

For immediate release

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Province's amateur athletes, volunteers, coaches and officials to be recognized by Sask Sport Inc.

Sask Sport Inc. today announced the finalists and recipients for the 2011 Saskatchewan Sport Awards, which includes the 2011 Athlete of the Year Awards Finalists, and the Award Recipients for the Coaching Awards, the Volunteer Awards and the Officials' Awards.

The Saskatchewan Sport Awards celebrate the outstanding achievements of Saskatchewan amateur athletes and those individuals who provide their support so these athletes can achieve their goals. This year, the committee received 72 nominations for the various award categories.

"We are proud of our provincial athletes who excel at the regional, national and international levels, and the Saskatchewan Sport Awards is our opportunity to recognize their accomplishments. Our athletes are supported by a vast network of coaches, officials and volunteers and we want to thank them and everyone for their contributions to sport in the province," said Sask Sport President Eric Honetschlager.

The 2011 **Athletes of the Year Awards** celebrate the accomplishments of athletes from January 1, 2011 to December 31, 2011. The finalists for these awards are:

Master: Milos Kostic, Regina, Saskatchewan Triathlon Association Corporation; Carol Lafayette-Boyd, Regina, Saskatchewan Athletics; and Jean Roney, Regina, Bowls Saskatchewan.

Youth - Male: Curtis Graves, Saskatoon, Gymnastics Saskatchewan; Jarret Kenke, Saskatoon, Canoe Kayak Saskatchewan; and Cole Miller, Regina, Dive Sask.

Youth - Female: Cassandra Brassard, Regina, Swim Saskatchewan; Emily Clark, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan Hockey Association; and Miranda Siefert, Regina, Saskatchewan Rugby Union.

Male: Jeff Adamson, Grasswood, Saskatchewan Amateur Wrestling Association; Andrew Albers, North Battleford, Saskatchewan Baseball; and Hubert Buydens, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan Rugby Union.

Female: Colette Bourgonje, Prince Albert, Saskatchewan Wheelchair Sports Association; Kali Christ, Regina, Sask Speed Skating; and Kaylyn Kyle, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan Soccer Association.

Team: Amber Holland Curling Team, Regina, Saskatchewan Curling Association; the Saskatoon Hilltops Football Club, Football Saskatchewan; and the University of Saskatchewan Huskie Women's Basketball Team, Saskatoon.

The recipients of the **Volunteer Awards**, **Coaching Awards**, and **Officials Awards** are:

Volunteer Awards: Joe Morrissey, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan Athletics; and Craig Thompson, Hillmond, Saskatchewan Hockey Association

Coach of the Year Award: Markos Baikas, Saskatoon, Gymnastics Saskatchewan

Coach Dedication Award – Male: Jeff Whiting, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan Ski Association (Para-Ski)

Coach Dedication Award – Female: Natalie Good, Regina, Synchro Sask

Official Award - Male: Brian Fiori, Regina, Saskatchewan Rowing Association

Official Award - Female: Nancy Brawley, Saskatoon, Dive Sask

Award recipients will be profiled and honoured at various events and functions within the province throughout the year.

Biographies of the Athlete of the Year Award finalists and all nominees are attached, as well as biographies of the Award Recipients of the Volunteer, Coaching and Officials' awards and all nominees in these categories. More information is also available at www.sasksport.sk.ca/SportAwards/finalists.html

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For more information contact Della Ruopp at (306) 780-9375, email druopp@sasksport.sk.ca or visit www.sasksport.sk.ca/SportAwards

2011 SASKATCHEWAN SPORT AWARDS BIOGRAPHIES

MASTER ATHLETE OF THE YEAR AWARD

The finalists are:

Milos Kostic • Regina • Triathlon

Nominated by Saskatchewan Triathlon Association Corporation

Milos Kostic, 70, celebrated a successful year in triathlon in 2011, earning gold in each of the six races he competed in, including two World Championship titles in a month – one at the World Half Ironman Triathlon Championships in Las Vegas and the second at the Ironman World Championships in Hawaii (finishing one hour faster than the second place contestant). He set a new time record for men ages 70-74 at the Subaru Ironman Canadian Championships in Penticton, B.C. where he beat the previous record by more than an hour. He also competed in the Boston Marathon, finishing first in his age group (ages 70-74) and beating his next closest competitor by nearly five minutes.

Carol LaFayette-Boyd • Regina • Athletics

Nominated by Saskatchewan Athletics

Carol LaFayette-Boyd, 69, participated in five World Masters Athletics Championships in Sacramento, California this year, earning gold in the 100m, 200m, long jump and triple jump, as well as bronze in the 4 x 400m relay at the various competitions, with the bronze medal setting a new Canadian record. She also earned gold in the 100m, 200m, long jump and triple jump events at the Saskatchewan Athletics Provincial Championships in Saskatoon. As a result of her accomplishments, LaFayette-Boyd received the 2011 Bob Adams Foundation Award for Masters Athlete of the Year and the 2011 Sask Sport Athlete of the Month Award for the month of July.

Jean Roney • Regina • Bowls (Lawn Bowling)

Nominated by Bowls Saskatchewan

Jean Roney won gold in several provincial competitions including the Sask. Sr. Playdowns, the Sask Pair Playdowns and the Sask. Mixed Pair Playdowns. She also won gold at the national Canadian Mixed Pairs Championships in Winnipeg, and at the US Open, in Los Angeles, CA, and a silver at the USA South Central Division in Sun City, Arizona.

Jean's win with her husband Keith at the Mixed Pairs Canadian Championship made her the first Canadian to win all six competitive categories at Canadian Championship over the years, (Singles, Pairs, Fours, Mixed Pairs, Sr Triples and Indoor).

YOUTH-MALE ATHLETE OF THE YEAR AWARD

The finalists are:

Curtis Graves • Saskatoon • Gymnastics

Nominated by Gymnastics Saskatchewan

Curtis Graves, 18, won 1st in Parallel Bars and 3rd in Rings at the Canada Winter Games in Halifax, Nova Scotia. At the Canadian Gymnastics Championships in Charlottetown, PEI, Curtis placed 1st in Rings, 1st in High Bar, 5th in Vault, and 7th in Parallel Bars and Floor. At the Senior Men's event Finals he placed 7th in Rings and High Bar qualifying for the Junior National Team. At the Youth Commonwealth Games at the Isle of Man, Great Britain, he placed 2nd in High Bar, 3rd in Rings, 3rd in Parallel Bars and was part of the second place Team Canada. At the German/Belgium/Canada Tri-meet, held in Berlin he placed 3rd All Around and 2nd in the High Bar.

Jarret Kenke • Saskatoon • Canoe Kayak

Nominated by Canoe Kayak Saskatchewan

Jarret Kenke, 17, competed at two national team selection events where he placed well enough to be named to the team representing Canada at the Junior World Championships and the Lake Placid International Regatta. At Lake Placid, USA, the Junior Men's team in the K4, 1000 metre event won gold. Jarret also won gold with the Senior Men team in the same event. Also with the Juniors men's team he won silver in the K2 1000 m and bronze in the K1 1000 metre. At the Canadian Spirit Canoe Kayak Championship in Welland, Ontario the Junior Men's team won bronze at the K1 1000 metre event. On the juvenile team at the event, he won silver in the K2 200metre, K2 500 metre, and K2 1000 metre and a bronze at the K1 1000 metre. Jarret has placed 2nd at the Junior Team Trials in several events and at the National Team Trials placed 2nd in the K1 1000 metre and 1st in the K2 1000 metre and K4 1000 metre. He is a member of the 18 and Under national assessment pool for men's kayak and has been named to the junior development team for 2011/2012.

