

For immediate release

January 25, 2010

Province's amateur athletes, volunteers and coaches to be recognized at Saskatchewan Sport Awards

Sask Sport Inc. today announced the finalists and recipients for the Saskatchewan Sport Awards, which include the 2009 Sask Sport Inc. Athlete of the Year Awards, Saskatchewan Coaching Awards, and Saskatchewan Volunteer Recognition Awards. The Saskatchewan Sport Awards are held annually by Sask Sport Inc. to celebrate the outstanding achievements of Saskatchewan amateur athletes and coaches as well as the generous individuals who volunteer their time and talents to improve amateur sport in the province. This year, the committee received 80 nominations for the various award categories.

“Our province is home to many talented athletes, coaches, officials, and volunteers who have made outstanding accomplishments over the last year at the provincial, national, and international levels in sport. Sask Sport Inc. is pleased to honour the finalists and recipients of these awards at the annual Saskatchewan Sport Awards,” says Dale Holmes, 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. Three finalists are selected for each category. The volunteer Presidents of the Provincial Sport Governing Bodies and the Saskatchewan sports media will vote to select the recipient in each category. Votes will be compiled and audited by The Virtus Group and the recipients will be declared at the awards dinner.

The finalists for the Athlete of the Year Awards are:

Master:

- **Morrison Women's Curling Team, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan Curling Association**
- **Ken Orr, Churchbridge, Saskatchewan Cycling Association**
- **Fiona Vincent, Regina, Canoe Kayak Saskatchewan**

Youth Male:

- **James Leakos, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan Athletics**
- **Sam Valentine, Saskatoon, Dive Sask**
- **Shylo Wolff, Saskatoon, Canoe Kayak Saskatchewan**

Youth Female:

- **Kendra Chernoff, Saskatoon, Swim Saskatchewan Inc.**
- **Miranda Seifert, Regina, Saskatchewan Taekwon-Do Federation International Inc.**
- **Morgan Waldo, Moose Jaw, Alpine Saskatchewan**

Male:

- **Jeff Adamson, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan Amateur Wrestling Association**
- **Lucas Makowsky, Regina, Saskatchewan Speed Skating Association**
- **Simon Bairu, Regina, Saskatchewan Athletics**

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Female:

- **Jillian Gallays, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan Amateur Wrestling Association**
- **Brianne Theisen, Humboldt, Saskatchewan Athletics**
- **Trista Neilly, Saskatoon, Canoe Kayak Saskatchewan**

Team:

- **2009 Canada Summer Games Canoe/Kayak Team, Regina, Canoe Kayak Saskatchewan**
- **2009 Women's Track and Field Team, Saskatoon, Huskie Athletics**
- **Renae Barks and Kira Nyhus-Runtz, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan Rowing Association**

Three Volunteer Recognition Award recipients have been selected, as well as one Coach of the Year Award recipient and two Coach Dedication Award recipients.

The recipients of the Volunteer Recognition Award are:

- **Peter Brook, Prince Albert, Saskatchewan Rowing Association**
- **Dr. Marlys Misfeldt, Saskatoon, Sport Medicine and Science Council of Saskatchewan**
- **Judy Warick, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan Athletics**

The recipient of the Coach of the Year Award is:

- **John Wetzstein, Regina, Saskatchewan Rowing Association**

The recipients of the Coach Dedication Awards are:

- **Dale Hazell, Saskatoon, Skate Canada – Saskatchewan**
- **Laurie Wachs, Saskatoon, Synchro Saskatchewan**

The awards will be presented on Thursday, March 25, 2010 at the Conexus Arts Centre in Regina. Tickets for the evening are \$50 each or \$400 for a table. To purchase tickets, contact Sask Sport Inc. at (306) 975-0800 in Saskatoon or (306) 780-9300 in Regina.

Biographies of the Athlete of the Year Award finalists and nominees are attached, as well as biographies of the recipients of the volunteer and coaching awards. Special thanks to the award sponsors: the Canadian Sport Centre Saskatchewan, the Coaches Association of Saskatchewan, Global TV, McMaster Photographers, and Saskatchewan Lotteries.

2009 SASKATCHEWAN SPORT AWARDS BIOGRAPHIES

Master Athlete of the Year Award

FINALISTS

Morrison Women's Curling Team, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan Curling Association

The team of skip Lenore (Lee) Morrison, third Bernice Van Der Velden, second Peggy Hergott, and lead Marg Griffiths, captured the provincial championship title at the 2009 Master Women's Provincial Curling Championships. This was Skip Lee Morrison's sixth provincial championship. The team then moved on to win the 2009 Dundee Canadian Master Women's Curling Championship. IN recognition of their outstanding accomplishment, the team was inducted in 2009 into the SCA Legends Curling Honour Roll.

Ken Orr, Churchbridge, Saskatchewan Cycling Association

Orr, 75, competed at the 2009 World Master Championships, where he won silver in the sprint event, bronze in the 2000m individual pursuit, and silver in the 500m individual pursuit. At the 2009 World Master Games, Orr won three gold medals in the 5km scratch race, 2000m pursuit, and time trial events. He also won a silver medal in both the 19km individual time trial and matched sprints at the Games. In Saskatchewan, Orr won gold medals in the 2009 Provincial Mountain Bike, Provincial 15km Individual Time Trial, and Provincial Road Race.

Fiona Vincent, Regina, Canoe Kayak Saskatchewan

Vincent, 45, recently recovered from a ruptured ligament to win two gold medals at the 2009 Canadian Marathon Canoe Nationals in the C-2 20 km Mixed and Women's events. She competed at the 2009 World Master Games, where she won a gold and bronze medal in the K-2 21km Mixed and Women's marathon events. Vincent also won seven gold medals at the Games in the sprint category in the K-2 and K-4 Mixed 1000m, the K-2 and K-4 Mixed 500m, the K-2 and K-4 Mixed 200m, and the K-1 Women's 500m, as well as a silver medal in the K-1 Women's 200m race. She is the president of Canoe Kayak Saskatchewan.

