

58th  
Annual

**ATHLETE <sup>OF</sup> THE YEAR**  
**AWARDS**

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**SPORT  
BC**

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COLUMBIA**

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# SPORT BC PRESIDENTS' AWARDS

## PRESENTED BY SPORTS WITH BALLS

Founded in 1994, the Presidents' Awards promote and celebrate the spirit of volunteerism by giving member organizations an opportunity to acknowledge and thank an individual who has demonstrated outstanding dedication and commitment to their sport organization.

The Presidents' Awards is proudly presented by Sports with Balls. This group of sport organizations includes Basketball BC, Baseball BC, Softball BC, BC Lacrosse, Volleyball BC, BC Rugby, Curl BC, and BC Soccer.

Badminton BC	DONN AVEN	BC Wheelchair Sports	BERNIE HESMERT
Basketball BC	KEVIN KAARDAL	Boxing BC	GOWTHAM MOHAN
BC Archery	VIERA KOPECKY	Curl BC	KEITH SWITZER
BC Athletics	DARREN WILLIS	Curl BC	AL KERSEY
BC Blind Sports and Recreation	ROBERT (BOB) THIESSEN	Field Hockey BC	KARA JOYCE
BC Diving	CHRISTINE FROHLOFF	Football BC	MATT MERCIER
BC Fencing Association	IGOR GANTSEVICH	Horse Council BC	JACQUELINE PIETERS
BC Freestyle Ski Association	REGAN TRUSCOTT	I-SPARC	CORINNE MCKAY
BC Games Society	NADINE BARBISAN	Judo BC	RAMON RODRIGUEZ
BC Golf	KATHY CHEN	Karate BC	DONNA GARDECKI
BC Hockey	JUNE MCKENZIE	KidSport BC	RONNIE & KATHY PATERSON
BC Lacrosse Association	HARPREET GREWAL	Pickleball BC	DAVID SNELL
BC Netball Association	DANA GRAF	Skate Canada BC/YT	SUSAN MORRISS
BC Rhythmic Sportive Gymnastics	EVGENIIA PROKOPENKO	Softball BC	JASON RANCHOUX
BC Seniors Games Society	BOB EWASHEN	SportMedBC	MARC RIZZARDO
BC Snowboard Association	BILLY (BJ) WILSON	Squash BC	SHAWN ZWIERCHOWSKI
BC Soccer	JOHN CHARLTON	Swim BC	NAOMI SMITH
BC Sport Cheer	DAWN SILVER	Triathlon BC	ANDREA DAMIANI
BC Sports Hall of Fame	ROSS WOLRIGE	Volleyball BC	CAROL HOFER
BC Wheelchair Basketball Society	GERRY KRIPPS		





# MESSAGE FROM THE HONOURABLE ANNE KANG 58TH ANNUAL ATHLETE OF THE YEAR AWARDS

## **A Message from The Honourable Anne Kang, Minister of Tourism, Arts, Culture and Sport**

On behalf of the Government of British Columbia, I am honoured to congratulate this year's Athlete of the Year nominees on this well-deserved honour.

Tonight is about recognizing individuals whose drive, resilience, and love of sport elevates our entire province. Each nominee has pushed boundaries, inspired others, and made a meaningful difference through their achievements. You have every reason to be proud, not only of your personal accomplishments, but of the positive ripple effects you create in your communities.

B.C.'s sport system is strengthened by the dedication of athletes, coaches, officials, teams, volunteers, and the many leaders behind the scenes who champion sport every day. Your contributions help make British Columbia a place where excellence thrives and opportunities continue to grow.

This evening is also an opportunity to recognize the momentum growing across our sport sector—from celebrating athletic achievements to acknowledging the many efforts underway to expand access and break down barriers. This work reflects our government's commitment to ensuring that sport in B.C. is inclusive, welcoming, and accessible for everyone.

A vibrant sport sector enriches the health and well-being of communities across the province. That's why the Province proudly invests \$50 million each year in amateur sport, to support participation at every level and ensure that athletes, families, and local organizations can continue to thrive.

Thank you to Sport BC for hosting this wonderful celebration and for the leadership you provide year-round. And to all nominees: thank you for your contributions over the past year. I hope tonight brings moments of joy, pride, and inspiration.

Sincerely,

Minister of Tourism, Arts, Culture and Sport



### **Delivering on Diversity Award Description**

The Minister of Tourism, Arts, Culture and Sport established a new award to amplify the Province of British Columbia's commitment to diversity and inclusion. Congratulations to the recipient of the 5th Annual Delivering on Diversity Award to be announced this evening. BC Golf was the inaugural recipient in 2020, PacificSport Fraser Valley received it for 2022, Volleyball BC received it for 2023, and BC Ultimate received it for 2024.

# MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR AND PRESIDENT/CEO

## 58TH ANNUAL ATHLETE OF THE YEAR AWARDS



### Welcome from Sport BC

Welcome to the 58th Athlete of the Year Awards. Founded by Sport BC, these awards remain Canada's longest-running celebration of sport excellence. Tonight, we gather to highlight the remarkable achievements of 2025's athletes, coaches, officials, and volunteers whose dedication, resilience, and leadership have elevated sport across British Columbia. We proudly recognize this year's Athlete of the Year finalists and Presidents' Award recipients for the lasting impact they have made in their sport and in their communities.