Cole Miller • Regina • Diving

Nominated by Dive Sask

Cole Miller, 18, at the Alberta Winter Provincials placed third in the 1 metre and 3 metre categories and sixth on the platform. He broke Saskatchewan records at this event for the 1 metre and 3 metre categories. Also during the Alberta Summer Provincials he placed first in the 1 metre and second in the 3 metre. At the CAMO International in Montreal, he placed fifth in the 1 metre, eighth in the 3 metre and seventh on the platform. At the Polar Bear invitational in Winnipeg, Manitoba which was a national qualifier, he placed first in the 1 metre and 3 metre events and third on the platform. At the National Championships he placed first in the 1 metre, sixth in the 3 metre and third on the platform, in his age group. At the Jr. Pan Am Games, he placed 11th on the 1 metre, eighth on the 3 metre and third in the synchro. In 2011, Miller broke the Saskatchewan record for Men's Open Platform, and is now a Saskatchewan records holder in the Men's Open and Men's Group A for the 1 metre, 3 metre, and platform. He has been awarded a full scholarship to University of South Carolina.

The other nominees were:

Jagar Toffan • Regina • Baseball

Nominated by Saskatchewan Baseball

Jagar Toffan, 16, was a Prairie Midget AAA League Champion at the Prairie Midget Baseball League competition in Regina, Saskatchewan. He also won a silver medal at the Baseball Canada Cup in Moncton, New Brunswick. Due to this victory, he was invited to Team Canada. Jagar was also one of three players from Saskatchewan to be invited to the Baseball Canada Elite Mizuno Camp, held at the prestigious Rogers Centre. Continuing his training and competition, he is attending the Vauxhall Baseball Academy, along with other top players from across Canada.

Jordan Wand • Regina • Athletics

Nominated by Saskatchewan Athletics

Jordan Wand, 16, won 1st in the 600 metres in Open Men's in Saskatoon as well as 1st in the 800 metres at the Regina Friendship Games, and the Tri-province Championship in the 400 metre and 800 metre, in Regina. At the Canadian Junior Championships in Winnipeg, he placed 10th in the 800 metre and 13th in the 400 metre. At the Legion Canadian Youth Championships in Ottawa, he placed a bronze in the 800 metre and 7th place in the 400 metre. At the Commonwealth Youth Games in Isle of Man, Great Britain he placed 6th in the 800 metre. Jordan is the recipient of the 2011 Bob Adams Foundation Juvenile Male Track Athlete of the Year Award, and has broken Saskatchewan Athletics records in the indoor 600 metres five times in 2011 and in the outdoor three times in the 800 metres and in the Open Outdoor 800 metres. He is the 2011 Outdoor Saskatchewan Athletics Provincial Champion in 800 metres and silver medal in 400 metres.

Grant Wilkie • Saskatoon • Bowls (Lawn Bowling)

Nominated by Bowls Saskatchewan

Grant Wilkie, 18, won gold at the Saskatchewan Junior Playdowns and the Saskatchewan Men's Fours Playdowns. At the national level, he won gold at the Canadian Jr. Championships and also gold as part of the Men's Fours at the Canadian Championships.

YOUTH-FEMALE ATHLETE OF THE YEAR AWARD

The finalists are:

Cassandra Brassard • Regina • Swimming

Nominated by Swim Saskatchewan

Cassandra Brassard, 15, won three gold medals and a bronze medal in the Western Canadian Champs competition in Kamloops, British Columbia, breaking many provincial records. She placed 19th in the Summer National Championships in Pointe Claire, Quebec, against 74 other swimmers, and won three gold medals and a silver medal at the Age Group Championships in Montreal, Quebec. She also won a bronze medal at the Western Canada Games in Kamloops, British Columbia. She placed 7th, 13th, and 16th at the Canada Cup in Toronto, Ontario, and placed 5th, 6th, and 7th at the Paul Bergen Junior International competition in Portland, Oregon. In this competition she competed against all star teams from France, Germany, and Ontario. Cassandra was also selected to the Swimming Canada National Development ID Teams, meaning she was the fastest swimmer in Canada in her age category.

Emily Clark • Saskatoon • Hockey

Nominated by Saskatchewan Hockey Association

Emily Clark, 16, played on Team Saskatchewan at the Canada Winter Games, earning fourth place. She was the Assistant Captain of Team Saskatchewan for the U18 Nationals this past November, placing sixth. She is the only Saskatchewan female this year to earn a spot on the U18 Team Canada, and her AAA Midget Female hockey team is currently first place in its division. As of December 5, 2011, in 14 games played she has 13 goals and 20 assists for 33 total points.

Miranda Seifert • Regina • Rugby

Nominated by Saskatchewan Rugby Union

Miranda Seifert, 17, is the only player selected from Saskatchewan for Team Canada U20 Women's Rugby. In 2011 Miranda was selected for 2 Team Canada rosters in two different sports, for two seasons in a row, (Rugby and Taekwondo). She was part of the Team Canada U20 Women's Rugby team that placed 3rd overall in the U20 Nations Cup International Tournament Women's Rugby in Santa Barbara, California. She was also a part of the Saskatchewan team that placed 5th in the U19 National Rugby Championships in Calgary, Alberta. Besides her rugby accomplishments Miranda also won her 5th national title in Junior Women's Taekwondo in Vancouver B.C. and a silver medal at the 2011 World Taekwondo Championships in Wellington New Zealand. She also made top 30 selection for Team Sask U18 Female Hockey and played on the Sr. Girls Notre Dame team in Hoopla Basketball Provincials.

The other nominees were:

Paige Crozon • Humboldt • Basketball

Nominated by Saskatchewan High Schools Athletic Association

Paige Crozon, 17, has placed in many competitions in the sport of basketball, including the Team Saskatchewan U17 Nationals in Winnipeg, Manitoba; the Team Canada U19 Women's World Championship in Puerto Monti, Chile; the Team Canada U18 3 x 3 Youth World Championship in Rimini, Italy; and the Team Canada Pan-Am Games in Guadalajara, Mexico. She has also received a gold medal for the SHSAA Hoopla Basketball Provincials in Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan, and a silver medal at the SHSAA Volleyball Provincials in Rosetown, Saskatchewan. Her success is not only due to her high skill level, but also to her dedication, work ethic, positive attitude and motivated spirit.

Danielle Drury • Saskatoon • Racquetball

Nominated by Racquetball Saskatchewan

Danielle Drury, 14, has shown strong results as a racquetball player. She has received a silver medal at both the Junior National Racquetball Championship in Burnaby, British Columbia, as well as the Junior World Racquetball Championship in Santa Domingo, Dominican Republic. She also received a gold medal at the Junior National Racquetball Championship in Burnaby, British Columbia. In addition to these accomplishments, Danielle is also involved in playing competitive soccer and hockey.

Gabrielle Edwards • Saskatoon • Triathlon

Nominated by Saskatchewan Triathlon Association Corporation

Gabrielle Edwards, 17, has received four silver medals for her competitions, including the Tri Canada National Jr. Elite Race in St. Malo, Manitoba; the Western Canada Summer Games in Kamloops, British Columbia; the Clermont Triathlon Junior North American Championships in Clermont, Florida; and the Brazil Fast Elite Women Team Triathlon in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. She has also received a bronze medal at the Western Canada Summer Games in Kamloops, British Columbia. Gabrielle's accomplishments have qualified her to represent Canada in 2012 at the North American Jr. Elite Championship in Mexico, and the Pan Am Tri Championship in Edmonton, Alberta.