OTHER NOMINEES

Michelle Carr, Regina, Saskatchewan Rowing Association

Carr, 54, finished second in the 2x race and fourth in the 4x race at the 2009 Regina Sprints. At the 2009 Canadian Masters National, where she partnered with her daughter Andrea in the lightweight double category, Carr won two gold medals in the Lightweight 2x and Lightweight 4x, and also won bronze in the 2x event. Carr also won in her age category at the 2009 Queen City Marathon.

Doug Renwick, Clavet, Saskatchewan Athletics

Renwick, 67, was the provincial champion at the Saskatchewan Athletics Outdoor Provincial Championships in the 2000m steeplechase. He had an outstanding performance at 2009 World Master Games, where he placed second in both pole vault and the 4 x 400m relay, third in the 400m race, fourth in both the 800m race and the pentathlon, and fifth in both the 1500m race and the 2000m steeple chase. He also placed eight in the 5000m. At the Canadian Masters Championship, he finished first in pole vault, second in 100m hurdles, 300m hurdles, 800m, 1500m, 2000m steeplechase, and pentathlon, as well as third in the 200m.

Youth Male Athlete of the Year Award

FINALISTS

James Leakos, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan Athletics

Leakos, 17, competed in the 2009 NACAC Cross Country Championships where he placed eighth in the 6km Junior Men's race and helped his team to place second overall. He won gold at the Saskatchewan Athletics Provincial Outdoor Championships in the 5km Junior Men, 800m, and 1500m races, and also captured first place at the Saskatchewan High School Cross Country Provincial Championships in the 6km Senior Boys race. Leakos won gold at the 2009 Sask Age Class Cross Country Championships in the 8km Junior Men's race, which qualified him to represent Saskatchewan at the 2009 Canadian Cross Country Championships, where he won a bronze medal in the 8km Junior Men's race and helped Team Saskatchewan to win silver. His outstanding results qualified him to attend the 2010 World Cross Country Championships and the 2010 NACAC Cross Country Championships. Leakos received the 2009 Bob Adams Foundation Award for Juvenile Male Track Athlete of the Year.

Sam Valentine, Saskatoon, Dive Sask

Valentine, 14, won gold in the 1m, 3m, and platform events at the 2009 Western Canadian Championships. At the 2009 Sting Meet, he won gold in both the 1m and platform events. Valentine received a perfect ten on the platform at the 2009 Age Group Nationals and placed third in 3m, fourth in 1m, and fifth in platform. He won a silver and bronze medal at both the Polar Bear International Meet and the CAMO international meet, and earned a gold and silver medal at the John Dickinson Meet. In 2009, he was a member of Team Saskatchewan at the Canada Summer Games and attended a training camp in China with the Junior National Team. No other Saskatchewan athlete holds as many current records as Valentine.

Shylo Wolff, Saskatoon, Canoe Kayak Saskatchewan

Wolff, 18, competed at the 2009 Canada Summer Games where he won a bronze medal. At the Canadian National Championships, he received a gold medal for the K2 1000m as well as three silver medals in the K1 200m, 500m, and 1000m. Wolff won four silver medals at the Lake Placid International Regatta, and was also a Canadian team member at the Junior World Championships. He was recognized as the 2009 Saskatchewan Racing Canoe Club Outstanding Male Athlete of the Year for the fourth consecutive year. In 2009, he was named to the National Under 23 Development Team after three years as a member of the National Junior Development Team.

OTHER NOMINEES

Cole Benkic, Saskatoon, Swim Saskatchewan Inc.

Benkic, 15, placed seventh in both the 100m fly and the 200m individual medley at the 2009 Western Canadian Championships. At the 2009 Age Group Championships, he won gold in the 200m fly, silver in the 100m fly, and placed fourth in the 50m fly, breaking provincial records in his events. Benkic had two twelfth place finishes at the 2009 Canada Summer Games and finished in fourteenth at the 2009 Paul Bergen International. He broke nine provincial records during the 2009 season, including three short course records. He has been named to the National Prospects team, and participated in the 2009 Canada Cup as part of Team Canada.

William Brooke, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan Fencing Association

Brooke, 16, placed fifth at the 2009 Western Championships at the senior level and sixth at the junior level. At the Cadet/Junior Nationals, he won a silver medal and also placed twelfth in his events. Brooke captured first place in his events at CSC #1 and third place in his events at CSC #2 at the cadet level. He

is ranked number one in Saskatchewan for Cadet Men's Epee. He is also ranked first on the Domestic National list, and ranked third on the national High Performance list.

Joe De Ciman, Regina, Basketball Saskatchewan Inc.

De Ciman, 15, competed at the 2009 Canada Summer games, where he helped his team to finish seventh with an average of 9.2 points per game. At the FIBA America's U16 Championships, De Ciman had 16 points and 19 rebounds over the five games played and helped his team to win a bronze medal. His outstanding results qualified him for the U17 World FIBA Championships in 2010. De Ciman was also selected for the 2008-09 Center for Performance group.

Tanner Spencer, Craik, Saskatchewan Baseball Association

Spencer, 15, competed at the 2009 Bantam Provincials 15U where his team placed first and advanced to Nationals. At the Baseball Canada National Championship, Spencer was named the tournament's MVP after helping his team finish in fifth by pitching six innings with one earned run and 12 strikeouts. Spencer also pitched in the 2009 Baseball Canada Cup, and was named to Team Canada Junior National Team tryouts for outstanding performance. At the Team Canada Tryouts, he pitched in three games and did not give up an earned run. He also pitched at the Team Saskatchewan Tryouts for the Canada Games and during the Team Saskatchewan Exhibition. He has an 88mph fast ball and has struck seven hitters out in one game. Spencer has been invited to the 2010 Team Canada spring tryouts.

