



# 2025 Canada Summer Games Team Alberta Daily Highlights Day 6

#### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

# August 15, 2025

#### Week 1 of Canada Summer Games Winds Down with More Medals for Team Alberta

ST. JOHN'S, NFLD. – Medals continued to come Alberta's way on Friday at the Canada Summer Games, with five more added to the tally and four teams in medal contention.

Team Alberta's morning started off on a golden as **Elleigh Wise** (Calgary) captured gold in the 3000m Women's Open Water Swimming, leading from start to finish and closing out her Canada Games with a total of seven medals (two gold, one silver and four bronze).

"I went into the race hoping to get a medal, so when I finished first, I was really happy," said Wise. "In a race this long, you need a longer stroke to try and conserve energy and I just managed that well today."

Aiden Gyorfi (Edmonton) added to his own medal count, finishing strong with a silver in the Men's 3000m Open Water swim, his sixth medal of the Games.

"The last time I swam the 3000m I felt I didn't do too well to my standards, so to finish with a silver medal does feel good," said Gyorfi. "The 3000m in open water is a different race. It's a lot more hectic, you're fighting guys to try to get a lead and there are a lot more disruptions, I had a lot of fun out there and I'm coming home with a medal."

Women's Softball captured the third medal of the day, picking up bronze in the semi-final/bronze medal game with a 6-1 loss to Ontario.

"It was a close game until the end, I was proud of the girls for staying in it the whole game," said **Karter Dougan** (Lloydminster). "To come home with a bronze medal, I'm so proud of everybody, it was a team effort. We've been playing together for three years and we wanted to be here, we wanted to play for a medal."

Also going home with new hardware is Women's Box Lacrosse, who brought the energy into the gold medal game, but ultimately fell short as British Columbia edged out a 4-2 win.

In a dramatic gold medal match, Team Alberta Men's Soccer took Quebec the distance – 80 minutes of regulation, 30 minutes of extra time, and into penalty kicks, falling 4-3 in the shootout to earn a hard-fought silver.

"It's tough to lose in the final like that but we win as a team and we lose as a team," said Ben Zimola, captain of the Men's Soccer team. "At the end of the day, we're all together at the end. We all played for our family and friends back home watching. We played with passion and pride and I'm very proud of my team."

Both Alberta Women's and Men's Basketball teams advanced to their gold medal finals with convincing semi-final wins. The women defeated Nova Scotia 70-50, while the Men's team prevailed 67-54 over Quebec.

Women's Beach Volleyball advanced to the semi-finals after a 2-0 win over Manitoba.

The Tennis team will play for Bronze after a 5-1 Semi Final loss to Quebec.

Men's Baseball ended on a high note, securing 5<sup>th</sup> place with a 4-0 win over Manitoba.

"This has been a surreal experience. To be here at the Canada Summer Games in St. John's Newfoundland and Labrador, wearing Alberta across my chest, means the world to me. From getting to meet all of my new teammates, to having great coaching staff, to meeting new athletes from across the country and taking in new sports has been amazing," said **Zach MacDonald** (Lacombe), a first baseman for the Men's Baseball team who drove in the winning run on Friday.

"The volunteer staff and mission staff have done so much for us, just their hospitality alone makes this amazing. We could never thank them enough for taking time out of their lives to help us succeed and ultimately put on a show for all the fans. The whole environment brought the country together as one in supporting one another and just making the Summer Games a great experience for all," continued MacDonald.

Medals in Cycling and Sailing are up for grabs Saturday as Week 1 of competition at the Canada Summer Games winds down.

# **QUOTES OF THE DAY**

"Honestly, it's just a lot of hard work, staying focused and waiting for your moment. We're looking forward to the next game, we have to make sure we're staying composed and ready to go kill next game, that's all!" – **Elijah Thomas** (Edmonton), with 17 points on the night to help send Team Alberta Men's Basketball to the gold medal final.

"The girls have worked so hard to be here. Everyday we're in the gym, we're working hard, we're not only working for the goal, but we're working for eachother. Going for gold as been a long time goal, it's what we came here for and we're so grateful that we were able to do it. It would be an honour if we could go back-to-back champions and to be able to come back here on a national stage to not only relive their legacy but create a new one, it'd be an honour." – **Alfreda Okolie** (Edmonton), Team Alberta Women's Basketball on the chance to defend the 2022 Canada Summer Games gold medal on Saturday in St. John's.

"I'm incredibly proud of this team and what we've achieved together, it's a massive moment for all of us. To play a part in something this special, is truly an honour, and to share it with my brothers, makes it even more meaningful. Every single one of the boys has put in so much hard work, dedication, and heart throughout this tournament. I couldn't ask for a better group to go to battle with." - **Luca Dolanjski** (Edmonton), goalkeeper for Team Alberta Men's Soccer, stood tall under pressure, battling through penalty shootouts in both the semi-final and the gold medal match at the Canada Summer Games.

#### **HIGHLIGHTS**

- Swimming:
  - o 3000m Women's Open Water:
    - Elleigh Wise (Calgary): 38:36.91 (Gold)
  - o 3000m Women's Open Water:
    - Aiden Gyorfi (Edmonton): 38:31.03 (Silver)
- Women's Box Lacrosse:
  - o Gold Medal Game: Silver, Alberta 2 British Columbia 4
- Men's Soccer:
  - Silver, Alberta 0 Quebec 0, Alberta downed 3-4 in penalty kicks after 30 minutes of extra time
- Women's Softball:
  - Semi Final/Bronze Medal Game: Bronze, Alberta 1 Ontario 6
- Men's Baseball:
  - o 5<sup>th</sup> Place Game: Alberta 4 Manitoba 0
- Men's Basketball:
  - Semi Finals: Alberta 67 Quebec 54
- Women's Basketball:
  - Semi Finals: Alberta 70 Nova Scotia 50
- Sailing:
  - o Women's Single Handed ILCA:
    - Claire Wooldridge Calgary: 27 (4<sup>th</sup> after Race 7)
- Women's Beach Volleyball:
  - o Quarter Final: Alberta 2 Manitoba 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 <u>albertasport.ca</u>.

# **MEDAL COUNT (39):**

Gold: 7 Silver: 18 Bronze: 14

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.
- 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 <u>albertasport.ca</u>, 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