



2025 Canada Summer Games

Team Alberta Daily Highlights

Day 5

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 14, 2025

Team Alberta Powers Through Day 5 of Competition

ST. JOHN'S, NFLD. – Team Alberta continued its strong showing at the Canada Summer Games on Thursday, August 15, adding eight medals (five silver, three bronze) to the overall count and advancing six teams into medal contention.

Team Alberta Women's Softball is guaranteed a podium finish after a dominant performance on Thursday. In the qualification game, they shut out Manitoba 6-0, followed by a dominant 10-0 win over New Brunswick, where **Maliya Pankiw** (Edmonton) pitched all four innings without allowing a single run.

"We came here to medal and we are doing that for sure, it was a grind, but very excited about that" Maliya Pankiw, pitcher for Team Alberta Women's Softball. "Overall, we're playing good, we've had a few rough games but we've come back, we've been hitting good and the energy's high. We're taking that into tomorrow."

The team faces Ontario Friday morning. A win advances them to the Gold medal game, while a loss would secure a bronze.

Team Alberta prevailed in the Men's Soccer semi-final after a dramatic final against British Columbia ended in a 1-1 draw. The match was decided in penalty kicks, where goalkeeper Luka Dolanjski (Edmonton) came up big with a crucial save to secure Alberta's place in the final.

Team Alberta Women's Box Lacrosse defeated Ontario 4-3 in a tightly contested semi-final to advance to the Gold medal final.

Casey Kruse has capped off an incredible Games, medalling on all five nights of competition to keep the podium streak alive for the Team Alberta swimmer. On Thursday night, the Special Olympian from Strathmore added a Silver in the 50m Special Olympics Women's Freestyle.

Other medals from the pool included:

- **Aiden Gyorfi** (Edmonton) – Silver, 1500m Men's Freestyle:
- **Alan Piatek** (Calgary) – Silver, 50m Men's Butterfly
- **Blakely McBride** (Sherwood Park): Silver, 50m Women's Butterfly
- **Callie Cardiff** (Calgary): Silver, 200m Women's IM

- **Elleigh Wise** (Calgary): Bronze, 800m Women's Breaststroke
- **Kingston Hitchcock** (Red Deer): Bronze, 200m Men's IM
- **Allan Piatek** (Calgary), **Kingston Hitchcock** [Red Deer], **Callie Cardiff** (Calgary) and **Sasha Rogers** (Sherwood Park): Bronze, 4x100m Freestyle Relay Mix

Kingston Hitchcock (Red Deer) leaves the pool with a remarkable seven medals over the course of the games.

Both Team Alberta basketball squads are headed to the semi-finals after commanding performances. The Women's Team defeated New Brunswick in a convincing 91-52 tally. While Men's Basketball earned a 69-56 victory over Nova Scotia to move into the final four.

More medals are on the line Friday, as Team Alberta looks to close out Week 1 of the Canada Summer Games with continued momentum.

QUOTES OF THE DAY

"Today was a super fun day for the whole team – we had fun on the bench, we had fun in warm-ups, our music was going the whole time, our cheers were going the whole time and I think we're really excited for tomorrow. We want to go into tomorrow keeping things calm, we've been playing really well together, we've really connected as a team this week and I think if we all stay with each other and play for each other, then the outcome will be good." – **Paige Stecyk** (Calgary) catcher for Team Alberta Women's Softball on how the team is feeling after two wins on Thursday.

"We set a goal at the start of our training camp and we're taking little steps to get there. We're a really connected group and this was a great team win. Nova Scotia is a great team and so now we've got to get ready for them and stay ready for semi's." – **Amanda Guss** (Calgary), Team Alberta Women's Basketball, focused on the next one – Nova Scotia in the semi-finals.

"Today was a good team win, we had to battle a lot of adversity today, from being down to a tie game going into the half or even the fans – it looked like half the gym was against us – but we battled against that, stuck together like we always do and came out with the win. It's truly an honour to get to play for a medal, to get to come here and represent Alberta at one of the highest levels in the country is something special that only 12 of us get to do and show what Alberta does." – **Jahkeen Damaj** (Calgary), Team Alberta Men's Basketball, on advancing into the semi-finals.

Team Alberta Tennis on overcoming Saskatchewan to play Quebec in the semi-finals on Friday at the Canada Summer Games:

"Going into tomorrow, we're going to build off of the momentum we already have from beating B.C. and Saskatchewan today and give it our best go" – **Elicia Lin** (Calgary).

"We're going to focus on rest and recovery to make sure we're ready. We're coming in as the underdogs, so we don't have any pressure on it and we're going to play our hearts out out there." – **Enoch Lin** (Calgary).