Youth Female Athlete of the Year Award

FINALISTS

Kendra Chernoff, Saskatoon, Swim Saskatchewan Inc.

Chernoff, 18, broke 37 provincial records and three national records in 2009. At the 2009 Junior Pan Pacific Swimming Championships, she helped her team win silver in the 4 x 100 medley relay, won an individual bronze in the 100m fly, and broke the 200m fly provincial record. At the Western Canadian Championships, Chernoff won three gold medals in her fly events and broke the national 100m fly record twice. She broke the NAT SOpen record and was crowned National Champion at the Spring Nationals, where she also won a gold medal in 100m fly and placed fifth in the 200m fly. At Summer Nationals, Chernoff placed first in the 50m fly, second in the 100m fly, and fourth in the 200m fly, and also broke the national LC open record. She won two gold medals and one silver medal at the 2009 Canada Summer Games, and was named Female Team Captain. On the international stage, Chernoff won gold in the 100m fly and bronze in the 200m fly at the 2009 Tri Nations Cup, as well as silver in the 100m fly and bronze in both the 200m fly and 50m fly at the British Grand Prix.

Miranda Seifert, Regina, Saskatchewan Taekwon-Do Federation International Inc.

Seifert, 15, won a gold medal in sparring and a silver medal in patterns at the 2009 Provincial Championships. She also won gold in sparring at both the 2009 Sask Cup and the Canadian National Championships. She won bronze at the Western Canadian Championships and at the Can AM Championships, results that qualified her to be on the national team. At the 2009 World Championships, Seifert was awarded a bronze medal for sparring.

Morgan Waldo, Moose Jaw, Alpine Saskatchewan

Waldo, 18, was named the Top Female and won the province-wide BC and Miele Alberta Cup Series based on her 2008-09 season performance. Competing in the Miele Alberta Cup Series in the 2009 season, Waldo placed first in Slalom, first in downhill, and third in Giant Slalom. Also part of the 2009 series, she finished first in three Giant Slalom events at Panorama, where she competed with 48

participants in each event. She was invited to train and race with the Alberta Ski Team for the 2009-10 season, and also placed in the top 10 at the NorAm downhill training runs.

OTHER NOMINEES

Renaë Barks, Regina, Saskatchewan Rowing Association

Barks, 17, won gold in both the Junior Women's 2x and 4x events at the 2009 Regina Sprints. At the 2009 Alberta open, she placed first in the 2x and 4x races, and she also captured first at the 2009 Prairie Championships in the Senior Women's 2x, 4x, and 4- races. At the 2009 Canada Summer Games, she won gold in the 2x race, bronze in the 4x event and bronze in the 8+ event. At the 2009 National Rowing Championships, where she competed against women in higher age categories, Barks won the gold medal in the Junior Women's 1x event and qualified for the Junior National Team Camp in 2010.

Julia Garnet, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan Cycling Association

Garnet, 17, placed first at the 2009 National Junior Time Trial, winning her event by a margin of 40 seconds. Her results qualified her to participate in the Junior Worlds. She placed fourth at the 2009 National Junior Road Race, and sixth at the 2009 Canada Summer Games in the Individual Time Trial. On the world stage, she placed nineteenth of 35 competitors at the 2009 Junior World Road Championships Time Trial. Garnet is the provincial Road Race and the provincial 15km Individual Time Trial Senior Women's Champion.

Megan Gibson, Regina, Canoe Kayak Saskatchewan

Gibson, 17, won a silver medal in the Junior Women's K1 500m race and placed seventh in the K1 1000m race at the 2009 National Team Trials, results that qualified her for the Canadian Junior World Team. At the 2009 Canada Summer Games, Gibson was awarded gold in the K2 200m race and bronze in the K2 500m race, and also placed fourth in the K1 200m event. She also won a gold medal at the Lake Placid International Regatta in the K4 500m race, and placed eighth at the Junior World Championships in the K4 500m, which qualified her to be a member on the national team. At the Canadian National Championships, she won silver in both the Juvenile Women's K1 200m and K2 200m, as well as bronze in both the Juvenile Women's K1 500m and Senior Women War Canoe events. Her achievements qualified her for the Under 23 National Development Team.

Megan Gurski, Saskatoon, Softball Saskatchewan

Gurski, 15, and her team won gold at the 2009 Bantam A Girls Provincial Championship. Her accomplishment qualified her for the 2009 Western Canadians, where she and her team again captured gold, and Gurski received three Player of the Game Awards for her outstanding performances. At the 2009 Canadian Championship, Gurski and her team placed fifth and Gurski received the award for All-Star Pitcher. Due to her accomplishments, Gurski was selected to compete in the inaugural Easton Foundation Youth World Cup where Team Canada finished in fifth place out of twelve teams representing twelve countries.

Kaylee Halvorson, Regina, Basketball Saskatchewan Inc.

Halvorson, 15, competed in the 2009 FIBA Americas U16 Championship where she and her team won silver, a standing that qualified her for the U17 Worlds in 2010. At the 2009 Canada Summer Games, Halvorson and her team placed ninth. Halvorson won the Silver Medal Aggregate Award at the 2009 Regina High School Track and Field City Championships, as well as the Gold Medal Aggregate Award at the Saskatchewan High School Track and Field Provincial Championships.