Sport BC extends sincere appreciation to the Minister of Tourism, Arts, Culture and Sport, the Honourable Anne Kang, and to the Province of British Columbia for their continued support of the Athlete of the Year Awards and the 5th Annual Delivering on Diversity Award. We are equally grateful to our valued sponsors and partners whose commitment makes this celebration possible. To our seventy-eight member organizations and the broader sport community, thank you for your ongoing collaboration and for strengthening amateur sport throughout the province. We also acknowledge the families, friends, coaches, clubs, and communities whose encouragement fuels the success of those we honour tonight.

On behalf of Sport BC, congratulations to all finalists and award recipients on this outstanding achievement. We are pleased to once again welcome Scott Russell as our emcee and thank him for his enduring support of this event. Our sincere thanks also go to Sport BC's Board of Directors for their leadership and guidance as we continue to advance sport together.

Finally, thank you to our guests for being part of this special evening as we celebrate the extraordinary power of sport in British Columbia.



Judy Joseph-Black  
Sport BC, Chair



Rob Newman  
President and CEO

# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

## 58TH ANNUAL ATHLETE OF THE YEAR AWARDS



### **ATHLETE OF THE YEAR AWARDS EVENING HOST: Scott Russell**

A Canadian Screen Award and Gemini Award-winning broadcaster and acclaimed author, CBC Sports Veteran for more than 25 years, Scott Russell has covered a multitude of high-profile sporting events including 16 Olympic Games, most recently covering the Tokyo 2020 and Beijing 2022 Olympic and Paralympic Games. With an unparalleled knowledge and enthusiasm for amateur sport, Scott serves on the CBC Sports Initiative on Women in Sport, the Canadian Olympic Committee's Education Committee, the Canadian Centre for Ethics in Sport, the Public Policy Forum on Value-Based Sport, the Paralympic Foundation of Canada, and the International Centre for Olympic Studies at Western University. We are honoured to welcome back tonight's host... Scott Russell.

### **SPORT BC BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

JUDY JOESPH-BLACK, CHAIR  
ALLAN PRAZSKY, VICE-CHAIR  
ANDREW FERENCE  
BRIAN MCCALDER  
DUNCAN WOOD  
JANET PETRAS

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President and CEO  
ALLISON MAILER  
Vice-President Operations  
ANGELA CROWTHER  
Director, KidSport BC  
KATELYNN RAMAGE  
Operations Manager, KidSport BC  
STEPHANIE RUDNISKY  
Program Manager  
ALI KIESMAN  
Operations Administrator  
KYLE BEATTIE  
Program Administrator, KidSport BC  
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Vice-President Finance  
BRIAN LEE  
Financial Accountant  
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SBC Insurance General Manager  
JONATHAN OSTONAL  
SBC Insurance Customer Support  
ERIC SMITH  
SBC Insurance Advisor  
SARAH XIAO  
SBC Senior Insurance Advisor  
JOCELYN TU  
SBC Insurance Administrative Coordinator

### **VOLUNTEERS**

We are grateful to all of the volunteers who gave their time and energy into producing the Presidents' Awards and the 58th Annual Athlete of the Year Awards.

### **ATHLETE OF THE YEAR AWARDS' SELECTION COMMITTEE**



**Left to Right:** Rob Newman, Jordan Abney, Tom Mayenknecht, Sue Griffin, Judy Joseph-Black, Michelle McDonnell, Bernie Pascall, Bob Joncas, Jody Vance, Jason Beck

# IN MEMORIAM

## 58TH ATHLETE OF THE YEAR AWARDS

We fondly remember those who dedicated their lives to sport and who passed away over the last few years. We are saddened by their absence, but are comforted knowing that they are forever in our hearts. We are grateful for their contribution to sport in our province and the legacy they have left for future generation.

### **BC Blind Sports**

Christopher Michael (Mike) York

### **BC Hockey**

Cameron Casorso

Don Schmaltz

Ezekial Schofield

George Windsor

Jim Robson

J.J. Wright

Joe Borovich

John Petrak

Malakai Flores

Martin Hak

Trace Morell

Wade MacLeod

Xavier Rasul-Jankovic

Phil Downie

Bob Woodward

### **BC Seniors Games Society**

Paul Kingan

Cindy Simpson

Peter Huang

### **PacificSport Interior BC**

Dr. Anatoliy Bondarchuk

### **BC Soccer**

Ilona Thomson

Jose Fraguas

Bob Van Gyzen

Joe Mathot

Pat O'Brien

Bob Favelle

William (Willy) Azzi

Joe Bell

Michael Wassermann

### **BC Sports Hall of Fame**

Marg Skillings

Garett Hickling

Frank Smith

Ray Sierpina

Stan Shillington

Jim Robson

Bernard 'Buster' Moberg

### **Curl BC**

Al Moore

Kathleen MacKenzie

### **Judo BC**

Martin Kuramoto

### **Ringette BC**

Kimberly Ann Taschuk

Jim Wright

Keith Sullivan

Michelle Marie Ryan

Wayne Oye

### **Squash BC**

Harry Bell-Irving

### **Tennis BC**

Suzanne Brenton

### **Triathlon BC**

Hannah Henry

### **Skate Canada BCYT**

Bill Lewis

Irene Franklin

Dalle Proft

Henry Epp

Penny Nicholas

Wes Todosychuk

Mike Randorf

Rachel De Mello

# DARYL THOMPSON LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

PRESENTED BY BC GAMES SOCIETY



## TERRIE MOORE

Terrie Moore has dedicated more than five decades to advancing disability and para sport in British Columbia, Canada, and internationally. A founding member of the Cerebral Palsy Sports Association of British Columbia (now SportAbility) and the Canadian Cerebral Palsy Sports Association, she served as Executive Director of SportAbility for 30 years, helping establish inclusive sport opportunities and positioning B.C. as a national leader in disability sport.

