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PRESS RELEASE

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April 4, 2018

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Sport BC announces AWARD WINNERS at the 52nd Award Gala 2018 Sport BC Athlete of the Year Awards

VANCOUVER, BC (April 4, 2018) — Sport BC is very proud to announce the athletes, coaches and officials who were the successful recipients of the 2018 Athlete of the Year Awards, held in Vancouver on March 28, 2018. The Province of BC proudly supported the 52nd Annual Athlete of the Year Awards with the Honourable Lisa Beare, Minister of Tourism, Arts and Culture in attendance to honour the recipients.

These extraordinary individuals were honoured for their excellence in and contribution to sport in front of 500 guests at the Westin Bayshore Vancouver Hotel.

The award recipients represented **13 communities and 13 various** sports within British Columbia.

1. ATHLETE WITH A DISABILITY – *presented by Markel*

This award recognizes an athlete with a disability who has demonstrated extraordinary athletic performance in provincial, national or international competitions in a team or individual sport in BC.

RECIPIENT: *Liam Stanley (Victoria) – Para-Athletics*

2. COLLEGE ATHLETE OF THE YEAR – *presented by SBC Insurance*

This award recognizes an individual who competed in a sport, team or individual, and who represented a college, university/college, or institution in the province of British Columbia in the 2016-2017 academic year.

RECIPIENT: *Megan Rosenlund (Vancouver Island University) – Volleyball*

3. TEAM OF THE YEAR – *presented by 13th Man Foundation*

This award recognizes an amateur team competing in a sanctioned league in the province of British Columbia.

RECIPIENT: *UBC Men's Track & Field Team (UBC) – Athletics*



4. HARRY JEROME COMEBACK AWARD RECIPIENT – *presented by Sport BC*

This award recognizes an athlete who competed in a sport, individual or team, in 2017 after having suffered an unusual setback (i.e. illness, injury, etc.)

RECIPIENT: Spencer Allen (Kamloops) – Athletics

5. OFFICIAL OF THE YEAR – *presented by Richmond Sport Hosting*

This award recognizes an official who has been responsible for officiating sport events at any level of athletic competition.

RECIPIENT: Andree Montreuil (Vancouver) – Gymnastics

6. UNIVERSITY ATHLETE OF THE YEAR – *presented by Helly Hansen*

This award recognizes an athlete enrolled in a recognized degree-granting university in the province of British Columbia, and who competed in a recognized Canadian Interuniversity Sport (CIS) or National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA) sport or sports, team or individual, representing his or her school in the 2016-2017 season.

RECIPIENT: Danielle Brisebois (UBC) – Volleyball

7. MASTER ATHLETE OF THE YEAR – *presented by TSN1040*

This award recognizes an athlete competing in a Masters division as defined as defined by his or her sport, taking part on a team or individual sport in the province of British Columbia.

RECIPIENT: Christa Bortignon (West Vancouver) – Athletics

**8. FEMALE HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETE OF THE YEAR –
*presented by the Vancouver Sun & The Province***

This award recognizes a female athlete who was enrolled in a secondary school in the province of BC and who competed in a sport or sports, team or individual, representing her school in the 2016-2017 school year.

RECIPIENT: JACQUELINE LEW (PINETREE) – WRESTLING

9. MALE HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETE OF THE YEAR – *presented by Delta Land Group Development*

This award recognizes a male athlete who was enrolled in a secondary school in the province of British Columbia and who competed in a sport, team or individual, representing his school in the 2016-2017 academic year.

RECIPIENT: Ryan Baker (Windsor) – Football & Baseball



10. FEMALE JUNIOR ATHLETE OF THE YEAR – presented by Infigo Imaging

This award recognizes extraordinary athletic performance by a female junior athlete who is competing on a team or in an individual sport in British Columbia.

RECIPIENT: Maggie Coles-Lyster (Maple Ridge) – Cycling

11. MALE JUNIOR ATHLETE OF THE YEAR – presented by BCLC

This award recognizes extraordinary athletic performance by a male junior athlete who is competing on a team or in an individual sport in British Columbia.

