enabled her to receive Sport Canada Carding for 2008. At the Can-Am Championships in December 2007, Rennebohm set two SWAD Canadian Records for the 50 Back and 50 Breast events in the S12 classification.

OTHER NOMINEES

Kali Christ, Regina, Saskatchewan Amateur Speed Skating Association

Christ, 16, earned a gold and silver medal, as well as a fifth, sixth and two tenth place finishes at the Canada Winter Games in various long track speed skating events. In 2007, she also captured gold at the Top Blade Camp event and the Canadian Age Class Long Track Championships, as well as a fourth place finish at the latter event. At the Canada Cup II, Christ finished in 18th place overall, eighth at the Western Regional Short Track Championship, and 16th at the Canadian Age Class Short Track Championships. Outside of speed skating, Christ is an honour student at Winston Knoll Collegiate where she is also a member of the school's soccer and track and field teams, band and choir.

Jessica Furlan, Regina, Saskatchewan Athletics

In 2007, Furlan, 17, competed at the World Junior Cross Country Championships where she finished in 59th place. Throughout the year, Furlan captured three silver medals at the Provincial High School Championships in the 800 m, 1,500 m and 3,000 m senior events; gold at the Saskatchewan Athletics Juvenile girls 2,000 m Steeplechase event; silver at the Canadian Junior Championship in the 2,000 m Steeplechase; bronze at the SHSAA Cross Country Championships; and 15th place at the Canadian Junior Cross Country Championships. At the World Youth Championships, Furlan broke the Saskatchewan Juvenile, Junior, Senior Native and Open record as well as the Canadian Junior record. She also set a new Saskatchewan Juvenile, Junior, Senior Native and Open record at the Canadian Junior Championships.

Liz Hudon, Prince Albert, Saskatchewan Soccer Association

In 2007, Hudon, 18, competed in the Canadian Soccer Association Nationals, and she also participated in the Saskatchewan Premier Soccer League (PSL) and the Canadian Interuniversity Sport (CIS) League Play with the University of Saskatchewan Huskies. Through the PSL, Hudon won the Golden Boot, Most Valuable Player, and Female Youth Player of the Year Awards.

Danielle Priel, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan Baton Twirling Association

Priel, 17, had a successful competitive year as she captured gold at the Provincial Championships, silver at the Canadian Team Trials, and an eighth place finish at the World Baton Twirling Championships in Hamilton, Ontario. A total of 24 athletes representing 11 countries competed at the World Championships. For the past three years, Priel has also earned a spot on Canada's National Team.

Male Athlete of the Year Award

FINALISTS

Jeff Adamson, Grasswood, Saskatchewan Amateur Wrestling Association

Adamson, 22, placed first in his division at the 2007 Canada West Wrestling Championships in Saskatoon. The standing qualified him to advance to the CIS Championships, where he placed first out of eight athletes and was named the CIS First Team All-Canadian. Adamson also placed first of six competitors at both the U of Calgary Dino Invitational and the U of S Huskies Open. He was named Outstanding Wrestler at the U of S Huskies Open. At the 2007 Spanish Grand Prix he finished ninth, while at the 2007 Senior Nationals he placed sixth for the second consecutive year.

Teale Orban, Regina, Football Saskatchewan

Orban, 22, has been a quarterback with the University of Regina Rams football team since 2004. During the last season, Orban led the Rams to their first Canada West final appearance since 2002. He was also the Canada West all-time leader in career touchdown passes with 66 and the Canada West Most Outstanding Player for two consecutive seasons. Over the past season, Orban led the Canadian Interuniversity Sport league in touchdown passes at 22 and in passing yards at 2,273. In recognition of his achievements, Orban was named the Canada West 2007 all-star, the 2007 University of Regina Male Athlete of the Year, and was nominated for the 2007 Canada West Russ Jackson Outstanding Student-Athlete award.

Lucian Phillips, Prince Albert, Saskatchewan Taekwon-Do Federation International Inc.