Courtney Erickson • Quill Lake • Athletics

Nominated by Saskatchewan Athletics

Courtney Erickson, 18, has ranked 1st for both junior women's pole vault indoors and outdoors for Saskatchewan Athletics, and ranked 2nd indoors and 3rd outdoors for junior women's pole vault for Athletics Canada. She has also bronze medals for both the National Junior Championships in Winnipeg, Manitoba, and the Western Canada Summer Games in Kamloops, British Columbia. In addition, she received silver at the Saskatchewan Provincial Championships in Saskatoon, competing in the senior age class.

Emily Schaan • Saskatoon • Judo

Nominated by Judo Saskatchewan

Emily Schaan, 17, has won many competitions for her efforts in both judo and wrestling. For judo, she placed 2nd in the Canada Winter Games in Halifax, Nova Scotia. She later placed 3rd in the U20 National Championship in Sept-Illes, Quebec, and placed 1st in the Junior US Open in Fort Lauderdale, Florida. For wrestling, she placed 1st in the Provincial Championship in Regina, Saskatchewan, which qualified her to advance to Nationals. She later placed 2nd at the High School National Championship in Windsor, Ontario. She also placed 1st at the FILA Cadet National Championships in Windsor, Ontario, which qualified her to advance to the Cadet World Championships in Budapest, Hungary. Emily has proven herself to be an impressive athlete in her divisions.

Kiera West • Regina • Baton

Nominated by Saskatchewan Baton Twirling Association

Kiera West, 16, has received a variety of medals for her competitions at provincial and national levels in Canada. In addition to this, she also received the gold medal at the International Cup Championship in Jacksonville, Florida, officially making her the best in the world for her competition category in 2011. She also placed in the top 5 of all her other entered events at the International Cup. These accomplishments have moved Kiera up in the World Junior rankings – from 4th last year to first this year.

MALE ATHLETE OF THE YEAR AWARD

The finalists are:

Jeff Adamson • Grasswood • Wrestling

Nominated by Saskatchewan Amateur Wrestling Association

Jeff Adamson, 26, won gold at the Senior National Championships in Edmonton, Alberta, and qualified to advance to the Pan Am Games in Guadalajara, where he won bronze in his competition. He also won silver at the Canada Cup in Guelph, Ontario. By attaining these achievements and winning at the Senior National competition, Jeff qualified for the top spot on the ladder for the Olympic Trials.

Andrew Albers • North Battleford • Baseball

Nominated by Saskatchewan Baseball

Andrew Albers, 26, won bronze at the World Cup of Baseball international competition in Panama. In this competition, he pitched against competing teams from the Netherlands, Puerto Rico, and Taipei. He later won gold at the international Pan Am Games in Mexico. During this competition, Andrew was credited with a win as Canada earned the gold medal against USA, and many consider this as one of Canada's greatest baseball achievements in international baseball history. He played along with Dustin Molleken, a relief pitcher from Regina, Saskatchewan, and combined these two players threw 30 innings and gave up only 3 earned runs.

Hubert Buydens • Saskatoon • Rugby

Nominated by Saskatchewan Rugby Union

Hubert, 29, played on Canada's Senior Men's team during many high profile international games including the Canada Vs USA in Toronto, USA Vs Canada in Denver, Canada Vs Australian Barbarians in Gold Cost, Qd, and Canada Vs. Tonga in Whangeral, Canada Vs France and Canada Vs Japan in Napier and Canada Vs New Zealand in Wellington. At the RWC 2011, in New Zealand, the top rugby event in the world, his team placed 4th in their pool.

The other nominees were:

Bob Hudson • Leoville • Archery

Nominated by Saskatchewan Wheelchair Sports Association

Bob at the 2011 Para Pan American Games in Guadalajara, Mexico won silver in the Men's Open Compound Bow event. At the Regional Indoor Championships in Prince Albert, Saskatchewan he won gold. At the FITA 1440 event in Cranbrook, BC he finished with silver. At the FITA 1440 event in Prince Albert, Saskatchewan he won gold. Bob had a season's best score and placement (4th place) and secured a 2012 Paralympic Games quota spot for Canada in the Men's Open Compound category. At the World Championships in Turin, Italy he placed 33rd and in the Olympic Quota Tournament in Stoke Mandeville, England he placed 25th.

Brett Jones • Weyburn • Football

Nominated by Football Saskatchewan

Brett Jones, 20, was a member of the University of Regina Rams football team in 2011. The team finished in third place in the Canada West Conference out of 36 teams in Canada, losing to the University of Calgary Dinos in the conference semi-finals. In recognition of his achievements in 2011, Jones received several provincial and national honours, including being named a Canada West Universities Athletic Association All-Star, Canadian Interuniversity Sport (CIS) 1st Team All Canadian All-Star, and a CIS Academic All Canadian (awarded to athletes who achieve at least an 80 per cent grade point average during the year they compete with a university varsity team). Jones was also nominated for the CIS Russ Jackson Award, which is presented to a player who best combines football, academics and citizenship responsibilities each year. His strong on-field abilities have also earned him a spot on the 2012 CIS East/West Bowl that features the top players from teams in the East and West conferences.

Kelly Wiebe • Regina • Athletics

Nominated by Saskatchewan Athletics

Wiebe, 22, ranked 1st in the 3,000 metres in Saskatchewan Athletics Indoor Rankings for senior men. He ranked 1st in 1500 metres in the Saskatchewan Athletics Outdoor Rankings for men. He received gold at the Canada West University Indoor Championships, in Winnipeg, in the 3000 metre, earning First Team All-Star and breaking the University of Regina school record. He was on the silver medal team, receiving 9th place in the 8 km event at the NACAC Cross Country Championships in Port-of-Spain, Trinidad & Tobago. He received 2nd place in the 5000 metre at the RCLDS #2: London Distance Classic in Ontario and a bronze in the 5,000 metre event at the National Senior Championships in Calgary, Alberta. He competed at the FISU World University Student Games in Shenzhen, China, but was a DNS due to injury.

FEMALE ATHLETE OF THE YEAR AWARD

The finalists are:

Colette Bourgonje • Prince Albert • Para Nordic Sit-Ski Nominated by Saskatchewan Wheelchair Sports Association

At the Cross Country Skiing Nationals in Canmore, Alberta she placed 1st in 2.5 kilometres, 1st in 5 kilometres, and 1st in 3.5 kilometres. At the IPC World Championships in Khanty Mansiysk Russia, she placed 1st in the 10 kilometre, 6th in the 5 kilometre and 8th in the Sprint.

Colette then competed in the IPC New Zealand Winter Games in 2011. She placed 1st in the 10 kilometre event. Also in Snow Farm, New Zealand, she competed in the Snow Farm Merino-Tec Muster Loppet placing 3rd in the 21 kilometre event. She won the Sask Sport Athlete of the month in April 2011.