Moore played key leadership roles in numerous provincial and national initiatives, strengthening pathways from grassroots participation to high-performance sport. Internationally, she is widely respected for her work in athlete classification, contributing for more than 20 years to evidence-based systems across multiple sports and International Federations. She served on the inaugural International Paralympic Committee Classification Code development committee and worked at six Paralympic Games between 2000 and 2020.

Following her retirement in 2014, Moore has continued to serve the sport community through board leadership and international classification work, most recently concluding her term on the SportAbility Board of Directors in December 2025. Her lifelong commitment to leadership, service, and inclusion exemplifies the spirit of the Daryl Thompson Lifetime Achievement Award.



**GRACE BARLOW – Ice Hockey**

Grace Barlow completed her tenth-year officiating in 2025, building on her recognition as BC Hockey's 2022 Official of the Year with a season that included assignments in the PWHL, USports, and the IIHF Women's World Division 1-B Championship in Dumfries, Scotland. Selected for Hockey Canada's Women's Elite Development Camp, she continues to develop at the international level, complementing previous experiences at the Winter World University Games and USport Women's National Championships. Off the ice, Dr. Barlow practices dentistry in Prince George.

**LAURA MACMILLAN – Softball**

Laura MacMillan has officiated for 16 years, and in 2025 she worked the Canada Cup, Canadian University Championships, and the WBSC U18 Women's World Cup in Oklahoma City, where she was selected to take the plate in the gold-medal game. Serving as Softball BC's Deputy Umpire-in-Chief and Education Officer, she leads Level IV and youth development clinics and has created instructional resources that certified nearly 400 first-year umpires. Known for her consistent and fair approach, Macmillan combines expert game management with mentorship and leadership.

**STEFAN TANAKA-FREUNDT – Soccer**

Stefan Tanaka-Freundt, a FIFA Assistant Referee since 2022, officiated in 2025 across Major League Soccer, the Canadian Championship, the CONCACAF Central American Cup, the CONCACAF Gold Cup, the CONCACAF Champions Cup, and FIFA World Cup Qualifiers, culminating in his appointment to the 2025 FIFA U-17 World Cup in Qatar. With 19 years of experience, he is recognized for his professionalism, fairness, and dedication to the development of officials. As Head Referee for Surrey United Soccer Club, he mentors emerging referees, delivers training sessions, and fosters safe, inclusive environments.

**GINA SCHMIDT – Volleyball**

Leading SFU Volleyball through a historic 2025 campaign, Gina Schmidt guided the program to its first-ever GNAC Championship and best season on record. SFU finished as GNAC Co-Champions with a 14–4 conference record and a program-best 20–5 overall mark, opening the year with six straight wins, including victories over five ranked opponents. The team earned a No. 14 final ranking in NCAA Division II and climbed as high as seventh during the regular season. Now in her 13th season as head coach, Schmidt’s leadership has elevated SFU into a nationally competitive program.

**HILARY STELLINGWERFF – Cross Country**

Under Hilary Stellingwerff’s leadership, the UVic Vikes reached the top of the podium in 2025, capturing the U SPORTS Women’s Cross Country national championship and sweeping both Canada West team titles. The women’s squad climbed to No. 1 in the national rankings and secured the program’s first U SPORTS title since 2001, while the season also produced an individual national champion and multiple All-Canadians. Recognized as U SPORTS Women’s Coach of the Year and Canada West Coach of the Year for both men’s and women’s teams, Stellingwerff continues to set the standard through an athlete-centered, high-performance approach.

**MICHELLE WEBSTER – Softball**

Michelle Webster made a significant impact in 2025 through her leadership at the provincial, national, and international levels. She was honoured with the National Indigenous Coaching Award and served as an assistant coach with Canada’s U15 Women’s National Team, contributing to the team’s qualification for the WBSC World Cup in Italy. Webster also helped guide Team BC Women to a gold-medal performance at the Canada Summer Games, finishing the tournament undefeated. Respected for the environments she builds, Webster continues to shape successful teams through integrity and care.

# MALE COACH OF THE YEAR

PRESENTED BY TD BANK GROUP



## CARLO BASSO – Soccer

Carlo Basso continued his remarkable run as head coach of SFU Women's Soccer in 2025, leading the program to a third consecutive GNAC Championship and its first-ever NCAA Tournament win. The team posted a program-best 14-3-5 record, opened the season on an 11-match unbeaten streak, and became just the second GNAC program to claim three straight conference titles. Under Basso's guidance, SFU produced multiple all-conference and all-region selections, along with GNAC Championship MVP honours. Since taking over in 2023, Basso has transformed the program, guiding SFU to three GNAC titles and three NCAA appearances after the program had never previously won a conference championship.