Phillips, 33, has trained in Taekwon-Do for 21 years. In 2007, Phillips participated in the Canadian National Taekwon-Do Championships, where he won gold in Men's Heavyweight Sparring and bronze in 4th Degree patterns. At the World Championships in Quebec, Phillips received silver in Team Sparring, competing against 38 other teams. Later in the year, he won gold in Men's Heavyweight sparring and gold in 4th Degree patterns at the 2007 All North American and Caribbean Championships. He also won gold in Men's Heavy weight sparring and bronze in 4th degree patterns at the 2007 Canadian National Selection in Grande Prairie.

OTHER NOMINEES

James Avery, Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan Baseball

During the last baseball season, Avery, 23, was a pitcher for the AA Chattanooga Lookouts of the Southern League, an affiliate of the Cincinnati Reds. While playing with the Lookouts, he led the team in wins at 11, innings pitched at 146, and was second in strikeouts at 94. Avery was drafted for the team in 2005 as a fifth round pick, the highest drafted Saskatchewan player in the MLB. Avery also pitched as a member of the national team at the 2007 International Baseball Federations World Cup in Taiwan. Team Canada finished fifth in a pool of seven teams. At the World Cup, Avery started two games and finished the tournament with a 1-1 record and an ERA of 3.75.

Simon Bairu, Regina, Saskatchewan Athletics

Bairu, 24, set a new Saskatchewan Native and Open Senior 10,000m record at the 2007 Payton Jordan Cardinal Invitational in Stanford. He also set a new Saskatchewan Native and Open Senior 3,000m record of 7:49.20 and a new 5,000m of 13:36.28 while competing in Belgium. At the 2007 Canadian 10,000m Championships, Bairu finished third, a standing that qualified him for the 2007 World Championships in Japan. In recognition of his accomplishments, Bairu received the 2007 Outstanding Senior Male Award for Saskatchewan Athletics for the fourth consecutive year.

Jason Bender, Bruno, Saskatchewan Broomball Association

Bender, a member of the Bruno Axemen, participated in the 2007 Senior National Broomball Championship, where his team won the Gold Medal. The Bruno Axemen have won the national championship three times in the last four years. Bender, 30, was the overall tournament MVP as well as the top scorer, with four goals and nine assists in seven games. At the Senior Provincial Broomball Championship, Bender's team placed first of eight teams, winning their fifth provincial gold medal in six years. Bender was the overall provincial tournament MVP as well as the top scorer with three goals and nine assists in three games. During the regular season, Bender was the top scorer in the Bruno Broomball league with 22 goals and 35 assists in 13 games.

John Haver, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan Rowing

2007 marked Haver's first season competing as a senior rower. The twenty-three-year-old placed fourth at the 2007 National Rowing Championships, an event with 28 athletes in participation. At the 2007 Pan Am Games in Rio de Janeiro, Haver won a gold medal in the LM4, an event with 8 entries, and sixth in the LM2x, an event with 10 entries. Haver also played a key role in helping the Saskatoon Rowing Club to win the 2007 Lipton Cup at the NWIRA Championships for the first time.

Female Athlete of the Year Award

FINALISTS

Kia Byers, Regina, Canoe/Kayak Saskatchewan

Byers, 20, competed at the 2007 National Team Trails 1, where she placed first in the K2 500m, ninth in the K1 500m, and also set a new time standard. Her standings resulted in national carding points and also qualified her to participate in the ICF World Cup. Byers later competed at the National Team Trials 2, finishing second in two races and third in another. Her standings qualified Byers to compete at the 2007 Pan American Games in Rio de Janeiro, where she won gold in the K2 500m and bronze in the K4 500m. At the 2007 World Cup Tour in Hungary, Byers placed eighth out of 28 athletes in both the K2 500m and the K2 200m. At the 2007 National Championships in Ottawa, she won five bronze and one gold medal. For her outstanding achievements at the National Championships, Byers received the WRCC Commodore's Award.

