



2025 Canada Summer Games

Team Alberta Daily Highlights

Day 2

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 11, 2025

Gold Rush Begins: Team Alberta Makes Waves and Wheels Turn at Canada Summer Games

ST. JOHN'S, NFLD. – Gold was the colour of choice for Team Alberta on day 2 of competition at the Canada Summer Games in St. John's Newfoundland and Labrador. Alberta closed out the day with a strong showing – claiming three gold, two silver and three bronze medals, bringing the overall medal tally to 11.

Amaia Ervin-Arambarri of Calgary secured Alberta's first top-podium finish of the Games in Road Cycling's Women's Individual Time Trial, marking a major milestone in her athletic journey.

"This is my first-year cycling, I switched Triathlon into cycling this year, so it was a big shift and it took a lot of dedication and determination to get here and it's really cool to see all the hours and time really pay off. I'm so excited and in shock still," said Ervin-Arambarri of her first-place finish.

In the pool, Alberta swimmers made a splash – adding a flurry of medals across multiple events.

Special Olympian, **Casey Kruse** (Strathmore), was first to get her hand on the wall twice to earn gold in the Women's 50m Special Olympic Breaststroke and Women's 100m Special Olympic Freestyle.

"I'm very proud of myself for what I've done today, there was a lot of hard work and determination go into those strokes," said Kruse. "These medals show how much work I've put into my training and seeing the accomplishments happen. I'm so proud to represent Alberta, the way it should be."

Other standout performances from Alberta's swim team included:

- **Kingston Hitchcock** (Red Deer) – Silver, Men's 400 IM
- **Hayleigh Haines** (Calgary) – Silver, Women's 50m Breaststroke
- **Alan Piatek** (Calgary) – Bronze, Men's 50m Freestyle
- **Wesley Wilks** (Didsbury) – Bronze, Men's 50m Special Olympic Breaststroke
- Alberta (**Christine Zhou** [Calgary], **Hayleigh Haines** [Calgary], **Alan Piatek** [Calgary], **Kingston Hitchcock** [Red Deer]) – Bronze, 400m Mixed Medley Relay

On the water, Olympian, **Jonnie Newman** (Calgary), made her Canada Summer Games debut in the Canoe Kayak Women's K1-500m. Newman, who previously competed in Artistic Swimming at

the 2024 Olympic Games, made the transition to Canoe Kayak last October, with the goal of qualifying for St. John's.

"There have been a lot of ups and downs and a lot of big decisions go into making the transition back to Canoe Kayak," said Newman. "I've been to training camps in New Zealand and Florida and have just tried to get as many races in as possible leading up to these games."

Newman finished fifth in the K1-500m after clocking an impressive 2:22.437 in the qualification round.

Team Alberta continues competition at the Canada Summer Games on Tuesday, August 12 in St. John's, Newfoundland and Labrador.

QUOTES OF THE DAY

"Leah is super knowledgeable and she's been here before so it's really cool to hear all of her insights into the racing world. As someone who is less experienced in it, it's really awesome having her and being able to hear her insights on when we were pre-riding the course and the morning of with the wind conditions. So I'm really thankful for all of her valuable input and all her experience that she brings to the table, everything counts and I'm so grateful to have her as a resource," said 2025 Canada Summer Games Individual Time Trial, Gold medalist, **Amaia Ervin-Arambarri** (Calgary), on having two-time Olympian and Canada Summer Games Gold medalist, Leah Kirchmann, as her head coach at the games.

"This bronze medal feels like gold to me! I have worked so hard over the last three years. It's been really tough, I haven't had much coaching and I've been training myself for three years on my own. This feels like gold because it was really hard to get and I went into this Games thinking that winning a medal might be doable, but probably won't do that well. So getting the bronze, feels like gold to me." – Three-time Canada Summer Games athlete, Special Olympian, **Wesley Wilks** (Didsbury), on what it means to win a bronze medal in St. John's.

"It just feels amazing, Ontario is definitely one of the tougher teams in this competition, it was just a great game and really amazing to get the first win. Sasha and I have been working a lot on building our connection and finding each other on the court and I think it shows in the way we play." – **Ella Layzell** (Calgary), Women's Beach Volleyball player on opening the Canada Summer Games with a win against Team Ontario.

