

Celebrating Ontario's Best Athletes

McGuinty Government Congratulates 2010 Ontario Sport Award Nominees

NEWS

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On the heels of a successful year that included Canada's best-ever results at the 21st Olympic Winter Games, Ontario is recognizing 42 top amateur athletes and coaches.

The 2010 Ontario Sport Awards celebrate the outstanding contributions of athletes, coaches, officials, volunteers and corporate sponsors who support amateur sport in Ontario. Amongst this year's nominees are several of the 23 Ontario athletes who brought home medals at the Vancouver Olympics.

Nominees include:

- Male Athlete of the Year: Cameron Harris (Ultimate: Disc Sports), Cody Sorensen (Bobsleigh), Nyl Yakura (Badminton)
- Female Athlete of the Year: Ohenewa Akuffo (Wrestling), Priscilla Lopes-Schliep (Athletics), Heather Moyse (Bobsleigh)
- Male Athlete with a Disability of the Year: Richard Ball (Athletics), Jason Dunkerley (Athletics), Tim Rees (Visually Impaired Judo)
- Female Athlete with a Disability of the Year: Madison Lawson (Equestrian), Summer Mortimer (Swimming), Martha Sandoval Gustafson (Wheelchair Athletics)

Winners will be announced at the 2010 Ontario Sport Awards dinner on April 14 in Toronto.

Ontario's athletes and coaches will also showcase their skills at home when the GTA hosts the Pan/Parapan American Games in 2015. The Games will create thousands of construction jobs, improve sports infrastructure, and bring 250,000 athletes, coaches and tourists to Ontario.

QUOTES

"Congratulations to all the nominees of the 2010 Ontario Sport Awards. Each nominee has made an impact on sport in Ontario and is a role model who showcases what can be achieved when you apply focus, passion, commitment and hard work to be the very best."

Margarett Best, Minister of Health Promotion and Sport

"On behalf of the Sport Alliance of Ontario, I congratulate all the athletes, coaches, officials, volunteers and corporate supporters of sport in the province of Ontario. We truly appreciate the passion and exemplary commitment each has demonstrated over the past year. We look forward to celebrating all their success at this year's Ontario Sport Awards."

Holly Abraham, Chair, Sport Alliance of Ontario

QUICK FACTS

- Ontario supports high-performance athletes and coaches through the Quest for Gold program, providing more than \$52 million since 2006 toward athletes, coaching and competition opportunities
- 13 Ontario athletes who reached the podium at the 2010 Vancouver Winter Olympic Games received support through Quest for Gold.

- 25 of 53 athletes on the Canadian Paralympic Team were from Ontario. Of these, 21 athletes received support through Quest for Gold.
- Since 1965, the Ontario Sport Awards have been honouring outstanding achievement in Ontario amateur sport. It is the highest recognition for sport excellence in the province.
- Previous recipients include Priscilla Lopes-Schlieppe, Eric Lamaze, Patrick Chan, Donovan Bailey, Silken Laumann and Lennox Lewis.
- Award winners are chosen by the Sport Awards Selection Committee, a group of former athletes and sport administrators from Ontario.

LEARN MORE

See the full list of nominees for the 2010 Ontario Sport Awards

Check the [Sport Alliance of Ontario site](#) for updates on other Ontario Sport Awards.

Learn more about the [Quest for Gold Program](#)

Read about Ontario athletes at the [2010 Winter Olympics and Paralympics](#)

Check out the latest on the [2015 Pan Am Games](#).

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