Zoe Hanson, Regina, Saskatchewan Racquetball Association

Hanson, 15, is ranked as thirteenth top junior female racquetball athlete in Canada. At the 2009 Junior National Racquetball Championships, she won silver in both her singles and doubles events, which

qualified her to compete at the World Racquetball Championships. She captured bronze in doubles and finished ninth in singles at the 2009 Junior World Racquetball Championships. Outside of racquetball, Hanson also competed in the 2009 Canadian Sprint Canoe/Kayak Championships, where she helped her team win gold in the K-4 1000m, bronze in the Senior Women C-15 500m, and finished fifth in the Juvenile Women K-4 500m. She was ranked eighth out of 14 at the 2009 Canada Summer Games Canoe/Kayak Team Trials. Hanson was named the 2009 Wascana Racing Canoe Club Midget Female Athlete of the Year.

Kiera West, Regina, Saskatchewan Baton Twirling Association

West, 14, is a veteran of four National Baton Teams. At the 2009 Provincial Championship, she won four gold medals, two silver medals, and one bronze medal. She also had outstanding accomplishments on the national level, winning four gold medals, two silver medals, and one bronze medal at the 2009 Canadian Championships. Her results qualified her to compete at the 2009 International Cup, where she finished fourth in one event and fifth in two events, and was the highest ranked Canadian athlete at the competition. She was named the 2009 Saskatchewan Baton Twirling Association's Junior Athlete of the Year for the fourth consecutive year, as well as the Canadian Baton Twirling Federation's Junior Athlete of the Year for the second time.

Michelle Young, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan Athletics

Young, 16, broke three Saskatchewan Athletics Native Juvenile Records in 2009, including a record that has stood since 1982. At the 2009 Spring Combined Events, she placed second in 400m hurdles and met the World Youth Championship Standard with her results. She placed first at the 2009 Calgary Track and Field (CALTAF) Track Classic and won a silver medal in 400m hurdles at the 2009 Canada Summer Games. At the 2009 Legion Canadian Youth Track and Field Championships, Young won gold in 100m hurdles and bronze in 400m hurdles. She placed fourteenth overall at the 2009 IAAF World Youth Track and Field Championships, where she competed with 21 participants from 17 countries. Young was the 2009 recipient of the Bob Adams Foundation Award for Juvenile Female Track Athlete of the Year.

Male Athlete of the Year Award

FINALISTS

Jeff Adamson, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan Amateur Wrestling Association

Adamson, 24, won gold at the 2009 Golden Bear Open. He also won gold at both the 2009 Huskie Open and the 2009 Calgary Dino Invitational. He also placed fourth at the 2009 Senior Nationals. On the international stage, he placed third at the Cerra Palado International competition and finished first at the Hargobind International event. Adamson was named the 2009 Saskatchewan Wrestling Senior Male Athlete of the year.

Lucas Makowsky, Calgary, Saskatchewan Speed Skating Association

Makowsky, 22, finished second at the 2009 World Cup #3 in the 1500m speed skate. He also placed seventh in 5000m and eighth in 1500m at World Cup #7; seventh in 10,000m at World Cup #8; eleventh in 5000m and thirteenth in 1500m at World Cup #1; eighth in 1500m, seventeenth in 5000m, and eighth in Team Pursuit at World Cup #2; tenth in 1500m, seventeenth in 4000m, and second in Team Pursuit at World Cup #4; eighth in 1500m and third in Team Pursuit at World Cup #5; and tenth in 10,000m at World Cup #3. At the World All-Around Championship, Makowsky placed seventeenth of 24 participants. He achieved top 15 performances in all his events at the 2009 World Single Distance Championships. He also won the Overall World Cup Title in Team Pursuit for 2008-09. Makowsky was ranked first in Canada in the 5000m and 10000m, as well as second in the 1500m for the 2008-09 season.

Simon Bairu, Portland, Saskatchewan Athletics

Bairu, 26, won gold in the 5000m at the 2009 National Senior Championships. He also won gold at the 2009 Canadian 10km Championships, which qualified him to attend the Chiba Ekiden Race Relay. For the seventh time in eight years, Bairu finished first at the 2009 Canadian Cross Country Championships. His outstanding results qualified him to compete at the 2010 World XC Championships and the 2010 NACAC XC Championships. Bairu placed seventh overall and fourth in his age group at the 2009 Beach to Beacon 10km competition, where he competed with 5,628 other athletes. He finished second overall at the 2009 Payton Jordan Cardinal Invitational, and placed tenth at the Fortis City-Pier-City Half Marathon. Bairu was named the 2009 Saskatchewan Athletics Senior Male Athlete of the Year. In 2009, he ranked forty-third in the world by IAAF for the 10,000m.

OTHER NOMINEES**Pete Andrews, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan Wheelchair Sports Association**

Andrews, 44, won a gold medal at the 2009 Canadian Adapted Waterski Championships. He moved on to compete internationally at the 2009 IWSF Disabled World Water Ski Championships, where he placed first in the two men jump with a new world record of 19.3m. Andrews was named the 2009 Sask Sport Athlete of the Month for September.

Corey Blatchford, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan Tennis Association

Blatchford, 35, won a gold medal in doubles and a silver medal in singles at the 2009 Birmingham National Wheelchair Tennis Championships. He was the runner up for singles and the winner for doubles at the 2009 PoCoMo Wheelchair Tennis Classic. He was a winner doubles and had a top four placing in singles at the Windsor Classic Indoor Games. He was part of Team Canada that placed fourth at the Invacare World Team Cup. At the US Open USTA Wheelchair Tennis Championships, Blatchford finished in the top 16 in both singles and doubles. In 2009, he participated in the Men's Open International Tennis Federation Tournaments, consistently finishing in the top 16 in singles and top four in doubles. On the International Tennis Federation rankings, he had a personal best ranking of 35 in singles in May 2009 and of 34 in doubles in July 2009.

