



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Sport BC announces recipients at 51st Athlete of the Year Awards
Fairmont Waterfront Hotel

VANCOUVER, BC (March 13, 2017) — Sport BC is proud to announce the successful recipients of the 2017 Athlete of the Year Awards, held in Vancouver on March 8, 2017, recognizing the achievements of athletes, coaches and officials.

The Government of British Columbia supported the 51st Annual Athlete of the Year Awards with the Honourable Peter Fassbender, Minister of Community, Sport and Cultural Development in attendance to honour the recipients.

“The 2017 Athlete of the Year awards recognize B.C.’s best athletes. We should all be inspired by the dedication, commitment and perseverance that has led to their success in sport. Many of these athletes have competed provincially, nationally and internationally while others are just beginning their careers. They are all a testament to our province, to our sport organizations and the many people who support them. Congratulations to the 2017 award recipients.”

- Peter Fassbender, Minister of Community, Sport and Cultural Development

“We are extremely proud to announce that the 51st Annual Athlete of the Year Awards was a success in celebrating athletes, coaches and officials in 18 award categories with over 450 guests in attendance. The finalists and winners have proved themselves by their athletic ability and commitment to sport and it was officially recognized at our event. We would like to thank all the Sport BC member Provincial Sport Organizations for their continued support. We sincerely appreciate the support from the Government of British Columbia and all our sponsors who made this event possible.”

– Rob Newman, Sport BC, President & CEO

These extraordinary individuals were honoured for their excellence in and contribution to sport in front of 500 guests at the Fairmont Waterfront Hotel in Downtown Vancouver.

The award recipients, representing 15 different sports and 11 communities within British Columbia, included:

For additional information, please contact:

Christine Wong, Athlete of the Year Coordinator

Email: christine@sportbc.com

Tel: 604-333-3421

Website: www.sportbc.com



1. BEST OF BC – *presented by the Government of British Columbia*

The recipient of the prestigious annual Best of BC award is the individual or team thought to have best represented B.C. nationally or internationally, in professional or amateur sport.

RECIPIENT: Christine Sinclair (Burnaby) – Soccer

2. ATHLETE WITH A DISABILITY – *presented by Allsport Insurance Marketing Ltd.*

This award recognizes an athlete with a disability who has demonstrated extraordinary athletic performance in provincial, national or international competitions in a team or individual sport in B.C.

RECIPIENT: Tristen Chernove (Cranbrook) – Para-Cycling

3. COLLEGE ATHLETE OF THE YEAR – *presented by SBC Insurance*

This award recognizes an individual who competed in a sport, as part of a team or an individual, and who represented a college, university/college, or institution in the province of British Columbia in the 2015-2016 academic year.

RECIPIENT: Tylar Turnbull (Port Coquitlam) - Volleyball

4. FEMALE COACH OF THE YEAR – *presented by ProMotion Plus*

This award recognizes a female coach who has been responsible for coaching an amateur team(s) and/or individuals at any level of athletic competition in British Columbia.

RECIPIENT: Carolyn Murray (Victoria) – Triathlon

For additional information, please contact:

Christine Wong, Athlete of the Year Coordinator

Email: christine@sportbc.com

Tel: 604-333-3421

Website: www.sportbc.com



5. MALE COACH OF THE YEAR – presented by ParticipACTION

This award recognizes a male coach who has been responsible for coaching an amateur team(s) and/or individuals at any level of athletic competition in British Columbia.

RECIPIENT: Gerry Dragomir (Vancouver) - Athletics

6. FEMALE HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETE OF THE YEAR - presented by Belair Direct

This award recognizes a female athlete who was enrolled in a secondary school in British Columbia who competed in a sport, as part of a team or an individual, representing her school in the 2015-2016 academic year.

RECIPIENT: Zion Corrales-Nelson (Burnaby) – Basketball & Athletics

7. MALE HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETE – presented by Delta Land Group Development

This award recognizes a male athlete who was enrolled in a secondary school in British Columbia and who competed in a sport, as part of a team or an individual, representing his school in the 2015-2016 academic year.

RECIPIENT: Parker Simson (Kelowna) – Football & Basketball

8. FEMALE JUNIOR ATHLETE OF THE YEAR – presented by Infigo

This award recognizes extraordinary athletic performance by a female junior athlete who is competing on a team or in an individual sport in British Columbia.

RECIPIENT: Maggie Coles-Lyster (Maple Ridge) – Cycling

For additional information, please contact:

Christine Wong, Athlete of the Year Coordinator

Email: christine@sportbc.com

Tel: 604-333-3421

Website: www.sportbc.com



9. MALE JUNIOR ATHLETE OF THE YEAR – presented by BCLC

This award recognizes extraordinary athletic performance by a male junior athlete who is competing on a team or in an individual sport in British Columbia.

RECIPIENT: Finn Iles (Whistler) – Cycling

10. MASTER ATHLETE OF THE YEAR – presented by ViaSport

This award recognizes an athlete competing in a Masters division as defined by his or her sport, taking part on a team or in an individual sport in British Columbia.

RECIPIENT: Ken Dahl (Vancouver) – Tennis

11. OFFICIAL OF THE YEAR – presented by Sport Hosting Vancouver

This award recognizes an official who has been responsible for officiating sport events at any level of athletic competition.

RECIPIENT: Louise Kennedy (Brentwood Bay) - Synchro

12. FEMALE SENIOR ATHLETE OF THE YEAR – presented by Special T Group Events

This award recognizes extraordinary athletic performance by a female athlete who is competing on a team or as an individual sport in British Columbia.