Kali Christ • Regina • Speed Skating Nominated by Sask Speed Skating

At the Canadian Junior Championships in Winnipeg, Manitoba, Kali placed 1st in the 500 metre, 1000 metre and 1500 metre and 2nd in the 3000 metre events. She was awarded Top Female Athlete Award and qualified for the World Junior National Team. At the Junior World Cup/North American Championships in Milwaukee, USA, she placed 1st in 500 metre, 1000 metre, and 1500 metre events and 4th in the 3000 metre. At the World Junior Championships in Seinajoki, Finland, she placed 9th in the 500 metre, 3rd in the 1000 metre, 5th in the 1500 metre, 20th in the 3000 metre, and 3rd in the Team Pursuit, finishing 9th overall in the competition. At the Junior World Cup Final in Groningen, NED, she placed 5th in the 1000 metre and 1500 metre and 2nd in the Team Pursuit. At the 2011 Oval Finale/Canada Cup IV in Calgary Alberta, she placed 7th in the 500 metre, 3rd in the 3000 metre and 1st in the 1000 metre and 1500 metre events. At that event she set a National Junior Record in 1500 metres and qualified for the National Development Team.

Kaylyn Kyle • Saskatoon • Soccer Nominated by Saskatchewan Soccer Association

In 2011, Kaylyn Kyle, age 23, played midfielder in 21 out of 23 possible Team Canada soccer games, the second most soccer game appearances by a Canadian player in a single season. She competed with Team Canada at all three FIFA Women's World Cup games in Germany, and although the team did not reach the knock out game stage, Kyle put in a strong performance for her team. She also helped her team capture gold at both the Cyprus Women's Cup (scoring a goal in Canada's 2-1 victory over Colombia in the semi-final) and the Pan American Games in Guadalajara, Mexico. At both of these events, Canada defeated the very strong soccer teams from Brazil and Argentina. At the club level, Kyle competed with the Vancouver Whitecaps FC, but unfortunately, the team lost out in the Western League's semi-final match. During her spare time, Kyle returned to the University of Saskatchewan Huskies team and the Saskatchewan Soccer Association to visit with the players and managers. In the Fans Favourite Canadian Female Player of the Year soccer award, Kyle is currently in second place in the voting process.

The other nominees were:

Karmen Coffey • Saskatoon • Softball

Nominated by Softball Saskatchewan

Karmen, 23, played on the Saskatchewan team that won gold at the Junior Women's Canadians in Windsor Ontario. She was named All Star Outfielder at the event.

Kayla McKinnon • Regina • Baton

Nominated by Saskatchewan Baton Twirling Association

Kayla, 20, won six 1st places at the Sask Provincial Championships, being named the SBTA Senior Athlete of the Year and qualifying for the National Championships. At the Canadian Championships she placed 1st in Solo Dance, Solo, 2-baton and Pairs. She was awarded the National Challenge Cup Senior Athlete Award and the event and qualified to the International Cup Championships. At the international championships held in Jacksonville, Florida she placed 5th in Solo and 3rd in Pairs. The Canadian Team placed 4th overall at the championships.

Christine Selinger • Regina • Paracanoe

Nominated by Canoe Kayak Saskatchewan

Christine, 24, won gold at the ICF Senior Sprint Canoe World Championships in Szeged, Hungary in the V1 (canoe) LTA 200 metre event. She placed 2nd in the K1 (kayak) LTA 200 metre event. At the Sprint Canoe/Kayak National Championships in Welland, Ontario she won gold in the K1 LTA 200 metre event. Christine continues to be a strong advocate for the sport with Paracanoe being named as a sport for the 2016 Paralympics Christine is focused on the goal of becoming an Olympian.

Bishop Sommerfeld • Saskatoon • Judo

Nominated by Judo Saskatchewan

Bishop Sommerfeld, 20, won 1st place at the Edmonton International Competition in Edmonton, Alberta. She finished in 3rd place at the Senior National Championship in Edmonton, qualifying her for the National F Team, and won gold at the US Open in Miami, Florida, qualifying her for the National D Team. She also placed 3rd at the Quebec Open International in Montreal, Quebec. Besides her strong focus on competition, Bishop is a dedicated student at the University of Saskatchewan in the Pharmacy program, and maintains a balance between school, sport, and life.

Taryn Suttie • Saskatoon • Athletics

Nominated by Saskatchewan Athletics

Taryn, 21, at the Canada West Indoor University Championships won gold in Shot Put and silver in Weight Throw. She was named First Team All-Star and Outstanding Female Field Athlete. She then qualified for the CIS University Championships. At CIS she won Gold in Shot Put and gold in Weight Throw. She set a new Shot Put record, was named First Team All Canadian and was named the Female Field Athlete of the Meet and for the Year.

At the Saskatchewan Provincial Championships/National Championship Trials in Saskatoon she received gold in Shot Put and Gold in Hammer Throw, qualifying for the Senior National Championships. At the National Senior Championships in Calgary, Alberta, she received a bronze in Shot Put, qualifying for the FISU World University Games in Shenzhen, China. At the

World University Games she placed 9th. She has now joined the National Training Centre for Throws in Kamloops, B.C., with Dr. Bodnarchuk upon invitation.

Rachelle Viinberg • Regina • Rowing
Nominated by Saskatchewan Rowing Association

Rachelle Viinberg, 32, is a product of the Regina Rowing Club, and has progressed to receive two silver medals, one at the World Cup III in Lucerne, Switzerland; the other at the World Rowing Championships in Bled, Slovenia. She is now based in London, Ontario, where she works with the rest of the Canadian National Women's Team. Based on their results at the World Rowing Championships, they now qualify for the 2012 Olympic Summer Games.

TEAM ATHLETE OF THE YEAR AWARD

The finalists are:

Amber Holland Curling Team • Regina
Nominated by Saskatchewan Curling Association

The Holland rink, with skip, Amber Holland, third, Kim Schneider, second, Tammy Schneider, lead, Heather Kalenchuk, fifth, Jolene Campbell, and coach Merv Fonger won the SaskPower Scotties Tournament of Hearts Provincial Championship in Outlook to advance to the national championship. At the national Scotties, in Charlottetown, PEI, the team won gold, advancing to the World Women's Curling Championship. The Holland rink earned silver at the World Championships in Esbjerg, Denmark.

Saskatoon Hilltops Football Club • Saskatoon
Nominated by Football Saskatchewan

The Saskatoon Hilltops were back-to-back winners of the Canadian Bowl, the Canadian Junior Football League Championship, in Hamilton, Ontario in 2011. The team beat out six other teams from across Canada to earn the award, which was the 15th time in the team's history that they had captured the title. The team earned its way into the bowl game by winning the Jostens Cup in Nanaimo, B.C. and the Prairie Football Conference (PFC) Championship in Saskatoon in October. The team's Head Coach was Tom Sargeant.

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

The University of Saskatchewan Huskies Women's Basketball team placed 1st in the Canada West Regular Season Competition, which included various games across Western Canada. They swept the University of Calgary Dinos in the Canada West Playoffs, allowing them to advance and win the Canada West Championship in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan. This was the first time in history that the Canada West Final Four was hosted, and later won, by the Huskies. The Huskies then won the silver medal at the CIS Championship in Windsor, Ontario. Many of the team members have been honoured with numerous awards, including the Canada West award, CIS Sylvia Sweeney award, CIS Defensive Player of the Year award, Canada West MVP award, CIS First Team All-Canadian award, Canada West First Team All-Stars award, and the CIS Coach of the Year award.

The other nominees were:

HUSA Alumni • Saskatoon • Soccer

Nominated by Saskatchewan Soccer Association

The Huskie Alumni Soccer Academy (HUSA) Alumni team won the National Canadian Soccer Championship title in 2011. This is the first time a Saskatchewan team has won in the 99 years of the competition making it an important victory for the team. During the event, the HUSA Alumni team had a four and one win-loss record, defeating strong teams from the provinces of British Columbia, Ontario, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick. The team's captain and centre mid-fielder, Mark Korthuis, was also awarded a trophy for being the 2nd Top Goal-Scorer at the event. The team's Head Coach was Stewart Gillott.