Arnold Boldt, Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan Cycling Association

Boldt, 52, finished first at the 2009 LC3-4 National Road Race, which qualified him to compete at the 2010 World's Para-Cycling Road Race. He also placed fourth at the 2009 LC3-4 National Time Trials. At the World's Para-Cycling Time Trial, Boldt placed thirteenth. He finished ninth at the World's Para-Cycling Road Race.

Steven DaSilva, Saskatoon, Huskie Athletics/ University of Saskatchewan

DaSilva, 22, had an outstanding 2008-09 season as a rookie forward on the Huskie Men's hockey team. He led Canada West in scoring with 41 points in 26 regular season games, and helped his team finish second at the 2009 CIS Men's Hockey Playoffs. In recognition of his accomplishments, he was named 2009 Canada West First Team All-Star, Canada West All-Freshman, Canada West Rookie of the Year, Canada West leading scorer, Canada West MVP, CIS Rookie of the Year, CIS First Team All-Canadian and CIS All-Freshman. DaSilva is the first rookie to be named MVP at the Canada West level. Due to his outstanding season, DaSilva was selected to play with Team Canada at the 2009 World Universiade, where he helped Team Canada finish second, and was the lead scorer for the team with five goals and five assists.

Scott Dudiak, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan Fencing Association

Dudiak, 20, captured first place in both the Junior and Senior Men's foil at the 2009 Western Canadian Championships. He placed third at the 2009 Cadet and Junior Nationals and finished fifth at the Senior

Nationals Men's Foil. At the 2009 Junior World Championships, Dudiak finished forty-seventh of 114 competitors in the Junior Men's foil. He also competed at the 2009 Senior World Cup, where he placed twenty-seventh of 65 participants.

Liam Folk, Regina, Canoe Kayak Saskatchewan

Folk, 21, participated in the 2009 Canadian National Championships, earning third place in the Junior Men's C1 1000m and fifth place in the C1 500m. He also competed at the 2009 Canada Summer Games where he won bronze medals in both the C2 500m and C2 1000m races, placed fourth in the C1 200m, and finished fifth in the C1 1500m and C4 1000m races.

Dylan Kemp, Rosetown, Football Saskatchewan

Kemp, 18, received the Outstanding Linebacker Award at the 2009 Senior Bowl and also received the Rookie Linebacker Award at the 2009 Prairie Football Conference, where his team captured the championship title. His team also won the 2009 Football Canada Cup, and Kemp placed first in the Cup's Agility Circuit during the Skills Competition. He finished the season with 13 tackles, 11 assisted tackles, half a quarterback sack, and one batted ball.

Colin Mohr, Regina, Saskatchewan Racquetball Association

Mohr, 19, won gold at the 2009 Canadian Junior Racquetball Championships in the 18 and under singles event, and placed fourth 18 and under in doubles, eleventh in Men's Open singles, and thirteenth in Men's Open Doubles. His accomplishments qualified him to compete at the World Junior Racquetball Championships, where he captured bronze in doubles and placed fifth in singles. Mohr also won gold in singles at the 2009 Provincial Junior Racquetball Championships. He is ranked sixteenth in Canada.

Dustin Molleken, Regina, Saskatchewan Baseball Association

Molleken, 25, helped Team Canada win a bronze medal at the 2009 World Cup of Baseball, pitching two scoreless innings during the bronze medal game. During the tournament, Molleken had an earned run average of 0.00. He led the team in tournament appearances with six relief appearances, and also recorded one win and no losses. He currently plays in the Pittsburgh Pirates system.

Todd Parker, Regina, Saskatchewan Karate Association

Parker, 25, won two silver medals at the 2009 Saskatchewan Karate Association Provincial Spring Tournament. At the 2009 CTKF National Karate Championships, he earned two gold medals in both kumite and fukugo and one silver medal in kata. Internationally, Parker won two bronze medals at the XV Pan-American Traditional Karate Championships in Brazil. He also placed seventh overall at the fifth Traditional Karate ITKF World Cup.

Scott Perras, Canmore, Biathlon Saskatchewan

Perras, 26, finished first in the 10km sprint at the 2009 Canadian National Championships and qualified for the National team. He went on to compete at the 2009 World Cup #2 in the 20km individual event, placing 32 of 129 participants, the top Canadian athlete in the event. He also competed at the World Cup #5 in the 10km sprint, placing 43 of 122 athletes. He was the second top Canadian at the 2009 Europa Cup, where he placed 32 in his event and qualified for the World Cup. At the 2009 World Championships, Perras finished 82 out of 125 competitors. He was also a member of the relay team that captured seventh place at the Mens 4x7.5 Relay in Austria, the best relay result ever for Canada.

Ed Wallace, Nipawin, Special Olympics Saskatchewan

Wallace, 41, won four medals at the 2009 National Games for snowshoeing. His accomplishments qualified him for the 2009 Special Olympic World Winter Games where he won gold in the 4x100 relay, and silver in the 100m race and silver in the 200m race. Due to his outstanding performances, he was voted the 2009 Special Olympic Saskatchewan Male Athlete of the Year.

Female Athlete of the Year Award

FINALISTS

Jillian Gallays, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan Amateur Wrestling Association

Gallays, 23, won gold at both the 2009 Canada West Championships and the 2009 CIS Championships, with no points scored on her at either competition. She also captured gold at the Canada Cup and at the Guelph Open, a Senior National Carding Tournament. Gallays also won gold medals at the Romania International, Sunkist International, and Hargobind International. She captured second place at both the Austria International and at the 2009 Canadian Senior Nationals, which qualified her to be an alternate for Canada's World Team.