## JEREMY LE BRIS – Judo

Jeremy Le Bris led his athletes to a standout 2025 season, with medals at Junior and Cadet European Cups, Pan American Championships, World Championships, and Open Nationals, including senior international gold and multiple Athlete of the Year honours. Judo BC athletes earned 41 medals at the Open Nationals, with several qualifying for World Championships. Known for his technical expertise, dedication, and commitment to athlete growth, Le Bris continues to develop some of the strongest judo talent in the province.



## LAURIER PRIMEAU – Athletics

UBC Thunderbirds Track and Field and Cross Country thrived under Laurier Primeau in 2025, with both men's and women's teams claiming NAIA National Championships. The women also captured the Cascade Collegiate Conference title, while Cross Country squads earned medals at Canada West and U SPORTS Championships. His athletes set multiple program and national records, including Olivia Lundman's Canadian record in the 20,000m racewalk and NAIA women's 5 km racewalk record. Named NAIA Men's and Women's Coach of the Year and Cascade Collegiate Conference Women's Coach of the Year, Primeau continues to build programs defined by excellence, personal growth, and consistent competitive success.



# MALE ATHLETE WITH A DISABILITY OF THE YEAR

## PRESENTED BY BC AMATEUR SPORT FUND

BC AMATEUR  
SPORT FUND

### **NATE TUCKER – Para Athletics**

Nate Tucker delivered a defining performance on the world stage in 2025, capturing gold in the T38 1500m at the World Para Athletics Championships in New Delhi, India. His winning time of 3:57.98 not only secured the world title but also established a new championship record, underscoring his dominance in the event. Tucker finished the year ranked first provincially, nationally, and internationally in the T38 1500m, cementing his status as the athlete to beat. Beyond his results, he is widely respected within the athletics community for his relentless work ethic and commitment to excellence, setting the standard both on and off the track.



### **THOMAS VENOS – Wheelchair Tennis**

Thomas Venos continued his remarkable wheelchair tennis run in 2025, winning his sixth consecutive Canadian Men's Singles title and seventh straight Men's Doubles championship at the Birmingham National Wheelchair Tennis Championships. On the UNIQLO World Wheelchair Tennis Tour, he captured three ITF titles, including Singles and Doubles at the ITF Futures Windsor Classic, and finished the year as the highest-ranked Canadian Men's Open player, reaching a career-high world ranking of 35 and closing the season ranked 38<sup>th</sup>, the best year-end ranking ever achieved by a British Columbia athlete in the division.



### **YORKE PARKIN – Special Olympics (Alpine)**

Yorke Parkin enjoyed a standout multi-sport year, highlighted by a perfect performance at the Special Olympics World Winter Games in Italy, where he won gold in all three Alpine Skiing events while representing Team Canada. He also impressed at the Special Olympics BC Provincial Summer Games in swimming, earning a gold medal in the 100m breaststroke along with multiple podium finishes across five events. Reaching the World Games level in his first winter cycle and excelling in a new summer sport, Parkin has demonstrated exceptional





### **ELISE FROESE – Wheelchair Basketball**

Elise Froese represented British Columbia and Canada with distinction in 2025. In March, she helped the BC Junior Grizzlies capture gold at the 2025 Junior West Championship, earning All-Star honours after scoring 20 points in just 12 minutes in the opening game. Froese also won gold with Canada's women's 3×3 team at the 2025 Youth Parapan American Games in Santiago, Chile, where the team went undefeated and she was selected as Canada's Opening Ceremony flag bearer. Later in the year, she made her debut with the Canadian women's team at the IWBF Americas Cup in Colombia, contributing to a bronze-medal finish.



### **JULIA HANES – Para Athletics (Seated Throws)**

Julia Hanes delivered another outstanding season on the international stage in 2025, highlighted by a bronze medal in the F33 shot put at the World Para Athletics Championships in New Delhi, India. Over the year, Hanes set multiple Canadian records in both the F33 shot put and javelin, including marks of 7.54 metres in shot put and 16.86 metres in javelin. She ranked first provincially and nationally in shot put, javelin, and discus, while also holding top international rankings in javelin and discus.



### **MAGGIE MANNING – Para Ice Hockey**

Maggie Manning continued her impressive rise in para ice hockey in 2025, earning silver with Team Canada at the inaugural Women's Para Ice Hockey World Championships in Slovakia. Competing as a goaltender, Manning recorded two shutouts in two starts, helping Canada secure a podium finish at the first-ever world championship for the women's game. She also captured silver with Team BC at the 2025 Para Hockey National Championships in Bridgewater, Nova Scotia. Currently ranked second nationally, Manning has quickly established herself among Canada's top female goaltenders since transitioning to the position in 2022.

# HIGH SCHOOL MALE & FEMALE ATHLETE OF THE YEAR

PRESENTED BY BC SCHOOL SPORTS



## **ELIJAH BLACK - Football**

Elijah Black is an outstanding student-athlete and leader at W.J. Mouat Secondary School. The 2025 BC School Sports 3A Football Play of the Year recipient, he delivered a record-setting season while leading the Hawks to the Championship Game at BC Place, shattering multiple BC high school passing records along the way.

Beyond football, Black balanced academic excellence, leadership responsibilities, and training throughout the season. He also starred on the W.J. Mouat Varsity basketball team and served as the starting quarterback for Team BC at the Canada Cup.



## **Adrianna Buitelaar - Athletics**

Adrianna Buitelaar, a student-athlete at Mennonite Educational Institute, enjoyed a breakout year, excelling across track and cross country at both the provincial and national levels. She set a BC School Sports Provincial Record in the 1500m and won gold at the BCSS Cross Country Championships with the fastest female time in any division.