Saskatoon Outlaws • Softball

Nominated by Softball Saskatchewan

The team won for the second year the Junior U23 Canadian Championships in Windsor Ontario. This is the first time a Saskatchewan team had won the Women's Canadian Championship two years in a row. Katherine Guenther was the recipient of the Top Pitcher Award; Sydney Marquardt was the recipient of the Top Batter Award; and Karmen Coffey and Sydney Marquardt were All-star Outfielders.

Paige Lawrence and Rudi Swiegers • Kennedy • Figure Skating

Nominated by Skate Canada - Saskatchewan

The Paige Lawrence and Rudi Swiegers team placed 3rd in both the BMO Canadian Figure Skating Championship in Victoria, British Columbia, as well as the Four Continents Championship in Taipei City, Taipei. Their performance in Taipei earned them recognition by the ISU, Skate Canada, fellow competitors and in the media across North America. They placed 5th at the Nebelhorn Trophy competition in Oberstdorf, Germany, and later placed 8th at the Skate Canada International competition in Mississauga, Ontario. This team then placed 1st in both the Skate Canada Sectionals in Aberdeen, Saskatchewan, and the Skate Canada Challenge Event in Regina, Saskatchewan. This team, with their successful medal placements, will be given consideration for key Grand Prix assignments around the world.

2011 Western Canada Games Canoe/Kayak Team

Nominated by Canoe Kayak Saskatchewan

At the Western Canada Summer Games, the team won 47 medals in total – 12 for single boat, eight for K2 (Kayak) and C2 (Canoe), four for K4 and C4. Team Sask Canoe/Kayak was made up of athletes from both Regina and Saskatoon. Their athletes won medals in 376 out of 45 events, and each team won at least one gold medal. In total the team come home with 28 gold, one silver, and eight bronze. The team swept all three medals in the Men's K1 1000 metre and double medaled in nine events. The men's kayak team won a gold medal in all 11 events. The women's kayak team won gold in 9 of 11 events and the women's canoe team won gold in six of 11 events.

2011 Saskatchewan Rowing Western Canada Summer Games Team

Nominated by Saskatchewan Rowing Association

At the Western Canada Summer Games (WCSG), the Saskatchewan team won 12 medals placing 2nd overall at the (WCSG). This was the first time in the history of Saskatchewan rowing and the WCSG that Saskatchewan won silver in both Men's and Women's 8+.

Pan American Games Men's Double Racquetball Team

Nominated by Racquetball Saskatchewan

The team of Kris Odgard and Tim Landeryou won a bronze at the 2011 Pan Am Games, in Guadalajara Mexico. As individual players, Odegard is ranked 3rd in Canada and won bronze at the selection event held in November and at the national championships in May. Landeryou ranked 4th in Canada won bronze at the national team selection event in February.

Team Sask 17U - Baseball Canada Cup

Nominated by Saskatchewan Baseball

Team Sask 17U won a silver medal at the Baseball Canada Cup in Moncton, New Brunswick. At this competition, Kohl Bauml of Saskatoon was named the top hitter, and Jagar Toffan was named the all-star outfielder. Also, the team trained in Mesa, Arizona, and played exhibition games against the Okotoks Baseball Academy in late April. Team members Jagar Toffan and Jordan Schulz were invited to Tampa Bay, Florida, to train with Team Canada and later play an exhibition game against The Toronto Blue Jays.

VOLUNTEER AWARD

The recipients are: Joe Morrissey, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan Athletics; and Craig Thompson, Hillmond, Saskatchewan Hockey Association

Joe Morrissey • Saskatoon

Nominated by Saskatchewan Athletics

Joe Morrissey has been a strong athletics volunteer for years. He was a member of the Saskatchewan Athletics' Board of Directors for 14 years, including three he spent as President, and in 2011, he was a senior coach and President of the Saskatoon Track and Field Club. In 2011, he also worked with the White Buffalo organization and Bob Fawcett to get inner city kids in Saskatoon involved in athletics, and he helped establish a summer and winter program to provide athletes with an opportunity to train with certified coaches. For the past six years, Morrissey has worked as a volunteer instructor at the Saskatchewan Athletics Easter Camp, and he continually updates his coaching skills. As a coach, he has led the University of Saskatchewan sprints/relays events, served as the Athletics Male Team Manager for Team Saskatchewan at the 2009 Jeux du Canada Summer Games, and helped his athletes set numerous Saskatchewan Athletics native indoor and outdoor track records, while his junior women's 4 x 200m relay team earned gold at the 1999 Canadian Junior Nationals. His volunteer efforts have not gone unnoticed; he has received several awards, including the 2001 Canadian Governors General Golden Jubilee Medal and the Bob Adams Foundation Service Award in 2002.

Craig Thompson • Hillmond

Nominated by Saskatchewan Hockey Association

Craig has been involved with minor hockey in Hillmond for the past 10 years. He served on the Minor Hockey Association and consistently held the duties of coach and/or assistant coach on a number of teams over the years. He has also been a dedicated support staff for the ice arena, maintaining and fixing the facility and its equipment on a volunteer basis. He also helped oversee the construction of a new arena and worked to resolve any problems with the new facility.

The other nominees were:

Kirsten Brough • Regina

Nominated by Synchro Sask

Judging synchronized swimming competitions and encouraging judges to enter and stay with the sport are passions for Kirsten Brough. As a Level 4 Judge and FINA evaluator and a Level 3 Referee and National Evaluator, Brough judged every provincial synchro event in 2011. She has also judged several other major competitions, including the 2011 Synchro Canadian Open National Championships in Calgary, the Synchro Canada Eastern Divisional in Quebec City, and the 2007 Jeux du Canada Winter Games in Whitehorse. Between 2008 and 2011, she judged high performance athletes' testing, and between 2006 and 2010 she was the Officials' Chairperson, making her responsible for recruiting and retaining Saskatchewan judges, organizing officials' training courses, and helping officials attend national training programs and conferences. She also served on Synchro Saskatchewan's Board of Directors (2008-2010; 2002-2004; 1994-96), serving as Vice-President of Finance and Administration, and is a current member of the Awards and Recognition and Summer Programming committees. For her efforts, she has received the Investor's Group 2011 National Volunteer Sport Administrator Award, 2010 Investors Group Provincial Sport Administrator Award, the Regina YWCA 2010 Women of Distinction Award and the 2005 Synchro Canada Certificate of Merit.

Leslie Gosselin • Regina

Nominated by Skate Canada - Saskatchewan

Leslie Gosselin has viewed volunteerism as a way of life, and has assumed leadership duties with Skate Regina after many years of volunteering in the community. She has held many positions with Skate Regina, including Chairperson of Ice Shows, SilverSkate, Denyse Hoult Competitions, and CanSkate; Vice President for four years, and later President. She has also taken the duties of coordinating marketing materials, strategic planning, as well as establishing a detailed chart of accounts for financial planning and budgeting. Leslie has worked diligently to maintain Skate Regina's membership to keep skaters skating.

Ann Haver • Saskatoon

Nominated by Saskatchewan Rowing Association

Ann Haver has concentrated her volunteer coaching efforts to introducing novices to the sport of rowing. She was a volunteer learn-to-row instructor, and later became the volunteer Vice President of the Saskatoon Rowing Club, the Vice President of Programs for the Saskatchewan Rowing Association, and the Saskatchewan Rowing Association President. With her help and contribution, the sport of rowing experienced growth and many competitive successes at the Canada Games and beyond.