Iana Duff, Bradwell, Saskatchewan Wheelchair Sports Association

Over the past year, Duff, 21, set three new Canadian Athletics records in the 100m, 200m, and the 400m events. She also achieved two International paralympic Committee Beijing qualifying times in the 100m and the 400m. At the 2007 Canadian Track and Field Championships, Duff placed first in the 100m, 200m, and 400m. She placed first in both the 200m and 400m at the 2007 Boiling Point Wheelchair Track Classic in Ontario. At the OCPA Enhanced Athletics Development Competition, Duff placed first in the 100m. She also competed at the 2007 Knights of Columbus Indoor Track meet in Saskatoon with strong standings and finished the TransCanada 10km National Championships with a time of 36:09.40.

Kelsie Hendry, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan Athletics

At the end of the indoor season, Hendry, 25, was ranked as the third Senior Women's pole vaulter in Canada. She placed first at the Sun Angel Track Classic in Arizona and at the UC San Diego Triton Invitational in San Diego and second at the 2007 Hamilton Spectator Games, jumping 4.30m at all three events. She also won the Victoria International Track Classic, the Canada vs. China Challenge, the 2007 Senior Women's Pole Vault Provincial Championship, and placed fourth at the 2007 Summer Universiade in Thailand. Hendry qualified for the World Student Games after winning the 2007 Nationals Senior Championships with a jump of 4.31m. She also received the 2007 Saskatchewan Athletics Outstanding Senior Female Award and the 2007 Mary Ethel Cartwright trophy as the University of Saskatchewan Outstanding Female Athlete of the Year.

OTHER NOMINEES

Cristin McCarty, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan Rowing

McCarty, 25, has rowed for Saskatchewan at the Canada Games and the Canada Cup. She is currently training with the National Senior Women rowing team. At the 2007 Pan Am Regatta, McCarty and her team won gold in the Women's Quad with a time of

7:42.62. McCarty also partnered with Peggy Hyslop from BC to win silver in the Women's Double at the Regatta.

Alexandra Wrubleski, Regina, Saskatchewan Cycling Association

One of the top female riders in North America, Wrubleski, 23, is also one of four female athletes being considered for two cycling positions on the Canadian Olympic Team. In 2007, Wrubleski finished ninth out of 39 athletes at the 2007 Road Worlds in Germany. At the 2007 UCI World Cup in Montreal, she was the top Canadian woman athlete, finishing sixteenth overall. At the 2007 Road Racing Nationals, she placed sixth in the road race, won a silver medal in the Criterium, and placed fifth in the Individual Time Trial. Competing in a field of 98 professional women cyclists at the 2007 Nature Valley Grand Prix, Wrubleski placed first in the Sports Beans Queen of the Hills event, second in the Best Young Rider category, sixth in the Wheaties Sprint Leader event, and third in General Classification. Wrubleski finished second overall out of 60 participants at the 2007 Joe Martin Stage Race.

Team of the Year Award

FINALISTS

Bruno Axemen Broomball Team, Saskatchewan Broomball Association

The Bruno Axemen finished an exceptional season by winning the Senior National Championships, their third Gold medal in four years at the national level. Earlier in the season, the team of twenty players placed first at the Senior Provincial Championships for the fifth time in six years. The Axemen also placed first at both the Saskatoon Gold Broom Tournament and the Odessa Senior Tournament and captured second at the Bruno Senior Tournament. During the regular season, the team placed first in the Bruno Broomball League.

Prince Albert Mintos 'AAA' Midget Hockey Club, Saskatchewan Hockey Association

The Prince Albert Mintos finished a strong 2006-2007 season with a 35-7-1-1 record. The Mintos later competed at the 2007 Saskatchewan Midget AAA Hockey League playoffs, placing first of twelve teams. The team won each of the four games they played at the tournament to capture the provincial title for the second consecutive season. At the 2007 Western Regionals, the Mintos again placed first, winning each of the four games they played. The twenty member team went on to participate in the 2007 Telus Cup in Red Deer. After winning each of the seven games they played, the Mintos captured gold to become the only 'AAA' team in Canada to win the national championship in consecutive seasons. Several Mintos players were recognized at the Telus Cup for their outstanding efforts: Tyler Fiddler was named the Top Forward; Lewis Laczko was named Top Defence; and Carsen Chubak was named Top Goalie.