Buitelaar also captured national titles in the 3000m and U20 cross country, earning selection to the U20 Athletics Canada National Cross Country Team. Her leadership and competitive spirit continue to set her apart both on and off the course.



# YOUTH MALE ATHLETE OF THE YEAR

PRESENTED BY UNIVERSITY CANADA WEST



## LOWAN LE BRIS – Judo

Lowan Le Bris had a strong 2025 season, winning gold at the Pacific International Championships, Canadian Open National Championships, and Montreal Pan American Cadet Cup, while placing 5th at the Cadet World Championships. Ranked 4th on the IJF Cadet World Ranking List and first nationally for U18 men, he was named Judo Canada's and Judo BC's 2025 U18 Male Athlete of the Year. Competing successfully across multiple age categories, Le Bris continues to establish himself as one of Canada's top young judo talents.



## LUKAS GOAS – Canoe/Kayak

At just 16, Lukas Goas won all three U16 events at the 2025 Canadian National Championships and earned selection for both the Junior World Championships and the Olympic Hopes Regatta, the premier international competition for U16 and U17 athletes. Ranked first nationally in U16 and third in U18, with an 8th-place finish internationally at Olympic Hopes, his performance draws comparisons to Adam van Koeverden more than 20 years ago. Goas also gives back as a coach and mentor at False Creek Sprint Canoe Club, supporting the next generation of paddlers.



## SIMON JUNZHEE SHAN – Fencing

Simon Junzhee Shan broke through on the world stage in 2025, becoming the first Canadian male in over a decade to medal at the Cadet World Championships with a bronze, while also helping the Junior Team to a podium finish. His season included gold at the Cadet Pan American Championships, multiple national medals, and strong results at the North American Cup, reflecting his versatility across age categories. Ranked first nationally in cadet and junior divisions and 21st internationally as a junior, he balances intense training and competition with volunteering and refereeing, demonstrating a commitment to both excellence and the growth of fencing in BC.





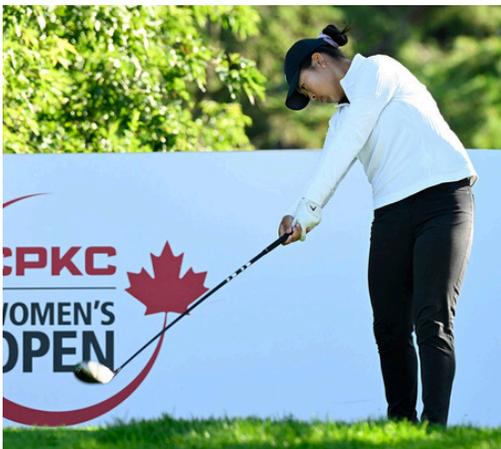
# YOUTH FEMALE ATHLETE OF THE YEAR

## PRESENTED BY BC SPORTS HALL OF FAME



### **ADELAYDE BROADBENT – Cheerleading**

Competing across multiple teams in 2025, Adelayde Broadbent participated in some of BC's largest cheer competitions, including the Pink Cheerleading Championships, BC Provincial Championships, and Sea to Sky Cheerleading Championships. Named BC Sport Cheer All Star Athlete of the Year, she has distinguished herself through exceptional dedication and resilience. At just 12 years old, Broadbent balances rigorous training with mentoring younger athletes as a Junior Coach, consistently bringing focus, positivity, and enthusiasm to every practice and performance.



### **ANNA HUANG – Golf**

In 2025, Anna Huang claimed two titles on the Ladies European Tour, winning the La Sella Open in Spain and the Lacoste Ladies Open in France, while also earning the LET Rising Star Award and finishing second in Rookie of the Year. She became the youngest winner on the tour that year and the first Canadian to win twice on the LET, improving her world ranking from 1175 to 112 and qualifying for the U.S. Women's Open. Huang has inspired young golfers across Canada while pursuing her professional dreams with the support of her family, particularly her father who serves as her caddy and coach.



### **LILY STRODA – Athletics**

Lily Stroda captured four gold medals at the BCSS Provincial Championships in 2025 in the heptathlon, long jump, high jump, and 100m hurdles, posting a personal best of 14.26 in the hurdles and scoring 5,300 points in the heptathlon, ranking second in Canadian history. At her final U18 national meet, she broke the Canadian heptathlon record with 5,573 points, earning multiple national records, personal bests, and a fourth-place world ranking. Ranked first provincially and nationally, Stroda's exceptional versatility, competitive excellence, and maturity on and off the track mark her as one of Canada's most remarkable young athletes.

# JUNIOR MALE ATHLETE OF THE YEAR

PRESENTED BY TOA CONSULTING



## **ETHAN WOOD – Cycling (Mountain Bike)**

Ethan Wood captured the Junior (U19) men’s national title at the 2025 Canadian National Mountain Bike Championships in Langford, British Columbia. Wood also earned three medals at the 2025 Canada Summer Games in St. John’s, Newfoundland and Labrador, winning silver in the team relay and bronze in both the cross-country Olympic (XCO) and short track (XCC) events. On the international stage, he placed seventh in the Junior men’s XCO race at the 2025 UCI Mountain Bike World Championships in Valais, Switzerland, the top result among Canadian junior men. Competing throughout the season on the Canada Cup and UCI junior circuits, Wood consistently delivered podium performances while establishing himself on the international stage.



