



2025 Canada Summer Games
Team Alberta Daily Highlights
Day 4

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 13, 2025

Historic Day for Team Alberta at the Canada Summer Games

ST. JOHN'S, NFLD. – It was a historic day for Team Alberta on Wednesday at the Canada Summer Games in St. John's, Newfoundland and Labrador, with two first-ever podium finishes in the Women's C-1 500m Canoe Kayak and Women's Rugby Sevens comprised in the seven medals accumulated on day 4 of competition.

In a landmark moment, **Kiira Saarenoja** (Langdon) earned Alberta's first medal in the Women's C-1 500m Canoe Kayak, claiming silver with a time of 2:45.403.

"It feels so surreal, I had to ask everybody a few times where I placed, I didn't think it could ever happen and I'm honestly really humbled to be on the podium with the girls beside me," said Saarenoja. "With the head winds, it's a really challenging course and I just kept telling myself, 'keep your eyes in your lane, keep on going, you got this, keep on paddling,' and it paid off!"

On the field, Team Alberta Women's Rugby Sevens squad made history with the program's first-ever medal – taking bronze with a 21-10 victory over Nova Scotia.

"I'm so proud of every single girl here. We worked hard, we had some ups and downs and overall we finished on top and I'm proud of us," said **Sydney Wollbaum**, (Calgary), who plays for Team Alberta Women's Rugby Sevens. "We're the first ones to win this medal and we've really set a history that I hope goes up from here. Rugby is on the incline in Alberta, lots of girls are joining and it's awesome to see girls cheering us on from home and I'm just happy that I get to be here and I get to play for them."

The bronze medal came after a tough semifinal loss to Ontario. Women's Rugby Sevens was introduced to the Games in 2022, where Alberta finished fifth.

In the pool, Team Alberta continued its medal streak in swimming when Christine Zhou (Calgary) captured her second Gold in as many days with a win in the 100m Women's Breaststroke. Elleigh Wise (Calgary) also topped the podium in the 200m Women's Freestyle.

Additional swimming medals included:

- **Hayleigh Haines** (Calgary) – Silver, 100m Women's Breaststroke

- **Christine Zhou** [Calgary], **Hailey Haines** [Calgary], **Taylor Ginther** [] and **Callie Cardiff**, Silver, 4x100m Women's Medley Relay
- **Casey Kruse** (Strathmore) – Bronze, 50m Women's Special Olympics Backstroke

In Men's Rugby Sevens, Alberta narrowly missed the podium, finishing fourth after a heartbreaking 17-15 loss to Quebec in the bronze medal match. The team posted a strong 3-1 record in round-robin play.

In Women's Box Lacrosse, Alberta delivered a statement performance with a commanding 8-1 win over Manitoba to advance to the semi-finals on Thursday.

Meanwhile, Women's Basketball secured top spot in their pool with a thrilling 68-59 win over Ontario, heading into the playoff round with strong momentum.

Competition continues Thursday in St. John's as Team Alberta looks to build on its success.

QUOTES OF THE DAY

"We had a bunch of energy from the start and we really wanted to punch first and I think that's what we did, we were super excited the whole time and we just had fun. When I inbounded just before half, I knew I was letting it go. It felt right and when I let it go, I knew it was going in – everyone was super hype, it was awesome! We were super connected throughout the whole game though, our energy really pulled us through and I knew we were going to get that 'w.'" – **Ailey Marshall** (Calgary), Team Alberta Basketball player who drained a bucket from half court to beat the buzzer and help clinch first in their pool.

"A big thing about the game today was just composure. We went down a few times, we went up a few times, and the biggest thing was just staying on an even line and being able to execute how we wanted to play. The teams we played in the round robin are well coached and great players overall but the biggest thing for us is how we execute what our coaches ask of us. Every time we do what our coaching staff asked, it's turned out well for us, so it's just trusting each other and trusting the coaches." – **Elijah Thomas** (Edmonton), Team Alberta Basketball, on staying composed and trusting each other to earn results on the court.