Saskatoon Hilltops Football Club, Football Saskatchewan

During regular season play, the Saskatoon Hilltops won five of their eight games, losing only one and ending with a tie in the remaining two. The team went on to win the Semi-

Final League Play and the Final League Play. At the 2007 Canadian Bowl, the Hilltops captured the national title--the thirteenth national championship in the 61 year history of the club.

OTHER NOMINEES

Hollandia Impact Youth Soccer Team, Saskatchewan Soccer Association

After a strong season, the Hollandia Impact Youth Soccer Team placed first at the 2007 Premier Soccer League provincial championship. The U18 Girls Premier team went on to represent the province at the CSA Club nationals, where they finished in fourth place. Hollandia Impact was named the 2007 Saskatchewan Soccer Association Youth Team of the Year.

Prairie Fire Rugby Football Club, Saskatchewan Rugby Union

The Prairie Fire Rugby Football Club was named the 2007 National Senior Men's Champions after placing first at the Rugby Canada Super League National Final. The team, with players ages 18 to 32, participated in the league finals during the last three years, winning for the first time this year. The Prairie Fire Club is the first Saskatchewan team to win the Senior Men's National Rugby title.

Saskatchewan 2007 Canada Winter Games Rifle Team, Saskatchewan Provincial Small Bore Association

The Saskatchewan Rifle Team achieved exceptional results at the 2007 Canada Winter Games. In the Saskatchewan Women's Team Rifle event, Nicole Bergeron and Cassandra Wilson-Anderson placed first in a field of 11 participants. The Saskatchewan Men's Rifle Team, comprised of Matt McDermott and Justin Nenson, placed second of ten teams. The pair set a new Canada Games record, while McDermott set a new individual men's record.

Sundown Optimist Buffalo Gal's Trans Canada Team, Saskatchewan Baton Twirling Association

The Sundown Optimist Buffalo Gal's Trans Canada Team placed first at both the Provincial Baton Twirling Championships and the Canadian Team Trails. The team, whose ages range from 15 to 18, later participated at the World Baton Twirling Championships in Hamilton, finishing third of six teams.

Western Canada Summer Games - Saskatchewan Canoe/Kayak Team, Canoe Kayak Saskatchewan

The Saskatchewan Canoe/Kayak Team excelled at the 2007 Western Canada Summer Games in Alberta. The 16 member team of athletes ages 12 to 16 placed first overall of four Canoe/Kayak teams at the Games. The group was also the only Saskatchewan team to place first in Flag Points in their event. Every member of the Canoe/Kayak team won a medal at the Games. Three athletes received medals in all 11 events, one athlete received a medal in ten events, and several of the remaining athletes received medals in at least five events. Together, the team won a total of 43 medals.

**Western Canada Summer Games - Saskatchewan Women's Wrestling Team,
Saskatchewan Amateur Wrestling Association**

The Saskatchewan Women's Wrestling Team achieved outstanding results at the 2007 Western Canada Summer Games. The team of ten members, whose ages range from 14 to 16, placed first overall in a field of five teams. Every member of the team won a medal, for a total of two individual gold medals, five individual silver medals, and three individual bronze medals.

Volunteer Recognition Award

RECIPIENTS

David Dice, Prince Albert, Saskatchewan Athletics

In 2007, Dice officiated at Track and Field meets throughout the province as a Level V Track Referee, a Level V Umpire, and a Level IV Horizontal Jumps official. He also managed results and entries for the 2007 SHSAA Provincial Cross Country Championship. Dice mentored several officials in Athletics Canada's officiating program throughout the last year and also served as a jury member for the Western Canada Summer Games. In addition to officiating, Dice was the 2007 coach of the CC Track Club in Prince Albert and the head track coach of Carlton Comprehensive High School. During 2007, he assisted Saskatchewan schools with the use of Hy-Tek Meet Management software. Since 2005, Dice has served as Chair of Saskatchewan Athletics Official's committee. He is also Chair of a committee pursuing to rebuild the Harry Jerome track in Prince Albert.

