

Sport BC Announces 55th Annual Athlete of the Year Award Recipients

For Immediate Release – March 10, 2023 – (Vancouver, BC)

Sport BC celebrated the 55th Annual Athlete of the Year Awards on **Thursday, March 9, 2023**. The event was hosted by CBC's Scott Russell recognizing the province's best in amateur sport including athletes, coaches, teams, and officials for outstanding performances in their sport in either 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.

"This was our first in-person event since 2019 and the 55th Annual Athlete of the Year Awards was a true celebration of sport in our province, the recipients represent an exceptional 2021 and 2022 in BC sport and we are inspired by the sport stories of all of our finalists, the category winners, and the organizations they represent", shares Sport BC's President and CEO, Rob Newman. "We are proud to bring the amateur sport community together and thank you guests, sponsors, and friends in sport."

Sport BC congratulates all the Athlete of the Year Awards' Recipients:

Athlete with a Disability

Presented by Mawer Investment Group
Tyler Turner (Vancouver) – Para Snowboard

College Athlete of the Year

Presented by BC Amateur Sport Fund
Jane Lytvynenko (Vancouver Island University) - Volleyball

High School Female Athlete of the Year

Presented by BC Lottery Corporation
Marina Radocaj (R.A. McMath) – Volleyball/Basketball

High School Male Athlete of the Year

Presented by First Nations Housing and Infrastructure Council of BC
Laon Kim (Gleneagle) – Swimming

Junior Female Athlete of the Year

Presented by Richmond Sport Hosting
Gracey Hemstreet (Sechelt) – Cycling

Junior Male Athlete of the Year

Presented by Sport Burnaby
Connor Bedard (North Vancouver) – Ice Hockey

University Athlete of the Year

Presented by University Canada West/CCTB
Anna Mollenhauer (University of Victoria) – Field Hockey

Master Athlete of the Year

Presented by Markel Play - Canada
Shelly Stouffer (NanOOSE Bay) – Golf

Female Coach of the Year

Presented by Canadian Sport Institute Pacific
Bev Priestman (Vancouver) – Soccer

Male Coach of the Year

Presented by TD Bank Group
Chris MacDonald (Vancouver) - Golf

Senior Female Athlete of the Year

Presented by Canada Life
Micah Zandee-Hart (Saanichton) – Ice Hockey

Senior Male Athlete of the Year

Powered by Under Armour
Evan Dunfee (Richmond) – Athletics

Official of the Year

Presented by Sport BC Insurance
Janice Hunter (West Vancouver) – Figure Skating

Team of the Year

Presented by Local Rental Solutions
UBC Women’s Golf Team

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

KidSport Community Champion

Farhan Lahlji

The **KidSport Community Champion** is presented to an individual who has made a significant and meaningful contribution to KidSport.

Best of BC

Presented by the Province of British Columbia

Christine Sinclair – Soccer

The **Best of BC Award**, supported by the Province of British Columbia, is presented to an individual or team thought to have represented British Columbia, nationally or internationally, in either a profession.

Harry Jerome Comeback Award

Presented by Sport Hosting Vancouver

Rebecca Marino - Tennis

The **Harry Jerome Comeback Award** is presented to an individual who succeeded in their sport after suffering a significant and unique setback.

Daryl Thompson Lifetime Achievement Award

Presented by the BC Games Society

Kristine Chambers - Triathlon

The **Daryl Thompson Lifetime Achievement Award**, sponsored by the BC Games Society, is presented to an individual who has contributed their time in an extraordinary way to sport over a long period of time and/or has made a major contribution to amateur sport in British Columbia. The award is named after the late Daryl Thompson an inspiring former Chair of Sport BC.

ProMOTION Plus

The recipients have demonstrated their commitment to being role models and mentors of young women; they have opened doors to increase accessibility and promote opportunities for participation. They have strived, struggled, fallen, picked themselves up and continued – because they know the benefits and love what it means to be deeply involved in sport and physical activity.

In Her Footsteps . . . Celebrating BC Women in Sport

Sue Griffin
Debbie Pyne

Bobbie Steen Foundation Legacy Award

Amy de Bree

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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 sixty plus member organizations. Keep up to date @SportBC

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