"Having fun is what I do best and that's what I was doing today. We're all great swimmers and I just need to know that they're going to do their own thing and I was just going to go have fun, do my best, be powerful the entire race and just race. This medal shows all the dedication I've put in through the years. It's been a lot of consistency and hard work and this shows the works I've been putting in every day and I'm really proud of what I've accomplished." – **Haileigh Haines** (Calgary), Team Alberta swimmer on claiming the silver medal in the 100m Women's Breaststroke.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Swimming:
 - o 200m Women's Freestyle:
 - Elleigh Wise (Calgary): 2:03.37 (Gold)

- Sasha Rogers (Sherwood Park): 2:08.24 (7)
 - 100m Women's Backstroke:
 - Christine Zhou (Calgary): 1:02.99 (Gold)
 - Hilary Guo (Calgary): 1:06.18 (8)
 - 100m Women's Breaststroke:
 - Hayleigh Haines (Calgary): 1:11.51 (Silver)
 - 4x100m Women's Medley Relay:
 - Alberta (Christine Zhou [Calgary], Haileigh Haines [Calgary], Taylor Ginther [Lethbridge] and Callie Cardiff [Calgary]): Silver
 - 50m Women's Special Olympics Backstroke
 - Casey Kruse (Strathmore): 47.95 (Bronze)
 - Aliya de Gruchy (Lethbridge): 49.92 (6)
 - 200m Men's Freestyle:
 - Aiden Gyorfi (Edmonton): 1:55.85 (4)
 - Kingston Hitchcock (Red Deer): 1:56.23 (5)
 - 4x100m Men's Medley Relay:
 - Alberta (Kinnon Sen [Calgary], Soren Young [Calgary], Alan Piatek [Calgary], Levi Hildebrand [Calgary]): 4
 - 50m Men's Special Olympics Backstroke:
 - Wesley Wilks (Didsbury): 38.87 (8)
 - 100m Men's Backstroke:
 - Kinnon Sen (Calgary): 59.06 (5)
 - 100m Men's Breaststroke:
 - Soren Young (Calgary): 1:08.86 (8)
 - 200m Men's Butterfly:
 - Maddox Oliver (St. Albert): 2:08.03 (6)
 - Samuel Bygrave (Calgary): 2:09.28 (7)
- Canoe Kayak:
 - C-1 500m Women's:
 - Kiira Saarenoja (Langdon): 2:45.403 (Silver)
 - C-1 200m Men's:
 - Justin Boyko (Calgary): 48.976 (5)
 - C-2 200m Women's:
 - Alberta (Kai Allison Choe [Calgary], Kai Allison Choe [Calgary]): 54:144 (4)
 - K-1 200m Women's:
 - Jonnie Newman (Calgary): 50.244 (4)
 - K-2 200m Men's:
 - Alberta (Dawson Hutchinson [Calgary], Joshua Rowe [Calgary]): 37.812 (5)
 - K-2 500m Mix:
 - Alberta (Abby Pippard [Calgary], Jeremy Poulin [St. Albert]): 2:07.463
 - K-4 500m Women's:

- Alberta (Nenke Albricht [], Meera Kalar [Calgary], Jonnie Newman [Calgary], Lauren Rentz [Calgary]): 1:59.916 (4)
- Cycling:
 - Men's Road Race:
 - Thomas Rilet (Calgary): 3:12:18.00 (8)
 - Women's Road Race:
 - Amaia Ervin-Arambarri (Calgary): 2:47:50 (7)
 - Ashton Thomson (Canmore): 2:47:51 (8)
- Men's Baseball (2-2):
 - Quarter Finals:
- Men's Basketball (2-1)
 - Game 3: Alberta 93 – Ontario 85
- Women's Basketball (2-1):
 - Game 3: Alberta 68 – Ontario 59
- Women's Box Lacrosse:
 - Quarter Finals: Alberta 8 – Manitoba 1
- Women's Rugby Sevens (Preliminary Record: 3-1):
 - Bronze: Alberta 32 – Nova Scotia 7
- Women's Beach Volleyball (2-0):
 - Game 2: Alberta 2 – Nova Scotia 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 (26):

Gold: 6

Silver: 10

Bronze: 10

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

NOTABLES

- After going undefeated in the round robin, Team Alberta Men's Soccer received a bye into the semi-finals, where they will take on Team British Columbia on Thursday, August 14 at 7:30 NT.
- Team Alberta Special Olympic swimmer, Casey Kruse has now captured four medals, finding the podium on each night of competition so far.
- Canoe Kayak head coach, Graham Schiebel, competed in the 2009 Canada Summer Games and the 2007 Western Canada Summer Games, where he claimed bronze in the Men's K-1 1000m.

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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