Elan Paluck • Regina**Nominated by Saskatchewan Baton Twirling Association**

Elan Paluck has been an avid volunteer for the sport of baton twirling, both in and outside of Saskatchewan, since 1983. Since 2010, Paluck has been the Technical Director for the Canadian Baton Twirling Federation – where she ensured that baton twirling met the new Long Term Athlete Development (LTAD) guidelines – acted as the Canadian representative at all World Baton Twirling meetings, and served as the Competition Chairperson for the 2011 International Cup Qualifier in Calgary, the 2011 Canadian Championships in Winnipeg, and the 2012 Canadian Championships in Regina. She has also helped create and implement a new Saskatchewan Baton Twirling Association's (SBTA's) Ready, Set, Twirl program that teaches rural baton instructors how to establish baton programs in their communities. Paluk previously served as the Coordinator for the Coaches/Judges Interaction Symposium in Regina in 2009; the Competition Chairperson for the 2010 Canadian Team Trials; and Acting Team Canada Manager for the 2007 World Championships in Limerick, Ireland. Paluk was also named the 2010 Canadian Baton Twirling Association's Volunteer of the Year and the 2008 and 2009 SBTA's Volunteer of the Year.

Dale Squires • Saskatoon**Nominated by Horseshoe Saskatchewan Inc.**

For more than 20 years, Dale Squires has committed his time, skills and efforts to Horseshoe Saskatchewan. His volunteer work has led him to coordinate other volunteers in the maintenance of provincial and Saskatoon horseshoe pitches, plan tournaments, coach youth athletes, judge competitions, track athlete statistics, act as a point-of-contact for the various horseshoe clubs in Saskatchewan, and organize marketing and fundraising campaigns, through which he has helped raise more than \$25,000 for Horseshoe Saskatchewan as its Fundraising and Promotions Chair. He is currently helping the provincial organization prepare for the 2012 Canadian Horseshoe Pitching Championships in Saskatoon by building portable horseshoe pitches, storing equipment for the event, organizing the concession stands and managing several fundraising initiatives. Squires has served as a two-time Chair of the Western Classic Horseshoe Pitching Event that features athletes from across Western Canada. He was also recognized nationally in 2000 for his dedication and service to the sport when he was presented with the Sharon Ellison Memorial Award.

COACH OF THE YEAR AWARD:**The recipient is:****Markos Baikas • Saskatoon****Nominated by Gymnastics Saskatchewan**

As head coach of the Taiso Gymnastics Club in Saskatoon since 2001, as well as Gymnastics Saskatchewan's High Performance Coach and Gymnastics Canada's National Junior and Age Group Coach, Markos Baikas has helped two of his athletes – Jayd Lukenchuk and Anderson Loran – join Canada's Senior National Team. His other athletes have also achieved success by joining the Junior National and Junior National Age Group teams, as well as competing at

various international, national, western and provincial competitions. Baikas balances his work between the club, provincial and national levels well, ensuring that his athletes receive proper training and have access to all of the resources necessary to allow them to succeed in their athletic and personal goals. He also hosts annual national training camps for athletes – three in Saskatchewan and five in Eastern and Western Canada – and travels with Team Saskatchewan and national level athletes to competitions around Canada and the world. Some of the events his athletes have competed in include: Junior World Championships, China National Championships, Canadian Championships, Toyota Cup in Japan, 2011 Pan American Games, the 2011 Commonwealth Games, and the Canada Winter Games.

The other nominees were:

Dean Bertoia • Saskatoon

Nominated by Saskatchewan Athletics

Dean Bertoia has been a Track and Field Assistant Coach (throws) with the University of Saskatchewan Huskies since 2000 and Head Coach of the Saskatoon Track and Field Club since 2009. During that time, his athletes have set several track records, earned numerous medals and awards and performed strongly at high performance meets at the provincial, national and international levels. Some of his athletes' 2011 accomplishments include: gold and a Canada West shot put record (Andrew Smith) at the Canada West Championships; gold medals and shot put records (by both Andrew Smith and Taryn Suttie) at the CIS Championships; silver in discus (Nolan Machiskinik) at the Saskatchewan Provincial Championships; two bronze medals in shot put at the National Senior Championships in Calgary; and a silver medal in weight throw and bronze medals in javelin, weight pentathlon, and hammer throw (Marg Tosh) at the World Masters Championships in Sacramento, California. Aside from coaching, Bertoia also serves on the Saskatoon Hub City Council for indoor and outdoor track venues and was the Saskatoon Track and Field Club's Meet Director for various Saskatchewan Athletics competitions in 2011.

Rob Cherepuschak • Pilot Butte

Nominated by Saskatchewan Baseball

Rob Cherepuschak was the head coach of the Regina Red Sox in the Western Major Baseball League (WMBL). With his team, he won the President's Cup for finishing first overall in the regular season, and set a WMBL regular season record for the league's best winning percentage. They swept both the Weyburn Beavers and the Moose Jaw Miller Express, and later captured the franchise's first WMBL Championship by defeating the Okotoks Dawgs at the Seamen's Stadium in Okotoks, Alberta. Rob Cherepuschak was also named Saskatchewan Baseball's Coach of the Year and WMBL Manager of the Year in 2011. Rob is also a trained NCCP Learning Facilitator for Saskatchewan Baseball coaching clinics. Rob is not only an outstanding coach but truly believes in the development in the whole person through sport.

Maureen Johnson • Regina**Nominated by Saskatchewan Baton Twirling Association**

For the past 59 years, Maureen Johnson has coached baton twirling in Saskatchewan. Her dedication and commitment to the sport has allowed her athletes to achieve significant success at the national and international levels. In 2011, her athletes captured 70 medals, including 28 gold, at the national level, where her team's gold medals accounted for 34 per cent of the total gold medals awarded at this level. Her athletes also captured four gold, one silver and five bronze medals at the International Cup in Jacksonville, Florida, which featured competitors from 16 different countries. In addition to this strong awards total, 16 of Johnson's elite athletes filled the majority of the spots available on the International Cup's Canadian Team. Johnson is the head coach of the Sundown Optimist Buffalo Gals club in Regina, and she is currently working with the World Baton Twirling Federation as Canada's representative to develop a new international judging system for the sport. Due to her strong leadership skills and love for the sport, many of Johnson's athletes go on to become baton twirling coaches and judges after they finish competing.

Wayne Mitchell • Yorkton**Nominated by Saskatchewan WTF Taekwondo Association**

Wayne Mitchell is the Master Instructor at the Kees Taekwondo School in Yorkton, and he has been teaching taekwondo since 1980. His athletes were very successful in 2011, earning six gold medals at the 2011 Canadian National Taekwondo Championships in Winnipeg. Of the 15 Team Saskatchewan spots available for this event, 13 were members of Mitchell's taekwondo school. As a result of this event, Autumn Ashcroft earned a position on the Senior National Team and went on to compete at the World Championships in Korea, and Francis Bazin earned a berth into the Junior National Team Trials in Toronto, where he secured a spot on Canada's Junior Team. Bazin later won a bronze medal at the 2011 Pan-Am Junior Championships in Las Vegas. Mitchell is always committed to his athletes, and he works with them to develop a training regime that will help them to succeed both in and outside of the sport of taekwondo.

