

May 3, 2019

Awards presented to Alberta’s best amateur athletes, teams, coaches, officials and sport volunteers

Edmonton – Alberta Sport Connection presented the awards for the 2018 Alberta Athletes and Teams of the Year, and the 2019 [Alberta Sport Award](#) winners for coaching, officiating and volunteer service at the [Alberta Sport Leadership Conference](#) in Edmonton, Friday, May 3.

“We are proud to recognize our athletes and teams of the year and honour the coaches, officials and volunteers who make our sport system better,” said Dr. Stephen Norris, Chair of Alberta Sport Connection. These individuals represent the best of Alberta’s sport system, from our remarkable athletes to the dedicated coaches, officials and volunteers who make our system work. We are pleased to celebrate their achievements with their families, friends, supporters and colleagues. ”

2018 Athletes and Teams of the Year:

Ms. Alex Gough	Open Female	Luge	Calgary
Mr. Mark Aarendz	Open Male	Para-Nordic	Canmore
Ms. Emma O’Croinin	Junior Female	Swimming	Edmonton
Mr. Finlay Knox	Junior Male	Swimming	Okotoks
Team Canada Relay: Alex Gough, Sam Edney, Tristan Walker, Justin Snith	Open Team	Luge	Calgary
St. Albert Midget AAA Slash	Junior Team	Hockey, Female	St. Albert

2019 Sport Recognition Award winners:

Susan Yackulic	Coach Developer Multi-sport (Don Watts Award)	Multi-sport	Edmonton
Jacqueline Cool	Coach Developer - sport	Swimming	Calgary
Trevor Prichard	Coaching	Football	Grande Prairie
Chris Buchanan	Coaching	Soccer	Edmonton
David Johnson	Coaching	Swimming	Calgary
Colin Twitchell	Coaching	Hockey	Vegreville
Sheri Wilson	Officiating	Artistic Gymnastics	Calgary
Patti Clarkson	Officiating	Swimming	Calgary
Sheila O’Kelly	Sport Volunteer	Triathlon	Edmonton
Vern Loughlean	Sport Volunteer	Hockey/Baseball	Innisfail
Wilson Acton	Sport Volunteer	KidSport	Calgary
Gordon Mackenzie	Sport Volunteer	Adaptive Alpine Skiing & Snowboard	Red Deer

The awards were presented at the Alberta Sport Recognition Awards Banquet, at the River Cree Resort, as part of the 2019 Alberta Sport Leadership Conference.

The Athlete and Team of the Year Awards recognize and celebrate significant achievements, performances and contributions of Alberta's amateur athletes. Award winners are outstanding role models who inspire other Albertans to higher achievements at the recreational or competitive level.

The Coaching Developer awards acknowledges the tremendous impact the National Coach Certification Program (NCCP) Learning Facilitators and Evaluators have on our sport delivery system and the development of Alberta's Coaches.

There are two awards recognizing significant achievement: 1) the Don Watts Multisport Coach Developer Award; and 2) the Sport specific coach Developer Award.

The Coaching Recognition Awards recognize coaches for their outstanding achievements in developing Alberta's amateur athletes.

The Officiating Awards recognize outstanding achievements in officiating.

The Volunteer Awards recognize the significant contributions of individuals devoting their time and effort to the development of sport.

The 2019 Alberta Sport Leadership Conference is held every two years and is attended by delegates from across Canada. It is a training and networking opportunity for representatives of provincial and national sport organizations. This year's theme is *Safe and Welcoming Sport Environments*. The four-day event also includes a Provincial sport Tourism component. For more information on the conference, please visit: [Sport Leadership Conference](#).

Alberta Sport Connection is a provincial crown corporation dedicated to the development of sport in Alberta. Its vision is for Alberta to be the premier sport delivery system in Canada. For more information visit www.albertasport.ca or follow [@AlbertaSport](#) on Twitter or Facebook: [AlbertaSport](#)

-30-

Inquiries:

David Hennig
Business Development & Communications
Alberta Sport Connection
780-415-0272 780-721-0686 (mobile)
Email: david.hennig@albertasport.ca

Steven Patrick
Sport Consultant
Alberta Sport Connection
780-644-4897
steven.patrick@albertasport.ca
Athlete and Team of the Year

Aaron Lavorato
Sport Consultant
Alberta Sport Connection
780-427-6562
aaron.lavorato@albertasport.ca
Sport Recognition Awards