

# Sport BC Announces 55<sup>th</sup> Annual Athlete of the Year Awards

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

Sport BC announces the finalists to be celebrated at the upcoming 55<sup>th</sup> 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 55<sup>th</sup> Annual Athlete of the Year Awards sponsors:



**Athlete with a Disability**

Kady Dandeneau - Wheelchair Basketball  
Ina Forrest - Curling  
Mollie Jepsen - Para Alpine  
Mel Pemble - Cycling  
Tyler Turner - Wheelchair 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  
Clair Ye (Capilano College) - 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  
Alice 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>