HIGHLIGHTS

- Swimming:
 - 50m Women's Special Olympics Freestyle:
 - Casey Kruse (Strathmore): 36.38 (Silver)
 - 1500m Men's Freestyle:
 - Aiden Gyorfi (Edmonton): 16:03.62 (Silver)
 - 50m Men's Butterfly:
 - Alan Piatek (Calgary): 25.29 (Silver)
 - 50m Women's Butterfly:
 - Blakely McBride (Sherwood Park): 27.67 (Silver)
 - Jasmine Lawal (Edmonton): 28.23 (4)
 - 200m Women's IM:
 - Callie Cardiff (Calgary): 2:20.43 (Silver)
 - Meghan Sutherland (Calgary): 2:25.51 (5)
 - 800m Women's Breaststroke:
 - Elleigh Wise (Calgary): 8:59.78 (Bronze)
 - 200m Men's IM
 - Kingston Hitchcock (Red Deer): 2:08.66 (Bronze)
 - 4x100m Freestyle Relay Mix:
 - Alberta (Alan Piatek [Calgary], Kingston Hitchcock [Red Deer], Callie Cardiff [Calgary], Sasha Rogers [Sherwood Park]): Bronze
 - 100m Women's Freestyle:
 - Sasha Rogers (Sherwood Park): 58.47 (5)
- Canoe Kayak:
 - C-1 200m Women's:
 - Kiira Saarenoja (Langdon): 52.762 (5)
 - C-1 5000m Men's:
 - Lennart Kane (Calgary): 29:22.427 (4)
 - C-1 5000m Women's:
 - Kai Allison Choe (Calgary): 36:40.550 (5)
 - IC-4 200m Women's:
 - Alberta (Kai Allison Choe [Calgary], Gillian Kurelski [Calgary], Lilah Lessard, Kiira Saarenoja [Langdon]): 50.514 (5)
 - K-1 5000m Men's:
 - Lauren Rentz (Calgary): 29:58.997 (5)
 - K-2 200m Women's:
 - Alberta (Jonnie Newman [Calgary], Lauren Rentz [Calgary]): 47.684 (5)
 - K-4 200m Men's:
 - Alberta (Dawson Hutchinson [Calgary], Milo Jackson, Lucas Mann [Calgary], Joshua Rowe [Calgary]): 35.731 (4)

- Men's Basketball:
 - Quarter Finals: Alberta 69 – Nova Scotia 56
- Women's Basketball:
 - Quarter Finals: Alberta 91 – New Brunswick 52
- Women's Box Lacrosse:
 - Semi Finals: Alberta 4 – Ontario 3
- Sailing:
 - Women's Single Handed ILCA:
 - Claire Wooldridge Calgary: 22 (2nd after Race 7)
- Men's Soccer:
 - Semi-finals: Alberta 1 – British Columbia 1, Alberta wins 4-3 in penalty kicks
- Women's Softball:
 - Qualification: Alberta 6 – Manitoba 0
 - Semi Final: Alberta 10 – New Brunswick 0
- Tennis:
 - Quarter Finals: Alberta 5 – Saskatchewan 1

For full schedules and up-to-date results, visit: cg2025.gems.pro

A list of all athletes and their hometowns are available on the albertasport.ca.

MEDAL COUNT (34):

Gold: 6

Silver: 15

Bronze: 13

Alberta finished the 2022 Canada Summer Games with 111 medals: 35 gold, 33 silver, 43 bronze.

NOTABLES

- All in the Family:

Team Alberta Basketball is keeping excellence in the family. Pippa Gibb (Women's Basketball, Raymond) and Tharngoap Thokbuom (Men's Basketball, Calgary) are following in the footsteps of their elite athlete siblings. Gibb is the sister of Delaney Gibb, a member of the Canadian Women's National Basketball Team, while Thokbuom is the brother of Nyadholi Thokbuom, a standout on the Canadian Women's National Volleyball Team.
- Podium Success in the Books: Competitions have wrapped for Men's and Women's Rugby Sevens and Canoe Kayak. **Kiira Saarenoja** (Langdon) earned a Silver medal in the Women's C-1 500m Canoe Kayak, while the Women's Rugby Sevens team captured Bronze, marking the program's first-ever medals at the Games.
- Looking Ahead to Week 2: Week 1 of the Canada Summer Games concludes on Saturday, with a new wave of sports and athletes moving into the village for Week 2. Sports include:

Artistic Swimming, Athletics, Women's Baseball, Men's Box Lacrosse, Mountain Biking, Diving, Golf, Women's Soccer, Men's Softball, Men's and Women's Volleyball and Wrestling

ABOUT THE 2025 CANADA SUMMER GAMES

From August 8-25, 2025, the Canada Games will bring together over 5,000 athletes, managers, and coaches (over 500 from Alberta), across 19 different sports for the largest multi-sport event in the country. The Canada Games showcase the best of the best in sport and highlight the immense talents of our youth. The Games create a spirit of unity that spans each province and territory. For further information, visit albertasport.ca, or follow Team Alberta on Facebook and Instagram (@goteamab).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION:

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