Sandra (Sandy) Nicholat • Saskatoon**Nominated by Skate Canada - Saskatchewan**

For 30 years, Sandra Nicholat has coached skaters at all levels of skill and ability in Saskatchewan. Currently, ten of her skaters are on the "Competitive Development," five are on the "Sask First" and one is a member of the "High Performance" Skate Canada Saskatchewan team. In 2011, her skaters earned one gold and two bronze medals and a fourth place finish in the Pre-Juvenile category at the Skate Canada Saskatchewan Sectional Championship. At this same event, three of Nicholat's skaters earned a chance to compete at the 2011 Skate Canada Western Challenge, which featured competitors from across Canada. Although the skaters did not medal at the Challenge, they did gain valuable competitive experience at the national level. Nicholat is well liked by her students as she encourages them to not only focus on the medal counts, but to truly enjoy the sport of figure skating. As a result of her leadership skills, many of her students go on to become skating coaches after they finish competing in the sport.

Tom Sargeant • Saskatoon**Nominated by Football Saskatchewan**

Tom Sargeant has amassed an impressive record as Head Coach of the Saskatoon Hilltops junior football team. In 2011, the team captured its 15th Canadian Junior Football League Championship title, defeating the Hamilton Hurricanes 29-1 in Hamilton, Ontario. This was the Hilltops second straight and 6th national title in 10 years. Sargeant has been the Hilltops' Head Coach since 1998, and he was an Assistant Coach with the team from 1991-1997. During this time, the Hilltops have recorded 196 wins, 36 losses and five ties, including 129 wins, 21 losses and three ties. Many of Sargeant's players have gone on to play in the CFL, including Graig Newman (Saskatchewan Roughriders in 2011), Graeme Bell (Winnipeg, Edmonton and Saskatchewan since 2006) and Kelly Bates (BC, Winnipeg, Saskatchewan and Edmonton since 2003). Sargeant is also committed to promoting strong community ties and leadership skills in his players. In 2011, over one-third of the 79 players on the Hilltops' roster volunteered as assistant or head coaches with the Saskatoon Minor Football League.

COACH DEDICATION AWARD - MALE:**The recipient is:****Jeff Whiting • Saskatoon • Para-Nordic Ski****Nominated by Saskatchewan Ski Association**

Jeff Whiting has coached many athletes to high profile competitions, such as the Paralympic Games, the World Cup, and IPC World Cups over the past 23 years. He has coached and guided an athlete to win a silver and bronze medal at the Paralympic Games, 3 World Championship medals, 7 World Cup medals, and a ski medal at the International Paralympic Committee World Championships. He has also received many personal awards, some of which include the SASKI Award of Merit, the Canadian Wheelchair Sports Association Volunteer of the Year award, and the Olympic Legacy & Petro Canada Coaching Fund award. Jeff supports all Para-Nordic development through promotion of excellence amongst athletes with disabilities, their coaches, and the organizations that represent them. Jeff generously gives back to coaching as a mentor and an NCCP Learning Facilitator.

The other nominees were:**Kevin Gawletz • Rosetown • Volleyball****Nominated by Saskatchewan Volleyball Association**

For the past 31 years, Kevin Gawletz has been coaching volleyball in Saskatchewan. Under his leadership, the Rosetown Central High School Girls Volleyball Team has competed at 14 provincial volleyball championships, earning one gold, four silver and one bronze medal. Eleven of his players have earned spots on the Saskatchewan Provincial Volleyball Team; five of which went on to compete at the CIS level in university. His Rosetown Club Volleyball Team has also earned three silver medals at the Saskatchewan Volleyball Association's Club Provincial Championships. For 15 years, he has organized a Rosetown volleyball development camp, and outside of Rosetown's volleyball program, Gawletz has been a guest coach for Team Saskatchewan at the 1989 Jeux Canada Games and for the Saskatchewan Midget Girls Team in 1999. In recognition of his achievements, Gawletz received the 2011 Saskatchewan Physical

Education Association Local Initiative Award, the 2010 Rivers West District Coach of the Year Award, the 2009 Saskatchewan High School Athletic Association's Service Award, the 2005 West Central Outstanding Coach Award, and the 2003 West Central District Service Award.

Ralph Ibanez • Saskatoon • Judo

Nominated by Judo Saskatchewan

Ralph Ibanez has been one of the main coaching forces in Judo Saskatchewan for the past 25 years. He began coaching in Chile, and later started his judo coaching career with the Saskatoon YMCA, U of S Judo Club, Field House Judo Club, Genki Judo Club, and Anielo's Judo Club. He has been a certified NCCP Level Three Judo Coach since 2002. He has coached Junior and Senior National Champions from across Canada, and has also coached National silver and bronze medalists for the Canada Winter Games, U17 Nationals, and U20 Nationals. Ralph's knowledge of international trends at the developmental and the high performance level make him one of the top coaches in Saskatchewan and in Canada.

Leo Liendo • Saskatoon • Tennis

Nominated by Tennis Saskatchewan

Leo Liendo has been coaching tennis in Saskatoon for the past 25 years. He owns the Lakewood Indoor Tennis Centre where he provides instruction to some of Saskatchewan's best high performance tennis athletes and recreation players, even providing free tennis to children ages 4-5 and providing job opportunities for high performance athletes. He was Team Saskatchewan's Head Coach at the 2007, 2009 and 2011 Western Canada Summer Games, the 2004 Saskatchewan Summer Games and the Tennis Canada Junior Nationals since 2005. He is also a certified wheelchair tennis coach, serving as Tennis Canada's head women's team coach at the 2009 World Team Cup in Turkey and as their National Team Touring Coach from 2004-2011. One of his athletes held Team Canada status between 2007 and 2010, another has earned a tennis scholarship to Presbyterian College in the United States, and his other players have earned numerous provincial and national awards, including medals at the Tennis Canada National Wheelchair Doubles Championships and Western Canada Games. Liendo is also a four-time recipient of the Tennis Canada Coaching Excellence Award.

Ian Mitchell • Regina • Rowing

Nominated by Saskatchewan Rowing Association

Ian Mitchell has served as the head coach for the Provincial Rowing Team, the program director for the Regina Rowing Club, a teacher in the Learn to Row Clinic, and as VP of High Performance for the Saskatchewan Rowing Association. He has previously been named the Volunteer Coach of the Year, Coach of the Year, and Member of the Year. He has helped rowers and rowing teams to win gold and silver medals at Canada Cup National competitions, Canadian Secondary School Championships, CanaMex International Junior Regattas, and Jeux Canada Games. Ian has also planned many training camps, selection camps, and provincial training camps for his athletes.

Rick Petrucha • Saskatoon • Athletics

Nominated by Saskatchewan Athletics

For 29 years, Rick Petrucha has been an athletics coach in Saskatchewan, working alongside his wife, Susanne, instructing athletes at the University of Saskatchewan and the Riversdale Athletics Club. Petrucha, a NCCP Level 3 certified coach, was named the 2003 Sask Athletics Coach of the Year and the 1995 Bob Adams Foundation Coach of the Year. His athletes have earned numerous awards, including setting several provincial indoor and outdoor Native and Open and Canadian indoor and outdoor pole vault records; 29 CIS medals; 30 junior national championship medals; four national youth championship medals; 12 senior national championship medals; eight international senior level medals; and six international junior level medals. Petrucha's athletes have also competed at the Olympic Games; World Championships; North American, Pan Am Juniors; and Canada Summer Games, to name a few. One of his most well-known athletes is Kelsie Hendry, who earned bronze at the 2010 Commonwealth Games placed 24th at the 2011 IAAF World Outdoor Championships, and set several provincial, Canada West, CIS and national senior indoor and outdoor women's pole vault records.