## **PIERS DE GREEFF – Volleyball**

Piers de Greeff quickly established himself as one of Canada’s top young volleyball players, capturing gold with Team BC at the Canada Summer Games and earning Canada West First Team and USport Second Team All-Star honours in only his second year of university competition. The 2024 Canada West and USport Rookie of the Year, de Greeff is Canada’s #1 ranked U23 beach player, the top indoor player for his age group, and a Top 12 USport athlete. Known for his skill, intelligence, and composure on the court, he combines elite performance with strong leadership and character, inspiring teammates through his dedication to volleyball, academics, and community.



## **PRAISE ANIAMAKA – Athletics**

Praise Aniamaka capped a breakthrough season by winning the triple jump at the U23 Junior Pan Am Games with a Pan Am Games and U23 Canadian record of 16.94 metres, breaking a 37-year-old national mark. He also claimed gold at the Senior Canadian National Championships with a jump of 16.50 metres. Ranked #1 provincially and nationally at both U23 and senior levels, and #29 internationally, Aniamaka’s 2025 performances reflect years of dedication, perseverance, and precision in one of track and field’s most technically demanding events.



**BROOKLYN NOVAK – Archery**

Brooklyn Novak delivered a season defined by consistency, precision, and steady progression at the highest levels of competition. She captured gold at both the BC Outdoor and BC Indoor Championships, placed third in qualification at the Canada Cup West before advancing to the quarterfinals in match play, and set a new BC U21 compound outdoor record. Ranked second nationally in outdoor archery and first overall indoors in the Junior Women’s category, Novak continues to demonstrate perseverance and a strong drive to excel within the sport.

**CARLA VAN ZYL – Judo**

Establishing herself as a force on the international judo circuit, Carla Van Zyl delivered a successful season competing across both junior and senior divisions. She captured gold at the Panama Junior Pan American Cup, earned bronze at the Portimao Junior European Cup in Portugal, and added multiple international podium finishes at Pan American events, along with strong top-eight results at the World Junior Championships and Canadian Open. Ranked first nationally in U21 -57kg and eighth in the world at the U21 level, Van Zyl was named Judo Canada’s U21 Female Athlete of the Year and Judo BC’s Senior Female Athlete of the Year, reflecting her consistency, commitment, and continued rise in the sport.

**ELLY HOSKIN – Cycling (Mountain Bike)**

Making history in her first year competing at the elite level, Elly Hoskin delivered a remarkable season on the international enduro circuit. She captured gold at the UCI Enduro World Championships in Switzerland, won two UCI Elite Women’s World Cup events, and claimed the Canadian National Enduro Championship, while also taking top honours at the Crankworx Whistler Canadian Open. Currently ranked first nationally and fifth in the world, Hoskin’s results in her first elite season reflect a focused approach to racing and a strong ability to perform at the highest level of international competition.

# MASTERS ATHLETE OF THE YEAR

## PRESENTED BY CANADIAN SPORT INSTITUTE



### **DANIELLE FAUTEUX – Triathlon**

Danielle Fauteux continues to impress on the international triathlon stage, claiming first at the Oliver Half Iron and podium finishes including third at Ironman Chattanooga, where she set the all-time bike course record and qualified for Kona. She also placed 5th at Ironman Arizona, 12th at Ironman Oceanside 70.3, 13th at Ironman St. George 70.3, and 11th at Ironman Indian Wells 70.3, achieving a personal best marathon of 3:08 and an Ironman course best of 8:56:18. Ranked third nationally and 110th internationally by the Professional Triathletes Organization, Fauteux began triathlon at 36, turned professional at 39, and has rapidly become competitive at the highest level. Her dedication and drive to push limits make her an inspiring example for anyone taking on new challenges later in life.



### **MARGIE CONNORS – Diving**

Margie Connors made an impressive debut in Masters competition, winning both BC Winter Provincial championships and the Bev Boys Invitational in the 70–75 age group. She capped the year with silver and bronze medals on Tower and 1m at the World Masters Championships in Singapore, achieving personal bests in every event. Ranked the top diver in BC and second in Canada for her age group, Connors, 71, continues to inspire through her dedication, perseverance, and passion for the sport she helped grow locally, proving that it is never too late to pursue new goals and compete at the highest levels.



### **SHELLY STOUFFER – Golf**

Shelly Stouffer delivered an extraordinary season on the senior women's amateur golf circuit, winning the PNGA, Canadian, Irish, and B.C. Senior Women's Amateur championships while also finishing third at the U.S. Senior Women's Amateur and tied for ninth at the R&A Women's Senior Amateur. She qualified for both the U.S. Senior Women's Open and the U.S. Women's Amateur and was named PNGA Master Athlete (Female) of the Year for the third time in four years. Stouffer is a member of both the B.C. Golf Hall of Fame and the PNGA Hall of Fame and remains one of the most respected competitors in senior women's amateur golf.



**CATHY ASTOFOOROFF****IN HER FOOTSTEPS  
HONOUREE**

Cathy has been a foundational leader in BC's snowboarding community for decades. As Executive Director of BC Snowboard, she has quietly shaped the growth and development of the sport, championing equity, inclusion, and opportunity for women and girls across the province. Her work behind the scenes—from developing inclusive policies to mentoring emerging female leaders—has strengthened programs, built safe and welcoming environments, and created pathways for future athletes, volunteers, and administrators.

