

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CONTACT: Christine Wong

Athlete of the Year Awards Coordinator
604-333-3421

Sport BC recognizes JAMES PAXTON as recipient of the BEST OF BC AWARD
2018 Sport BC Athlete of the Year Awards

VANCOUVER, BC (March 15, 2018) — Sport BC is pleased to announce that James Paxton has been named the recipient of the Best of BC Award for 2018, as determined by the Athlete of the Year Awards Selection Committee. The award will be presented at the Sport BC 52nd Annual Athlete of the Year awards on Wednesday, March 28th at the Westin Bayshore Vancouver Hotel.

This award, sponsored by the Province of British Columbia, is presented to the individual or team thought to have best represented British Columbia, nationally or internationally, in either a professional or amateur sport.



James is a locally born and raised B.C. athlete from Ladner. He attended Delta Secondary School where he helped win B.C.'s Best Tournament Championship as a junior and senior. He went 7-1 with 1.70 ERA with 65 strikeouts as a senior. He later pitched for the University of Kentucky from 2007 – 2009 and was 11-5 with 4.91 ERA (81 ER, 148.1 IP_ and 168 strikeouts in 55 games for the Wildcats. He went on to finish his junior season (2009) ranked 17th in the nation and 4th in the SEC with 115 strikeouts. He soon found himself selected by the Seattle Mariners in the 4th round of the 2010 MLB First-Year Player Draft and made his debut on September 7, 2014 versus Tampa Bay.

Fast forward to 2017, he was named Mariners Pitcher of the Year by Seattle chapter of Baseball Writers Association of America, set career bests in wins (12), starts (24), innings (136.0), strikeouts (156) and ERA (2.98). He also earned his 300th career strikeout in on May 31 vs. Colorado! James was later named as the American League Pitcher of the Month for July and became the first Mariners pitcher to win 6 games in a single month. *Congratulations James!*

Tickets are now available through *Eventbrite*:
[Purchase your Athlete of the Year Awards tickets here!](#)



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

Rob Newman

President & CEO, Sport BC

Tel: 604-340-8432

Email: rob.newman@sportbc.com

Christine Wong

Athlete of the Year Coordinator, Sport BC

Tel: 604-333-3421

Email: christine@sportbc.com

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