RECIPIENT: Mathew Barzal (Coquitlam) – Ice Hockey

12. FEMALE COACH OF THE YEAR – presented by ProMotion Plus

This award recognizes a female coach who has been responsible for coaching an amateur team(s) and/or individuals at any level of athletic competition in British Columbia.

RECIPIENT: Tara Self (Coquitlam) – Athletics

13. MALE COACH OF THE YEAR – presented by Peace Hills Insurance

This award recognizes a male coach who has been responsible for coaching an amateur team(s) and/or individuals at any level of athletic competition in British Columbia.

RECIPIENT: Steve Manley (Vancouver) – Wheelchair Tennis

**14. KIDSPORT COMMUNITY CHAMPION OF THE YEAR –
presented by Ritchie Bros. Auctioneers**

The KidSport Community Champion Award is presented to an individual who has made a significant and meaningful contribution to KidSport over the past year.

RECIPIENT: Evan Dunfee (Richmond) – Athletics

15. FEMALE SENIOR ATHLETE OF THE YEAR – presented by the City of Vancouver

This award recognizes extraordinary athletic performance by a female athlete who is competing on a team or as an individual sport in BC.

RECIPIENT: Marielle Thompson (Whistler) – Alpine Ski



16. MALE SENIOR ATHLETE OF THE YEAR – presented by Sport Burnaby

This award recognizes extraordinary athletic performance by a male athlete who is competing on a team or individual sport in BC.

RECIPIENT: Adam Hadwin (Abbotsford) – Golf

17. DARYL THOMPSON AWARD RECIPIENT – presented by BC Games Society

This award is named in honour of the late Daryl Thompson, former chair of Sport BC. Daryl's contributions to sport as an athlete, coach and executive officer were exemplary. This prestigious award recognizes an individual who has contributed their time in an extraordinary way to sport over a long period of time or has made a major contribution to amateur sport in British Columbia.

RECIPIENT: Abdul Shaikh (Vancouver) – Badminton

18. BEST OF BC – presented by the Province of British Columbia

The recipient of the prestigious annual Best of BC award is the individual or team thought to have best represented B.C. nationally or internationally, in professional or amateur sport.

RECIPIENT: James Paxton (Ladner) – Baseball

19. IN HER FOOTSTEPS HONOUREE – presented by In Her Footsteps

RECIPIENT: Deb Huband – UBC Women's Basketball Coach

20. IN HER FOOTSTEPS HONOUREE – presented by In Her Footsteps

RECIPIENT: Michelle Pye – FIFA Women's Referee



About the Athlete of the Year Awards

The Athlete of the Year Awards, founded by Sport BC, is the longest standing amateur sport recognition event in the country. Awards in 18 different categories are given each year to athletes, coaches, and officials on their performance and contribution to sport in the province of British Columbia. The awards play a valuable role in nurturing athletic success while recognizing extraordinary accomplishments in BC.

24th Annual Presidents Awards

The 24th Annual Presidents Awards is proudly sponsored by *Sports with Balls*. This group is comprised of Basketball BC, Volleyball BC, BC Lacrosse Association, BC Soccer Association, Softball BC, Baseball BC, Tennis BC and the BC Ringette Association. These awards are presented annually to volunteers from Sport BC member organizations who represent the spirit of volunteerism, and whose dedication, energy, and commitment contribute to the development of their sport or organization.



About Sport BC

In 1966, a small group of dedicated volunteers created an organization to provide a unified voice for amateur sport in British Columbia. While much has changed in 52 years, our core purpose remains the same.

Who we are:

Sport BC is the non-profit sport federation, representing over 60 Provincial Sport Organizations in British Columbia. As a member-based organization, Sport BC offers services and programs to build the capacity of our members and advocate on their behalf to improve the landscape for organized sport in BC.

Mission:

Sport BC, as a member-based organization, supports the growth of amateur sport in BC and provides leadership through delivery of its programs and services for members.

Vision:

Sport in British Columbia is thriving through the leadership of Sport BC and our members.

Values:

Integrity, Transparency, Collaboration, Creativity and Innovation

For additional information, please contact

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PREVIOUS AWARD RECIPIENTS: *For a list of previous award winners and additional information, including recognition of our corporate and community sponsors and partners, please visit:*
www.sportbc.com