Through decades of dedication, Cathy has not only built programs, she has built a culture. Her influence is woven into the very foundation of snowboarding in BC, ensuring that women's voices are heard, valued, and prioritized in decision-making. From fostering mentorship and community to establishing sustainable frameworks for inclusion, Cathy has left a lasting legacy that will benefit generations to come.

**SAVANNA SMITH****IN HER FOOTSTEPS  
HONOUREE**

Savanna is a true trailblazer for women in lacrosse. From competing on boys' teams in her early years to becoming the only female in BC history to earn a place on the U19 Men's Field Lacrosse Provincial Team, she has consistently broken barriers and expanded what is possible for girls and women in the sport. Her achievements have opened doors and challenged long-standing perceptions at every level of the game.

Savanna's impact extends far beyond her playing career. She founded the first female field lacrosse league in the Lower Mainland, launched the Arena Lacrosse League for Women, and co-leads programs that promote Indigenous female participation. Through decades of dedication as a player, coach, and builder, she has created meaningful pathways for athletes to thrive, inspiring the next generation of girls and women to lead with confidence both on and off the field.

**TEAGAN JOHNSTONE****BOBBIE STEEN LEGACY  
AWARD RECIPIENT**

Teagan has focused much of her work on breaking down barriers and creating inclusive opportunities for girls and marginalized youth in sport. As a Learning Facilitator with I·SPARC, she delivers Indigenous-focused sport education and supports communities in building respectful, culturally grounded sport systems. In 2025, Teagan was selected for the REACH Youth Community Task Force through the Association For International Sport for All, collaborating with youth leaders to help design initiatives that expand access and equity in sport across Canada and beyond.

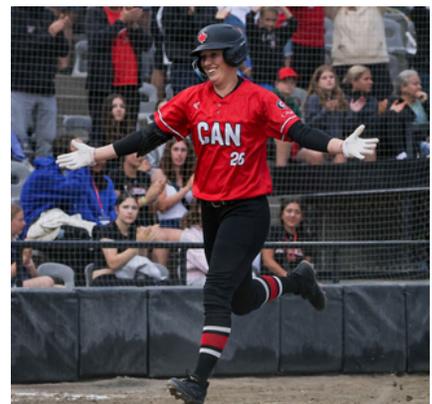
Teagan's career reflects a sustained and community-driven commitment to advancing gender equity and inclusion in sport. Through her work with PacificSport Fraser Valley and as a dedicated volleyball coach, she continues to create safe, empowering spaces where young athletes can thrive. Her future in sport promises to build on this impact, ensuring more children and youth see themselves represented, supported, and inspired to lead.

### LARISSA FRANKLIN

Larissa Franklin has been a member of Canada's national softball team for 13 years, competing at the highest level of the sport since making her debut in 2013. Over the course of her career, she has earned an Olympic bronze medal at the Tokyo 2020 Games, a Guinness World Record, Pan American Games gold, silver, and bronze medals, and three World Championship bronze medals.

In January 2025, the Maple Ridge native was diagnosed with lymphoma and underwent chemotherapy treatment while remaining committed to her return to high-performance sport. Just days before national team tryouts, Franklin received confirmation she was in remission and immediately returned to competition, earning selection to Team Canada for the 13th consecutive year and hitting two home runs in her first game back on home soil.

Franklin went on to deliver an outstanding 2025 season, helping Canada win gold at the WBSC Pan Am Championship, earning silver and All-Star Team honours at the Canada Cup, representing Canada at The World Games, and being named Softball Canada's 2025 Athlete of the Year. Her resilience and determination reflect the values recognized by the Harry Jerome Comeback Award.





# SENIOR MALE ATHLETE OF THE YEAR

POWERED BY UNDER ARMOUR



## **EVAN DUNFEE – Athletics**

Evan Dunfee capped an extraordinary 2025 by winning the World Athletics Championship in the 35km Race Walk in Tokyo and setting a new world record of 2:21:30. He also broke Canadian records in the 3,000m, 10,000m, 20km, 30km, and 35km race walks, holding national records across ten distances from 3km to 50km. Ranked first provincially, nationally, and internationally, Dunfee combines elite performance with leadership and community involvement, inspiring young athletes through initiatives like KidSport and serving as a dedicated ambassador for athletics in British Columbia.



## **JACKSON GOLDSTONE – Cycling (Mountain Bike-Downhill)**

Dominating the 2025 season, Jackson Goldstone won the Elite Men's Downhill World Championship in Champéry, Switzerland, and claimed the overall title in the UCI Downhill World Cup, including multiple race victories. He matched the modern downhill record with four consecutive World Cup wins, marking his transition from junior standout to elite competitor at just 21 years old. Ranked first nationally and internationally, he continues to elevate Canadian downhill mountain biking, engaging with grassroots riders and communities while showcasing BC's talent on the world stage.



## **REUEL D'SOUZA – Water Polo**

At the 2025 World Aquatics Championships in Singapore, Reuel D'Souza became the tournament's top scorer and helped Canada achieve its highest finish since 2015. The only BC athlete on the Senior National Team, he has established himself as one of the top players in Canada and the world. A product of the BC Sport system, D'Souza began water polo at age seven and continues to inspire young athletes through his all-around skills, leadership, and ability to perform in the biggest moments.