Floyd Fry, Regina, Canoe/Kayak Saskatchewan

During 2007, Fry was the Chief Official at the Season Opener Regatta, the Saskatchewan Provincial Championships, the Western Canada Summer Games, the Regina Dragon Boat Festival, and the Saskatchewan Long Distance Regatta. He was the Chief Finish Line Judge for the Learn To Regatta, the Starter and Referee for the Canada Day Regatta, and the Referee at the Prairie Division Championships. As the CanoeKayak Canada Officials Coordinator for the Prairie Division, Fry mentors and trains officials within the prairie division and throughout Canada. Fry was recently involved in the Regina bid for the 2009 Junior Worlds Canoe and Kayak Championships. He received the 2007 Volunteer of the Year Award from the Public Service Commission and is currently obtaining his International Certification.

Leanne Smith, Saskatoon, Synchro Saskatchewan

Smith has volunteered with Synchro Saskatchewan since 1994 and she has served as a judge at provincial competitions since 2004. During 2007, Smith was Chair of the High Performance Committee for Synchro Saskatchewan. Her leadership in the position helped to improve the performance of Team Saskatchewan at the 2007 Canada Winter Games, where the team won the first medal in the history of Synchro Saskatchewan. Smith also serves as the Saskatchewan representative to the Provincial Advisory Council of Synchro Canada.

OTHER NOMINEES

Ila Andrew, Kindersley, Skate Canada - Saskatchewan

For the past ten years, Andrew has used her administration skills to assist with major skating events throughout Saskatchewan. In 2007, she served as accountant for the SGI Sask Open Competition in Saskatoon, the BMO Financial Group Skate Canada Sectionals in Kindersley, and the Regional Invitational Competitions. She has also served as the accountant for the 2008 BMO Skate Canada Sectionals in Moose Jaw. In recognition of her dedication to the sport of skating, Andrew was named a 2007 Skate Canada-Saskatchewan Volunteer of Excellence recipient.

Kathy Chisholm, Regina, Saskatchewan Soccer Association

Over the past year, Chisholm has served as the President of the UCT Club in Regina. As president, she has contributed countless hours to make the club a success. Chisholm also contributed her time and talents at the 2007 U14/U16 Boys National All Star Championships held in Regina. In recognition of her dedication to soccer in Saskatchewan, Chisholm was named the 2007 Saskatchewan Soccer Association Volunteer of the Year.

Ken Demchuk, Regina, Swim Saskatchewan Inc.

Since 1992, Demchuk has served as Electronic Technical Coordinator of swim meets in Regina. He prepares competition information, such as heat sheets, as well as meet results for Meet Management. Demchuk also recruits, educates and retains volunteers to work with electronic systems and Meet Management. Demchuk is one of the most knowledgeable Meet Management operators in Canada and counsels clubs via email regarding the program. In Saskatchewan, he remains on call during meets so that volunteers can contact him in case of electronic difficulties. Demchuk is the volunteer webmaster of the Regina Optimist Dolphin Club website, which he also designed. He also designed and developed a Regina Optimist Dolphins Swim Club Membership database in MS Access.

Brenda Dowling, Moose Jaw, Tennis Saskatchewan

For over 15 years, Dowling has served as an instructor, coach, official, and administrator with the Moose Jaw Tennis Club, the Zone 3 Sport Council, the Saskatchewan Games Council, and Tennis Saskatchewan. In 2007, Dowling served as Vice President of the Moose Jaw Tennis Club and as a board member of the Zone 3 Sport Council, Tennis Saskatchewan, the Provincial Association of Zone Sport Councils, and the Saskatchewan Games Council. Dowling coordinates Tennis Camps for girls in Moose Jaw and area and, since 1981, has served as the Moose Jaw Tennis Club - Tournament Director. She received the 2007 Tennis Canada Distinguished Service Award in recognition of her dedication to the sport.

Diane Glemser, Grasswood, University of Saskatchewan Huskies Athletics

Since 1999, Glemser has served as the Manager of the University of Saskatchewan Huskies Women's hockey team. As Manager, Glemser leads the team's fundraising

initiatives, including Adopt a Huskie, minor league camps and evaluations, and Huskie calendar ads. She also handles travel itineraries and is responsible for the team's finances. Glemser organizes the day staff for home games and travels with the team to away games when possible.

