

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



**SPORT
BC**

**ATHLETE OF THE YEAR
AWARDS**

Sport BC Announces the Male and Female High School Athletes of the Year

Vancouver, BC — January 28, 2026 — Sport BC, in collaboration with BC School Sports, is pleased to announce the Male and Female High School Athletes of the Year: Elijah Black and Adrianna Buitelaar.

Through discussions with Sport BC Member, BC School Sports, one male and one female high school athlete were selected to reflect exceptional athletic performance, leadership, and dedication.

High School Male Athlete of the Year

ELIJAH BLACK

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, Elijah had a record setting season, leading his Hawks to the Championship Game at BC Place in December. Known for his composure and football IQ, he shattered multiple BC high school passing records and demonstrated exceptional dedication both academically and athletically, balancing training, leadership responsibilities, and work throughout the season. Elijah also starred for the WJM Varsity basketball team. Beyond BCSS activities, Elijah was the starting quarterback for Team BC at the Canada Cup.



High School Female Athlete of the Year

ADRIANNA BUITELAAR

Adrianna Buitelaar, a student-athlete at Mennonite Educational Institute (MEI), enjoyed a breakout year in athletics, excelling across track and cross country at the provincial and national levels. Adrianna set a new all-time BC School Sports Provincial Record in the 1500m on the track, and won gold at the BCSS Cross Country championships with the fastest female time in any division. She captured national titles in the 3000m and U20 cross country, which earned her selection to the U20 Athletics Canada National Cross Country Team, while her leadership and competitive spirit continue to inspire those around her.



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These student athletes represent the highest standard of high school sport in British Columbia and exemplify excellence, perseverance, and leadership both in competition and in their school communities. Congratulations to W.J. Mouat's Elijah Black and Mennonite Educational Institute's Adrianna Buitelaar. Sport BC looks forward to celebrating with you at the Athlete of the Year Awards on March 5, 2026.

Tickets are available here: <https://can.givergy.com/aoy2026>



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 BC Women & Sport 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

About BC School Sports

BC School Sports is a organization of over 450 public and independent schools in British Columbia. It is the governing body for school sport and coordinates and delivers opportunities with our member schools for interschool competitions in over 18 activities to over 123,000 student-athletes each year. BCSS delivers 61 provincial championships annually, with thousands of student-athletes competing at the highest levels of interscholastic competition.

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Athlete of the Year Awards

Thursday, March 5, 2026
Fairmont Hotel Vancouver
#SportBC58thAOY
<http://sportbc.com>

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