Trista Neilly, Saskatoon, Canoe Kayak Saskatchewan

Neilly, 20, was awarded four gold medals at the 2009 Canada Summer games for the K1 500m, K1 1000m, K1 2000m, and K2 200m races. She also won a bronze medal at the Summer Games in the K2 500m race. At the 2009 Canadian National Championships, she won a silver medal in the Junior Women's K1 500m and a bronze medal in the K1 1000m. Neilly also competed at the World Cup #2, where she finished twelfth in K2 1000m and thirteenth in K1 500m, and at World Cup #3, where she placed fourth in K4 200m and ninth in K2 1000m. Neilly was a member of the Canadian National Tour team in 2009 and has made the Under 23 National Development Team.

Brianne Theisen, Humboldt, Saskatchewan Athletics

Theisen, 20, is ranked 19th in the world in heptathlon for the 2009 Outdoor Season. During the last year, she placed first in the heptathlon at both the PAC 10 Outdoor Track and Field Championships and at the Canadian Senior Track and Field Championships. She also placed first in heptathlon at the Big Green in the Desert Multis, which automatically qualified her to compete at the NCAA Outdoor Championships, where she captured gold in the heptathlon event. Theisen competed internationally at the 12th IAAF World Track and Field Championships where she placed fifteenth in the heptathlon out of 26 competitors. She also placed third in the pentathlon at the 2009 NCAA Indoor Track and Field Championships, and second in pentathlon at the university of Washington Indoor Invitational. For her accomplishments, Theisen received the 2009 Athletics Canada Outstanding Athlete of the Year award in Combined Events.

OTHER NOMINEES

Shannon Comerford, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan Fencing Association

Comerford, 21, finished first in her event at the 2009 Western Canadian Championships. At the CSC #1 Senior WF and the CSC #2 Senior WF, she placed third and second respectively. She also placed second at the 2009 Senior Senior Nationals WF, where she competed against 47 participants. Her accomplishments throughout the year qualified her to advance to the 2009 Senior World Championships for the first time. At the Championships, Comerford finished sixtieth out of 85 competitors from 15 countries. She is ranked third on the HP list for Canadian fencing, and 52nd of 371 on the international ranking list.

Coralee Cooke, Kindersley, Skate Canada – Saskatchewan, Special Olympics Saskatchewan

Cooke, 32, skated in the 2009 Canadian Special Olympics Winter Games, where she placed first, qualifying her for the World Games. At the Special Olympic World Winter Games, she also captured first. Cooke won the 2009 Special Olympics Saskatchewan Female of the Year award and the 2009 Special Olympics Canada Female Athlete of the Year award.

Tiffany Dodds, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan Volleyball Association

Dodds, 24, was named most valuable player and best attacker at the NORCECA Championships, which qualified her to advance to the 2010 FIVB Women's World Championship. Her team placed fifth out of eight countries at the XXI NORCECA Championship in Bayamon, Puerto Rico. At the 2009 Pan American Cup, her team placed seventh. Dodds is a five year member of Canada's National volleyball team and plays both as setter and outside hitter.

Ashley Leugner, Saskatoon, Water Ski and Wakeboard Saskatchewan

Leugner, 24, placed second at the 2009 WWA World Championship, where she competed against 40 participants from 25 countries. She also competed in the 2009 MasterCraft Pro Wakeboard Tour Stop, placing fifth out of twenty participants. At the IWWF World Cup, she finished in sixth place out of 10 to 20 competitors from 17 countries. Leugner is a member of the Canadian National Wakeboard Team.

Kayla McKinnon, Regina, Saskatchewan Baton Twirling Association

McKinnon, 18, placed first in the medley, solo, and 3-baton solo dance events, as well as second in the 2-baton and freestyle events, and third in the short program at the 2009 Provincial Championships. Her outstanding accomplishments qualified her to compete at the 2009 Canadian Championships, where she captured first place in medley and solo dance, second in solo and 2-baton, and third in freestyle and 3-baton. Her results qualified her to compete at the 2009 International Cup, where she competed for her first year in the Senior Elite category. At the International Cup, McKinnon placed ninth in the short program, tenth in both the 2-baton and 3-baton events, eleventh in the freestyle, and twelfth in the solo event.

Heather Nelson, Regina, Saskatchewan Karate Association

Nelson, 32, won a gold medal in her ko-go (sparring) event at the XV Pan-American Traditional Karate Championships. At the 2009 CTKF National Karate Championships, she won three bronze medals, each in kata, ko-go, and fukugo (a combination of kata and sparring). Nelson also won a silver medal in kumite (sparring) and a bronze medal in kata at the 2009 Saskatchewan Karate Association Spring Provincial Tournament.

Chelsea Stone, Regina, Saskatchewan Taekwon-Do Federation International Inc.

Stone, 24, attended the 2009 Western Canadian Taekwon-Do Championship and won gold in patterns and silver in sparring. This qualified her for the National Taekwon-Do Championships, where she placed first in sparring for the twelfth consecutive year and second in patterns. Her results qualified her to represent Canada at the 2009 World Championships. At the 2009 Can Am Taekwon-Do Championships, Stone again qualified to compete at the World Championships after finishing first both in sparring and patterns. At the 2009 World Championships in Argentina, she won a bronze medal for sparring.

Team of the Year Award**FINALISTS****2009 Canada Summer Games Canoe/Kayak Team, Regina, Canoe Kayak Saskatchewan**

Saskatchewan's 19-member canoe/kayak team competed at the 2009 Canada Summer Games with tremendous success. Together, they won four gold and six bronze medals and placed fourth in nine events and fifth in eight events. The team was also awarded 12 flag points. Team member Trista Neilly, the most decorated Saskatchewan athlete at the Games with four gold and one bronze medal, was chosen as the Team Saskatchewan Flag Bearer for the closing ceremonies.