# SENIOR FEMALE ATHLETE OF THE YEAR

PRESENTED BY RICHMOND SPORT HOSTING

RICHMOND  
SPORT  
HOSTING

## CAMRYN ROGERS – Athletics

Camryn Rogers delivered another remarkable season in 2025, successfully defending her World Athletics Championship title in the women's hammer throw in Tokyo while setting a new Canadian and Area record with a throw of 80.51 metres. By surpassing the 80-metre mark, Rogers became just the fourth woman in history to reach the milestone and now sits second on the all-time world performance list. Ranked first provincially, nationally, and internationally, she continues to define excellence in her event. Beyond her competitive achievements, Rogers is widely admired for her humility and commitment to supporting the next generation, making a lasting impact both on and off the field.



## HOLLY WARD – Soccer

Holly Ward was a pivotal contributor to Vancouver Rise FC's Northern Super League Championship season in 2025, scoring the winning goal in the NSL Final and finishing the year with five goals and eight assists across 2,471 minutes of play. A member of the Canadian Women's National Team, Ward's path from BC Soccer programs to NCAA Division I competition and professional success reflects her steady progression at the highest levels of the sport.



## SOPHIE DE GOEDE – Rugby

Returning from ACL surgery, Sophie DeGoede delivered a standout 2025 season by being named World Rugby Player of the Year at the Rugby World Cup. Known for her versatility, she excels as a lock while also kicking for goal, finishing among the tournament's top point scorers and establishing herself as one of Canada's leading point contributors. Ranked first nationally and internationally as an individual, her leadership and resilience continue to influence women's rugby in Canada and on the world stage.



# TEAM OF THE YEAR

PRESENTED BY MARKEL



## DUCHESS PARK SR BOYS VOLLEYBALL

The Duchess Park Sr Boys had an exceptional 2025 season, capturing four banners and six first-place finishes, including the AA Provincial Championship, Zones, Kodiak Classic, City Championship, Cedars, CHSS, and STKR tournaments. They went undefeated at Provincials, winning every match in route to a thrilling five-set final victory over Richmond Christian Eagles, and set a record fifth consecutive zone championship. The team posted a 48-8 overall record, including a 16-match winning streak, and spent 10 of 11 weeks ranked in the top three provincially, reaching #1 five times. The Condors demonstrated remarkable teamwork, establishing themselves as one of Northern BC's top volleyball programs.



## POWELL RIVER U15A HOCKEY

The Powell River U15A team captured the BC Hockey U15 Tier 3 Championship in 2025, finishing the tournament undefeated with a 6-0 record and outscoring opponents 63-8, including a 5-1 victory over Terrace in the gold-medal game. The team stood out for their compassion and unity, rallying around teammate Gavin Warman, who was diagnosed with leukemia during playoffs. Throughout the championship, they kept Gavin close in spirit through messages, videos, and symbols of support, showing remarkable character and heart. The team's season combined dominance on the ice with extraordinary sportsmanship and community spirit.



## UNIVERSITY OF VICTORIA WOMEN'S CROSS COUNTRY

The Vikes women's cross-country team dominated the 2025 season, winning both the U SPORTS National Championship and the Canada West Conference title. They held the No. 1 national ranking for the final three weeks of the season. Individually, Madelyn Eybergen captured the U SPORTS gold medal, the first for a Vikes runner since 1991, while earning U SPORTS Female Athlete of the Year and All-Canadian honours. Marisha Thompson, Erin Owens, and Ella Lane were named Canada West All-Stars, with Ella Ballard earning Canada West All-Rookie Team recognition. Under the guidance of two-time Olympian Hilary Stellingwerff, the team demonstrated outstanding teamwork to achieve historic results.



## VANCOUVER RISE FC

From day one, Vancouver Rise FC's goal was bigger than football, it was about building a lasting home for women's professional sport in Vancouver. As the city's first professional women's team, Rise FC set out to create a place where athletes could dream boldly, fans could feel a true sense of belonging, and community could rally behind something built with purpose and pride. Women have been competing and breaking barriers for generations, and Rise FC is proud to be writing a new chapter in Vancouver's sporting history.

In their inaugural season, Rise FC made an immediate impact. More than 14,000 fans filled BC Place for the first-ever professional women's soccer match in the Northern Super League, marking a historic moment for the city and the country. Built by Canadians, for Canadians, the club featured 17 Canadian players, recorded 13 national team call-ups, and saw goalkeeper Morgan McAslan earn the Golden Glove with nine clean sheets. An electrifying eight-match unbeaten streak propelled the team to the NSL Final, where they came from behind to capture the Diana B. Matheson Cup and cement their place in history.

Beyond the pitch, the club's influence was just as powerful. Rise FC supported local organizations, participated in more than 25 community events, donated over 2,500 tickets, and welcomed 57,000 fans through the gates in their first season. With themed celebrations like Pride Night and Fan Appreciation Match, the club created an inclusive, family-friendly environment that united fans of all ages. Becoming NSL Champions was only the beginning, establishing a strong foundation as Rise FC continues to elevate the future of women's professional sport in Canada.



Photo Credit: Bob Frid



Photo Credit: Kevin Sousa



Photo Credit: Jaime Douglas

# SPORT BC MEMBERS



78 MEMBERS STRONG

58th  
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# ATHLETE OF THE YEAR AWARDS

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