

Sport BC Announces 55th Annual Athlete of the Year Awards

Media Advisory – January 16, 2023 – (Vancouver, BC)

Sport BC announces the finalists to be celebrated at the upcoming 55th Annual Athlete of the Year Awards taking place on **Thursday, March 9, 2023** at the Vancouver Convention Centre East. The event, to be hosted by CBC’s Scott Russell, recognizes the province’s best in amateur sport including athletes, coaches, teams, and officials for outstanding performances in their sport in either the 2021 or 2022 season. Each finalist was nominated by their Provincial or Multi-Sport Organization, High School, College, or University. The Selection Committee, led by long-serving Chair Bernie Pascall, included a diverse group of highly experienced British Columbia sport leaders and media members.

An additional six awards will be presented at the ceremony including the Best of BC, KidSport BC Community Champion, Harry Jerome Comeback, Daryl Thompson Lifetime Achievement Award and In Her Footsteps Honourees.

“The Athlete of the Year Awards is a true celebration of sport in our province. The finalists listed below will be honoured at the event and represent exceptional efforts and accomplishments in 2021 and 2022. We congratulate our finalists and the organizations they represent”, shares Sport BC’s President and CEO, Rob Newman. “We look forward to celebrating as a sector together on Thursday, March 9, 2023 at the Vancouver Convention Centre. The finalists represent 29 sports from communities all throughout BC demonstrating the collective strength of our province’s sport sector.”

Sport BC gratefully acknowledges the support of the 55th Annual Athlete of the Year Awards sponsors:

Presented By



Entertainment Sponsor



Athlete with a Disability

Kady Dandeneau - Wheelchair Basketball
Ina Forrest - Wheelchair Curling
Mollie Jepsen - Para Alpine
Mel Pemble - Para Cycling
Tyler Turner - Para Snowboard

College Athlete of the Year

Cameron Gay (Vancouver Island University) - Basketball
Yevgeniya (Jane) Lytvynenko (Vancouver Island University) - Volleyball
Vitor Pereira (Camosun College) - Volleyball
Thomas Venos (University of Alabama) - Wheelchair Tennis
Claire Ye (Capilano University) - Soccer

Female Coach of the Year

Malindi Elmore - Athletics
Barb Fraser - Gymnastics
Jane Gumley - Rowing
Bev Priestman - Soccer
Brit Townsend - Athletics

Male Coach of the Year

Trevor Hirschfield - Wheelchair Rugby
Chris MacDonald - Golf
Tommy McLeod - Diving
Laurier Primeau - Athletics
Mostafa Sabeti - Wushu

High School Female Athlete of the Year

Lauren Clements (Terry Fox) - Basketball
Maella Hodgson (Elgin Park) - Athletics
Rupinder Johal (Robert Bateman) - Wrestling
Marina Rodocaj (R.A. McMath) - Volleyball
Rory Rothnie (Claremont) - Lacrosse

High School Male Athlete of the Year

Laon Kim (Gleneagle) - Swimming
Walker Sodaro (Kelowna) - Volleyball
Logan Thiessen (Robert Bateman) - Football
Aidan Turner (South Delta) - Athletics

Jimmy Zaborniak (Burnaby South) - Basketball

Junior Female Athlete of the Year

Renee Batalla – Diving
Oonah Gamboa, Karate
Gracey Hemstreet, Cycling
Lauren Kim, Golf
Alicia Zhang, Ultimate

Junior Male Athlete of the Year

Praise Aniamaka – Athletics
Connor Bedard – Ice Hockey
Jackson Gladstone, Cycling
Cooper Humphreys, Golf
Nikola Petrovic – Judo

Senior Female Athlete of the Year

Julia Grosso – Soccer
Camryn Rogers – Athletics
Marielle Thompson – Alpine
Avalon Wasteneys – Rowing
Micah Zandee-Hart – Ice Hockey

Senior Male Athlete of the Year

Jack Crawford – Alpine
Amar Dhesi – Wrestling
Evan Dunfee – Athletics
Brent Hayden – Swimming
Derek Mayson – Softball

University Athlete of the Year

Aaron Ahl (Simon Fraser University) Athletics
Alison Andrews-Paul (Simon Fraser University) Athletics
Derek Epp (Trinity Western University) Volleyball
Kent Johnson (University of Michigan) Ice Hockey
Anna Mollenhauer – (University of Victoria) Field Hockey

Team of the Year

BC Rugby 7s – Women’s Canada Summer Games Team
Langley Rams Football Team
Trinity Western Women’s Volleyball Team
UBC Women’s Golf Team

UVIC Women's Field Hockey Team

Master Athlete of the Year

Christa Bortignon – Athletics

Uli Mayer – Cycling

Lloyd Polack – Archery

Shelly Stouffer – Golf

Derek Tripp - Triathlon

Official of the Year

Anne Bees – Tennis

Gordon Bennett – Gymnastics

Kevin Bowie – Wheelchair Rugby

Michael Campbell – Ice Hockey

Janice Hunter – Figure Skating

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About Sport BC

Sport BC believes in the power of sport and is committed to building stronger communities through positive sport experiences. Our goal is to enhance and support sport participation in British Columbia ensuring everyone has the opportunity to thrive. Through our KidSport BC, BC Amateur Sport Fund, and ProMOTION Plus along with our services Sport BC Insurance, and Payroll and Group Benefits; Sport BC supports our seventy plus member organizations. Keep up to date @SportBC

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Athlete of the Year Awards

Thursday, March 9, 2023

Vancouver Convention Centre East

#SportBC55thAOY

<http://sportbc.com>