2009 Women's Track and Field Team, Saskatoon, Huskie Athletics

The 25 athletes of the University of Saskatchewan Women's Track and Field team, led by coach Joanne McTaggart, competed at the 2009 Canada West Championship where they brought home four gold, five silver, and four bronze medals, as well as the Canada West banner. At this competition, they had nine Canada West Team All-Stars and three award winners. Sixteen of the team's athletes moved on to compete at the 2009 CIS Championship where they won one gold, three silver and three bronze medals. The team finished third overall at the CIS Championship with four players named as All-Canadians.

Renaë Barks and Kira Nyhus-Runtz, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan Rowing Association

Barks and Nyhus-Runtz placed first in the Junior Women's 2x race at the 2009 Alberta Open, winning by over eighteen seconds and a distance of 1500m. They also placed first in the Senior Women's 2x race at the 2009 Prairie Championships. The team moved on to the 2009 Canada Summer Games, where they won gold in the Women's 2x event, the second gold medal ever won for Saskatchewan Rowing at the Games and the first in a small boat category. Both girls have been recognized by Rowing Canada for their achievements in 2009.

OTHER NOMINEES

Kayla McKinnon and Sara Thibeault, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan Baton Twirling Association

McKinnon and Thibeault were the highest ranked North American pair team at the 2009 International Cup, where they placed fifth in their event. At the 2009 Provincial Championship they placed first, qualifying them for the Canadian Championships where they placed first and were named Grand Champions. In 2009, they received the Saskatchewan Baton Twirling Association Pair of the Year Award for the third consecutive year.

U19 Team Saskatchewan, Saskatoon, Football Saskatchewan

Team Saskatchewan won the 2009 Football Canada Cup, the first time the province has won the tournament since entering in 2003. The team finished first in the round robin with three wins and one loss and went on to defeat Alberta in the final. Seamus Neary was named Defensive MVP of the tournament, and he and four of his teammates were named to the Tournament All-Star Team.

Volunteer Recognition Award

RECIPIENTS

Peter Brook, Prince Albert, Saskatchewan Rowing Association

Brook received the 2009 Rowing Canada Aviron (RCA) President's Award for his outstanding contributions to the sport of rowing in Canada. Elected in 2007 as RCA's Vice President of Domestic Competition, he has helped to coordinate the 2009 Canada Summer Games rowing events and the annual National Rowing Championships. He also helped to bring the 2010 FISA World Masters Regatta to Canada. Prior to serving in this role, Brook was Saskatchewan's representative to RCA for eight years. Brook has also volunteered with the Prince Albert Drifters Rowing Club since the late 1980's, and with the Saskatchewan Rowing Association since 1991, serving as President for eight years. For the 1999 Western Canada Games, Brook helped to create the only 2000m permanently buoyed rowing course in Saskatchewan, found on Sturgeon Lake. The world-class site has since been used for the CanAmMex junior national team development camps.

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

Dr. Misfeldt has made great contributions to the field of sport medicine in the province, particularly in the sport of karate. She has volunteered as medical staff at Saskatchewan karate tournaments since 1987,

serving as the Chief Medical Officer at the Canadian National Blackbelt Karate Tournaments since 1988, and at the 2006 World Traditional Karate Tournament in Saskatoon. She was the team doctor for the 2006 Canadian International Traditional Karate Federation (ITKF) team, and the team's medical judge for four Pan American Championships. She was medical director for the 1992 ITKF World Championship in Montreal, as well as Canada's medical judge and team physician for six other championships. From 1993-2004, she provided sport medicine seminars and coverage at annual international karate training camps.

She is currently the Vice President of the Sport Medicine and Science Council of Saskatchewan, the treasurer of the Saskatchewan Academy of Sport Medicine, chairperson of the Saskatchewan Karate Association Sport Medicine Chairperson, General Secretary for the ITKF Sport Medicine Committee, and the Traditional Karate Canada Sport Medicine Chairperson. She previously served as President of the Sport Medicine and Science Council of Saskatchewan for five years, Vice President of the Saskatchewan Academy of Sport Medicine for two years, and President of the Saskatchewan Academy of Sport Medicine for two years. She also served with the Canadian Sport Centre Saskatchewan from 2006-08 and has been a Saskatchewan *in motion* Ambassador since 2003. She served on the CASM Women in Sport Medicine Committee and the Sport Nutrition Advisory Committee of Sport Medicine Council of Canada.

Outside of karate, Dr. Misfeldt was Chief Medical Officer at the 1992 Canadian Special Olympics Winter Games, the 1999 World Junior Volleyball Tournament, and the 2003 BMP Mastercard Skate Canada Championships, and served as medical staff at the 1985 Canada Summer Games, the 1992 Canadian National Track and Field Meet, and 1992 Dive Canada. She has also helped with National Ballet of Canada events and national soccer events held in Saskatoon. She has been the team physician for the Huskie Basketball teams since 2004, as well as medical staff at the Saskatchewan Provincial Track and Field Championships, Saskatchewan Winter Games, Knights of Columbus Track and Field meets, and Huskie and Saskatoon high school sport meets. She holds a blackbelt in Traditional Shotokan Karate.

Judy Warick, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan Athletics

Warick has been a coach, official, and director for local, provincial, and international track and field events since 1976. She currently coaches two Saskatoon running clinics, and is also a coach and manager for the 2010 World Masters Indoor Championships. She has coached with the Century Track and Field Club since 1983 and with the Saskatchewan Senior Fitness Association since 1995. From 1986-2007, she coached elementary and high school students at Melville, Eston, Bruno, Saskatoon.

In addition to coaching, Warick has volunteered with the Saskatoon Road Runners since 1985. She was also a founder and former coordinator of the Saskatchewan Masters Track and Field organization, and the Provincial Developer of the Canadian Masters Executive from 1988-2006. From 1990-97, she was a Saskatchewan Officials committee member, serving as Vertical Jumps Coordinator, Officials Recruitment, and Clinician. She was the provincial director of the Canadian Masters Athletic Association from 1989-2005.