RECIPIENT: Hilary Caldwell (Victoria) – Swimming

For additional information, please contact:

Christine Wong, Athlete of the Year Coordinator

Email: christine@sportbc.com

Tel: 604-333-3421

Website: www.sportbc.com



13. MALE SENIOR ATHLETE OF THE YEAR – presented by Richmond Sport Hosting

This award recognizes extraordinary athletic performance by a male athlete who is competing on a team or as an individual sport in British Columbia.

RECIPIENT: Evan Dunfee (Richmond) – Athletics

14. UNIVERSITY ATHLETE OF THE YEAR – presented by Helly Hansen

This award recognizes an athlete enrolled in a recognized degree-granting university in British Columbia, and who competed in a recognized Canadian Interuniversity Sport (CIS) or National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA) sport or sports, team or individual, representing his or her school in the 2015-2016 season.

RECIPIENT: Hannah Haughn (Vancouver) – UBC Field Hockey

15. TEAM OF THE YEAR – presented by BC Games Society

This award recognizes an amateur team competing in a sanctioned league in British Columbia.

RECIPIENT: RCA Lightweight Women's Double (Victoria) – Rowing

16. KIDSPORT COMMUNITY CHAMPION AWARD – presented by Ritchie Bros.

The KidSport Community Champion Award is presented to an individual who has made a significant and meaningful contribution to KidSport over the past year.

RECIPIENT: Michelle Stilwell (Parksville) – Para Athletics

For additional information, please contact:

Christine Wong, Athlete of the Year Coordinator

Email: christine@sportbc.com

Tel: 604-333-3421

Website: www.sportbc.com

**17. HARRY JEROME COMEBACK AWARD – presented by YYoga**

This award recognizes an athlete who competed in a sport, individual or team, in 2016 after having suffered an unusual setback (i.e. illness, injury, etc.).

RECIPIENT: Keith Switzer (Vancouver) – Curling

18. DARYL THOMPSON AWARD – presented by Sport BC

This award is named in honour of the late Daryl Thompson, former chair of Sport BC. Daryl's contributions to sport as an athlete, coach and executive officer were exemplary. This prestigious award recognizes an individual who has contributed their time in an extraordinary way to sport over a long period of time or has made a major contribution to amateur sport in British Columbia.

RECIPIENT: Loreen Barnett (North Vancouver) – Triathlon

-30-

About the Athlete of the Year Awards

The Athlete of the Year Awards, founded by Sport BC, is the longest standing amateur sport recognition event in the country. Awards in 18 different categories are given each year to athletes, coaches, and officials on their performance and contribution to sport in the province of British Columbia. The awards play a valuable role in nurturing athletic success while recognizing extraordinary accomplishments in British Columbia.

For additional information, please contact:

Christine Wong, Athlete of the Year Coordinator

Email: christine@sportbc.com

Tel: 604-333-3421

Website: www.sportbc.com



23rd Presidents' Awards

The 23rd Annual Presidents' Awards is proudly sponsored by *Sports with Balls*. This group is comprised of Basketball BC, Volleyball BC, BC Lacrosse Association, BC Soccer Association, Softball BC, Baseball BC, Tennis BC and the BC Ringette Association. These awards are presented annually to volunteers from Sport BC member organizations who represent the spirit of volunteerism, and whose dedication, energy, and commitment contribute to the development of their sport or organization.

Sponsored by:



About Sport BC

In 1966, a small group of dedicated volunteers created an organization to provide a unified voice for amateur sport in British Columbia. While much has changed in 51 years, our core purpose remains the same.

Who we are:

Sport BC is the non-profit sport federation, representing over 60 Provincial Sport Organizations in British Columbia. As a member-based organization, Sport BC offers services and programs to build the capacity of our members and advocate on their behalf to improve the landscape for organized sport in BC.

Mission:

Sport BC, as a member-based organization, supports the growth of amateur sport in BC and provides leadership through delivery of its programs and services for members.

Vision:

Sport in British Columbia is thriving through the leadership of Sport BC and our members.

Values:

Integrity, Transparency, Collaboration, Creativity and Innovation

For additional information, please contact:

Christine Wong, Athlete of the Year Coordinator

Email: christine@sportbc.com

Tel: 604-333-3421

Website: www.sportbc.com



Selection Committee Members

Bernie Pascall – Chair, Ajay Patel (Langara College), Allison Mailer (BC Sports Hall of Fame), Bob Mackin, Brian Dance (CBC), Gary Kingston, Judy Joseph-Black (Sports Reports Consulting Services), Karin Larsen (CBC), Len Corben (North Shore Outlook), Marilyn Payne (Sport Consultant), Tom Berridge, Wendy Long (Freelance Writer), Michelle Collens (City of Vancouver), Lynda Cannell (Fortius Sport & Health), Lia Threlfall (BC Games Society), Carey Dillen (Sport BC Chair).

For additional information, please contact:

Rob Newman

President & CEO, Sport BC

Tel: 604-340-8432

Email: rob.newman@sportbc.com

Christine Wong

Athlete of the Year Coordinator, Sport BC

Tel: 604-333-3421

Email: christine@sportbc.com

PREVIOUS AWARD RECIPIENTS: *For a list of previous award winners and additional information, including recognition of our corporate and community sponsors and partners, please visit: www.sportbc.com*

For additional information, please contact:

Christine Wong, Athlete of the Year Coordinator

Email: christine@sportbc.com

Tel: 604-333-3421

Website: www.sportbc.com