

MEDIA RELEASE

Saskatchewan's Finest Athletes, Volunteers, and Coaches Honoured at the Saskatchewan Sport Awards

The recipients of the 2009 Sask Sport Inc. Athlete of the Year Awards were announced tonight at the 25th annual Saskatchewan Sport Awards ceremony, held in Regina. The annual Sport Awards help foster pride in sport achievement in Saskatchewan; athletes receive the encouragement and recognition they deserve for all of their hard work and practice. These athletes carry on a legacy of athletic excellence in Saskatchewan.

In total, 53 nominations for the Athlete of the Year Awards were received. From these nominees, three finalists were selected for each of the six categories: master, youth-male, youth-female, male, female and team. The active and affiliate members of Sask Sport Inc. chose the award recipients in each category in a vote. The results were compiled and audited by the accounting and auditing firm of The Virtus Group. The award recipients for 2009 were:

Master Athlete of the Year: Ken Orr, Churchbridge, Saskatchewan Cycling Association

Youth Male Athlete of the Year: Shylo Wollf, Saskatoon, Canoe Kayak Saskatchewan

Youth Female Athlete of the Year: Kendra Chernoff, Saskatoon, Swim Saskatchewan Inc.

Male Athlete of the Year: Lucas Makowsky, Regina, Saskatchewan Speed Skating Association

Female Athlete of the Year: Brianne Theisen, Humboldt, Saskatchewan Athletics

Team of the Year: 2009 Canada Games Canoe/Kayak Team, Regina, Canoe Kayak Saskatchewan

The Coaching Awards were presented again this year. The **Coach of the Year Award** was presented to **John Wetzstein**, Regina, Saskatchewan Rowing Association

The recipient of the **Coach Dedication Award – Male** was: **Dale Hazell**, Saskatoon, Skate Canada - Saskatchewan

The recipient of the **Coach Dedication Award – Female** was: **Laurie Wachs**, Saskatoon, Synchro Saskatchewan

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The Saskatchewan Sport Awards also featured the **Volunteer Recognition Awards**, which were presented to:

Peter Brook, Prince Albert, Saskatchewan Rowing Association

Dr. Marlys Misfeldt, Saskatoon, Sport Medicine and Science Council of Saskatchewan

Judy Warick, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan Athletics

Biographies of all the recipients, finalists and nominees can found at www.sasksport.sk.ca.

“Our athletes have had a significant impact on sport in the province and have demonstrated the level of excellence that can be reached when you set out to achieve your goals,” said Dale Holmes, President of Sask Sport Inc. “Sask Sport is proud of all the award finalists, recipients, and nominees. Their hard work and accomplishments in athletics and life are a tribute to the success of the sport system in our Province.”

2010 Olympic bronze medalist and Saskatchewan native Lyndon Rush was the special guest for the evening. Born in Humboldt, Rush played five years with the University of Saskatchewan Huskies football team. In 2004, he transitioned to the sport of bobsleigh and joined the national development team, learning to become a pilot. At the 2010 Vancouver Olympics, his first Olympic games, Rush led the Canada 1 four-man team to a third place medal. Prior to the Olympics, he won his first-ever World Cup victories in 2009 in the two-man event in Switzerland and in the four-man event in Lake Placid.

The Saskatchewan Sports Awards are sponsored by Global TV, McMaster Photographers, Coaches Association of Saskatchewan, Saskatchewan Lotteries and the Canadian Sport Centre Saskatchewan.

For more information contact Pat Rediger at (306) 780-9307 or email prediger@sasksport.sk.ca.