In 2009, Warick served as the Acting Road Race Director for the River Run Classic, the Saskatchewan Marathon, and the Mother's Day 5km event. She also organized and directed the 1991 and 1997 Canadian Masters Track and Field Championships, the Century Elementary School Relays from 1985-2006, and the Century Cross Country prairie wide meet from 1985-2008.

As an official, Warick served at the 1989 and 2005 Canada Summer Games. Since 1989, she has conducted clinics for new and upcoming officials in rural clubs and schools across Saskatchewan. From 1986-1996, she was involved in visiting Saskatchewan schools to promote athletics and becoming an official or coach in athletics, as well as providing clinics.

Warick is a certified Level 5 Vertical Jumps official and holds an Athletics Canada National Training Certificate. In addition to being a volunteer, Warick is an accomplished track and field athlete.

Coach of the Year Award

RECIPIENT

John Wetzstein, Regina, Saskatchewan Rowing Association

Since March 2007, John Wetzstein has been the Head Coach for the Saskatchewan Rowing Association. As a year-round coach, Wetzstein works with high performance young adult rowers to help them achieve not only their athletic, but their personal, academic and community goals as well. All of his athletes are encouraged to balance their training with school, part time jobs and volunteer work in their communities. He is also responsible for developing Saskatchewan's training programs for elite rowers, monitoring the high performance rowing initiatives in member clubs, recruiting new high performance rowers, developing the sport throughout the province, and organizing the annual Saskatchewan Provincial Rowing Championships. His efforts this year resulted in one of the best years for the Saskatchewan Rowing Association. At the 2009 Jeux Canada Games, Team Saskatchewan's rowing athletes took home one gold, one silver and four bronze medals. His Lightweight Women's Double team finished in seventh place at the Canadian University Championships in Montreal, Quebec. And, at the Under 23 National Rowing Championships in London, Ontario, his athletes earned two gold medals and one fourth place finish.

Coach Dedication Award

RECIPIENTS

Dale Hazell, Saskatoon, Skate Canada – Saskatchewan

For the past 41 years, Dale Hazell has been an active coach with Skate Canada – Saskatchewan, coaching novice to high performance skaters in communities across Saskatchewan, including Wynyard, Eston, Nokomis, Swift Current, Gull Lake, Saskatoon and Shaunavon. During this time, he helped skaters pass over 250 skating tests, ranging from Preliminary to Gold levels; coached four athletes (Jayson Peace, Kari Stevenson, Amanda Zerr and Sarina Lehrer) who competed in a combined 19 Canadian Championships; and coached several skaters who have gone on to be professional figure skating coaches, Skate Canada officials, and touring athletes with North American, Asian and European ice shows.

Overall, his athletes have earned two bronze medals at the 1991 Senior International event in Germany; bronze at the 2000 Junior International event in Croatia; two gold, four silver and two bronze medals at the Canadian Championships; one gold, one silver and two bronze medals at the Canada Winter Games; 12 Western Canadian Championships; over 150 Saskatchewan Sectionals/STARSkate Provincial Championships; and over 700 medals in 37 years at the Jean Norman skating competition.

Hazell, who is working towards his Level 5 NCCP certification, was inducted into the Saskatoon Sports Hall of Fame in 2002, received the Saskatchewan Centennial Medal in 2006, and is a three-time recipient of the Saskatchewan Competitive Coach of the Year Award. He is the current Skate Canada – Saskatchewan Program Developer (1991-present), Skate Canada – Saskatchewan NCCP Course Administrator (1995-present), and Director of the Saskatoon Summer Skating School (1990-2009). He is also the former Chair of the Athlete & Sport Development in Canada Committee (2002); member of the Saskatoon Sport Tourism Board (1997-1999); and Head Instructor for the Canadian Team Training Camp (1988-89).

Laurie Wachs, Saskatoon, Synchro Saskatchewan

Synchro Saskatchewan athletes have benefited from Laurie Wachs' instruction for the past 27 years. As an NCCP Level 3 coach, Wachs holds Level 3 Technical Courses across Canada, and she is the province's main and only one of a handful Western Canadian Course Conductor/Master Facilitators. Wachs is the current Synchro Saskatchewan High Performance Director, Head Coach of the Saskatoon Aqualenes Synchronized Swimming Club, member of Synchro Canada's Long Term Athlete Development Committee, and member of Synchro Canada's Competition Review Committee. Wachs has spearheaded the development of two local and one provincial synchronized swimming programs: Aqua Giggles – Synchronized Swimming for 5-7 year olds (Saskatoon); Syn-crows, a Saskatoon YWCA recreational program for older women (the oldest member is 85 years old); and Synchro Saskatchewan's High Performance Program to develop elite synchronized swimmers in the province.

Wachs was inducted into the Saskatoon Sports Hall of Fame in 2004, won the 2000 3M Coaching Canada Award in a Development Sport – Female category from the Coaching Association of Canada, is a six-time recipient of Synchro Canada's Sadie Caulder Knight "Coach of the Year" Award, and five-time recipient of the Saskatoon Aqualenes Synchronized Swimming Club's Coach of the Year Award.

Several swimmers coached under Wachs have gone on to join the Canadian National Synchronized Swimming Team, including two who participated in the 2000 and 2004 Olympic Summer Games. Overall, her athletes have captured three gold medals at the 2009 UANA Pan American Synchronized Swimming Championships; four gold and one silver medal at the Canadian National Championships; and three gold and one bronze medal at the Canadian Western Divisional Synchronized Swimming Championships. Her athletes have also recorded two significant firsts for Saskatchewan – Synchro Saskatchewan's first gold medal performance in 1993 and Saskatchewan's first medal in a solo event at the Canada Winter Games in 2007 (bronze).