Edward Watson • Eston • Hockey

Nominated by Saskatchewan Hockey Association

Edward Watson works in a patient and kind way to help kids to skate, pass, carry the puck and be part of a team. He has been the Assistant Coach of Sask First Zone 7 Team for three years, has coached the Elrose Female Midget team to the Provincial Championship, and coached the Elrose Bantam Boys team to the League Championship. Edward is a dedicated individual with nothing but the betterment of each child he coaches in the forefront of his mind.

COACH DEDICATION AWARD – FEMALE:

The recipient is:

Natalie Good • Regina • Synchro

Nominated by Synchro Sask

For the past 25 years, Natalie Good has worked as a synchronized swimming coach in Regina. She achieved her Level 3 NCCP coaching certification in 2001, and she works part-time as a Synchro Saskatchewan High Performance Club Coach, training athletes from Regina, Saskatoon and Estevan. She also works with masters athletes at the Synchro Regina club. She is a four-time recipient of Synchro Regina's Coach of the Year Award, and she has received several Synchro Saskatchewan awards, including the Weiner Sisters Tier 1-5 Coaching Recognition Award (2009-2010), Sadie Caulder Knight Award (2006-2007), and Coach of the Year Award (1999). Since Good joined Synchro Regina as a Head Coach and Manager in the 1990s, the program has grown from five athletes to more than 60 swimmers. She is extremely dedicated to her sport, swimmers, parents and the club. Good recognizes the importance of developing all levels of the sport including grassroots, recreational and elite competitions, and ensuring that each young girl and boy will find her or his place in the sport.

OFFICIAL AWARD – MALE:

The recipient is:

Brian Fiori • Regina • Rowing

Nominated by Saskatchewan Rowing Association

Brian Fiori has been a part of the Saskatchewan Rowing Association and Rowing Canada Aviron for over 14 years, and is an RCA certified umpire, Chief umpire, trainer, instructor, evaluator, and a FISA certified umpire. He has also had the privilege of serving as an umpire for competitions across Canada, and also across the globe, including the Pan Am Games in Mexico and the World Cup in Spain. Brian has demonstrated a remarkable commitment to the sport of rowing and to officiating in sport.

The other nominee:

Dan Brisbin • Saskatoon • Cross Country Ski

Nominated by Saskatchewan Ski Association

Dan began officiating at the local level at weekly races and Saskatoon Nordic Ski Club (SNSC) organized SaskCup races. He traveled to Canmore, Alberta to attain higher certification, because Officials course conductors certification wasn't available in the province. He has worked as a CCC Divisional TD at 3 CCS and 1 Cross Country Alberta (CCA Provincial races series races from 2010 to 2011. This upcoming season he will serve as TD for two SaskCup events, one Alberta Cup event and as Assistant TD at a FIS sanctioned Norman event, the World Junior/Under 23 Canadian team selection races. He has since 2007 worked several Alberta Cups, Norams, Western Championship and National Championships and the Canada Winter Games in Halifax in 2011. He was chosen to work at three World Cup events in Canmore and Callaghan Valley and the 2010 Olympic Winter Games. He is also on the roster to officiate at a Dec. 2012 World Cup race. Dan now has the qualifications to offer officials courses in the province to others, to increase the level of certified officials in the province. He has also worked to get some of the SaskCup races CCC sanctioned. He has also organized several training camps for Saskatchewan athletes with the CCC Western High Performance Coordinator James Cunningham.

OFFICIAL AWARD - FEMALE:

The recipient is:

Nancy Brawley • Saskatoon • Diving

Nominated by Dive Sask

Nancy Brawley has been a diving official for more than 25 years, officiating in competitions in Saskatchewan, Canada and the world. She has been a FINA level official (the highest level diving officials can obtain) for over 20 years. She is the current Diving Canada Officials Program Coordinator (where she is responsible for developing and mentoring Canada's diving officials) and head of the Rule Committee that supervises the sport's technical requirements. In 2011, Brawley judged several diving competitions, including the World Championships in Shanghai, China; the USA FINA Grand Prix in Fort Lauderdale, Florida; the Canada FINA

Grand Prix in Montreal; the FINA World Series in Guanajuato, Mexico; the Russia FINA Grand Prix in Penza, Russia; and the CAMO International in Montreal. She has also been selected to judge the diving events at the 2012 Olympic Summer Games in London, England. In Saskatchewan, Brawley is a member of the Saskatoon Diving Club's Board of Directors, and she works closely with local officials to help them succeed in the field. Outside of officiating, she was Team Canada's Team Manager for eight years and Team Leader at the 2004 and 2008 Olympic Summer Games.

The other nominees were:

Brenda O'Connor • Saskatoon • Athletics

Nominated by Saskatchewan Athletics

Brenda O'Connor has 30 years officiating experience with Saskatchewan Athletics. She has officiated at the local, national and international level. At every National competition she attends she attends officiating seminars in the areas of Area Referee, Combined Events, Throws, Vertical Jumps, Horizontal Jumps, Photo & Umpires. At the IAAF World Championships in 2001 and Pan Am Games in 1999 she attended seminars and question and answer sessions with International Technical Officials (ITO). She was previously awarded the Bob Adams Foundation Award for Excellence, presented for outstanding work as an official by her peers in 1987.

Karen Howard • Regina • Figure Skating

Nominated by Skate Canada - Saskatchewan

Karen Howard has served and contributed to Skate Canada in Saskatchewan and beyond for over 30 years. She has received the Skate Canada - Saskatchewan Coaches' Choice Award, the Skate Canada Section Officials Award, and the 25 Years Officials' Pin. She has also had the privilege of officiating sport across Canada in many competitions, as well as for competitions in both France and Taipei. Karen has even received warm regards and recommendation from a High Performance Manager of Skate Canada, stating that Karen exhibits an uncompromising dedication to the principles of fair play while maintaining positive and professional deportment.

Karen Swanson • Lumsden • Gymnastics

Nominated by Gymnastics Saskatchewan

Karen has been a national level judge for the past 17 years. She was the provincial judging chair from 2004 until September 2011. She coordinates all the certification courses and technical regulations for 150 volunteer officials in men's, women's, rhythmic and trampoline gymnastics in the provinces, acts as a mentor to provincial level judges and ensures that all competitions sanctioned by Gym Sask have the appropriate judging panels. Karen has been a member of Gym Sask Women's Technical Committee since 2004. She has acted as the technical/officials director for: 2007 Gymnastics Canada National Championships Organizing Committee, Sask Winter Games 2010, Technical Chair Western Canadian Championships 2010, Team Sask Manager Western Canadian Champions-BC, Organizing Committee of many Club Invitational Competitions, Organizing Committee 1996 and 2001 Provincial Championships and Organizing Committee 1996 Western Canadian Championships. She has been previously recognized for the Gym Sask Volunteer of the Year award in 2006, Gym Sask Official of the Year and Investors Group Volunteer award in 2008.

**Margot Weiner • Saskatoon • Synchro
Nominated by Synchro Sask**

Margot Weiner, is a regular official at almost every provincial meet (three to four a year). She has also attended Divisional and National meets for which she was chosen by Synchro Canada. She has received recognition from Synchro Saskatchewan in the past as a recipient of the Volunteer of the Year award in 1998, an Honorary Service Award in 1999, a Special Merit Volunteer Service Award in 2000, a Lifetime Member Award in 2008 and Synchro Canada Certificate of Merit Award in 2010.