Byron Harvie, Riverside Estates, Saskatchewan Golf Association

Harvie served as Host Chair of the 2007 Canadian Men's Amateur Championship held at the Riverside Country Club in Saskatoon. He was also the Rules Official for the Qualifier Round of the championship and the Rules Referee during match play. In 2007, Harvie served as Rules Chair of the Saskatchewan Amateur Women's and Mid-Amateur Men's Championship in Swift Current and of the Saskatchewan Mixed Team Championship in Elk Ridge. He served as Rules Official at the 2007 SGI CANADA Saskatchewan Junior Women's and Men's Championship in Estevan and at the 2007 Royale Canadian Senior Women's Championship held in Elk Ridge. Harvie is the Saskatchewan Golf Association Vice President, the Program and Member Service Committee Chair, and a member of the Rules Committee, the Player Development Committee, and the Executive and Policy committee.

Jim Jackson, Prince Albert, Saskatchewan Hockey Association

Jackson has been involved with female minor hockey in Prince Albert for over a decade as a coach and a representative. During the 2006-2007 season, Jackson coached the Prince Albert Peewee Female Cruizers. The Cruizers won a tournament in Lloydminster and placed third in an Edmonton tournament. Jackson currently serves as Vice-President on the Board of Directors for the Saskatchewan Female Midget 'AAA' Hockey League. In 2002, Jackson founded the North Sask Female Hockey League, the first female league in the area.

Ray Knudsen, Regina, Saskatchewan Taekwon-Do Federation International Inc.

Knudsen has volunteered with the Saskatchewan Taekwon-Do Federation for over a decade and is currently the Bingo coordinator for the organization. He also serves as a judge at championships throughout the province, volunteering up to six hours at each event. For the past ten years, Knudsen has served as treasurer of the Canadian Taekwon-Do Federation International Inc. He is an official judge for sanctioned events in Canada and assists with recording the results of the championships. Knudsen is a 3rd Degree Black Belt in Taekwon-Do.

Cory Niefer, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan Provincial Small Bore Association

As a coach, Niefer is helping many elite athletes to achieve their dreams. In 2007, Niefer coached the Saskatchewan Canada Winter Games Rifle Team to two team medals and two individual medals. He also coached eight athletes who have qualified for the 2007/2008 Canadian National Rifle Team, as well as one athlete who participated in the 2007 Pan American Games. Niefer currently coaches an athlete from outside of Saskatchewan who recently won a gold medal at the Championships of the Americas and also qualified for the 2008 Beijing Olympics. In addition to coaching, Niefer is a high performance athlete and recently competed at the 2007 Pan American Games.

Jackie Powell, Swift Current, Special Olympics Saskatchewan

As head coach of the Special Olympics Saskatchewan - Swift Current swimming program, Powell has worked with athletes of varying ages and abilities. In 2007, Powell served as Assistant Coach for the Team Canada Swim Team at the Special Olympics World Summer Games in China. Her team won 35 medals in total, including nine gold, 19 silver, and eight bronze medals. She also served as 2007 Assistant Coach for Team Saskatchewan Swimming at the Western Canada Games. In Swift Current, Powell has served as the Level 1 Water Polo Coach since 2001, a club that she started. She also organizes SOS - Swift Current annual competitions and recruits coaches and players. In the past year, Powell helped to organize the new SOS - Swift Current Executive Committee. Powell was named the 2007 Female Coach of the Year Award by Special Olympics Saskatchewan and Special Olympics Canada.

Randy Wrubleski, Regina, Saskatchewan Amateur Speed Skating Association

For the past four years, Wrubleski has served as newsletter editor, equipment manager, and president of the Regina Speed Skating Club. Wrubleski has also served as the SASSA club representative for seven years and the Meet Registrar for over 11 years, handling the majority of the competitions held in the province. Wrubleski uses SpeedSK8, a computer software program he developed, to run ability- or age-class competitions throughout the province and at national and international levels. Wrubleski is also trained in the national meet software Meet Manager and often uses it at meets.