"We got on the sticks early, got a lead and maintained that momentum through the whole game, we had great energy on the bench and we came out with the win. Everything went perfectly. I felt really good out there, I attacked the zone early and forced hitters to make bad decisions and I didn't leave anything over the heart of the plate so I felt it was a really good outing." – **Joshua Mills** (Leduc), opening pitcher for Team Alberta who now sit with an even 1-1 record after a 4-2 win over British Columbia.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Cycling:
 - Road Cycling – Women’s Individual Time Trial:
 - Amaia Ervin-Arambarri (Calgary): 17:53.63 (Gold)
 - Kahlen Anderson (Canmore): 18:41.12 (T4)
- Swimming:
 - 100m Women’s Special Olympics Freestyle:
 - Casey Kruse (Strathmore): 1:21.95 (Gold)
 - Aliya de Gruchy (Lethbridge): 1:32.97 (4)
 - 50m Women’s Special Olympics Breaststroke:
 - Casey Kruse (Strathmore): 47.06 (Gold)
 - Aliya de Gruchy (Lethbridge): 52.38 (4)
 - Men’s 400m IM
 - Kingston Hitchcock (Red Deer): 4:36.10 (Silver)
 - Aiden Gyorfi (Edmonton): 4:41.51 (6)
 - 50m Women’s Breaststroke:
 - Hayleigh Haines (Calgary): Silver
 - Taylor Ginther (Lethbridge): 6
 - 50m Men’s Freestyle:
 - Alan Piatek (Calgary): 23.95 (Bronze)
 - Henrico Jordaan (Grande Prairie): 24.01 (4)
 - 50m Men’s Special Olympics Breaststroke:
 - Wesley Wilks (Didsbury): 38.13 (Bronze)
 - 4x100m Medley Relay Mix:
 - Alberta (Christine Zhou [Calgary], Hayleigh Haines [Calgary], Alan Piatek [Calgary], Kingston Hitchcock [Red Deer]): Bronze
 - 50m Women’s Freestyle
 - Blakely McBride (Sherwood Park): 26.65 (4)
 - Taylor Ginther (Lethbridge): 27.16 (6)
 - 200m Men’s Backstroke:
 - Kinnon Sen (Calgary): 2:08.11 (5)
 - 200m Women’s Backstroke:
 - Christine Zhou (Calgary): 2:22.53 (6)
 - 100m Men’s Special Olympics Freestyle:
 - Wesley Wilks (Didsbury): 1:08.31 (7)
 - Women’s 400m IM
 - Callie Cardiff (Calgary): 4:58.27 (4)
 - Meghan Sutherland (Calgary): 5:06.99 (8)
 - 50m Men’s Breaststroke:
 - Jaxon Kwan (Calgary): 31.11 (8)
- Canoe Kayak

- C-1 1000m Women's:
 - Kai Allison Choe (Calgary): 5:52.330 (4)
- C-1 500m Men's:
 - Justin Boyko (Calgary): 2:17.931 (5)
- C-2 500m Women's:
 - Alberta (Kai Allison Choe [Calgary], Kiira Saarenoja [Langdon]): 2:38.565 (4)
- K-1 500m Women's:
 - Jonnie Newman (Calgary): 2:24.717 (5)
- Men's Baseball (1-1):
 - Game 2: Alberta 4 – British Columbia 2
- Men's Rugby Sevens (3-0):
 - Game 1: Alberta 29 – Saskatchewan 5
 - Game 2: Alberta 36 – New Brunswick 5
 - Game 3: Alberta 41 – Manitoba 0
- Women's Rugby Sevens (2-1):
 - Game 1: Alberta 41 – New Brunswick 0
 - Game 3: Alberta 36 – Nova Scotia 0
- Sailing:
 - Women's Single Handed ILCA:
 - Claire Wooldridge: 4 (T1 after 2 races)
 - Women's Double Handed 29'er:
 - Alberta (Bernice Cao [Calgary], Jillian Glendinning [Chestermere]): 11 (T3 after 3 races)
- Women's Softball (3-0):
 - Game 3: Alberta 16 – Prince Edward Island 2
- Men's Basketball (1-1)
 - Game 2: Alberta 83 – British Columbia 62
- Men's Beach Volleyball (1-1):
 - Game 2: Alberta 2 – Saskatchewan 0
- Women's Beach Volleyball (1-0):
 - Game 1: Alberta 2 – Ontario 0

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

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

MEDAL COUNT (11):

Gold: 3

Silver: 4

Bronze: 4

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

NOTABLES

- Madi Hunter (Red Deer), who is playing on Team Alberta's Women's Softball team, is the daughter of Teri Hunter, who coached Team Alberta Women's Softball team in 2017 and to a silver medal in 2017.
- Women's Softball and Men's Rugby Sevens are currently undefeated at the 2025 Canada Summer Games.

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:

Kara Spady

Communications Liaison, Team Alberta

T: 403-741-9971

E-mail: kspadypr@gmail.com