

Award Winners Named: 2004 Ontario Sport Awards

ONTARIO'S FINEST ATHLETES, COACHES, LEADERS OF 2004 HONOURED AT 38th ONTARIO SPORT AWARDS

TORONTO April 9, 2005 - The Sport Alliance of Ontario [[sportalliance](#)] is pleased to announce the winners of Ontario Sport Awards for 2004, awarded at a ceremony at the Ontario Science Centre on April 7.

Ontario Male Athlete of the Year

Adam van Koeverden of Oakville nominated by Canoe Ontario

Adam took part in the 2004 Olympics, bringing home two medals in the sport of 2004 canoeing. He also competed on the 1997 Ontario Canada Games Team and won a bronze medal at the 1999 Junior World Championships. Last season, Adam managed to bring in 11 gold, 4 silvers, and 3 bronze. As a result of his accomplishments, he was awarded the Lou March Award in December as Canada's most outstanding Athlete and also the James Worall Award as the Flag Bearer at the closing ceremonies of the Athens Games. Always a team player, Adam doesn't mind taking on a leadership role either and strives for success as a team. Even with his recent fame from the Olympics, Adam has remained humble and inspires young paddlers across Canada.

Ontario Female Athlete of the Year

Tonya Verbeek of St. Catharines nominated by the Ontario Amateur Wrestling Association

Tonya has been one of Canada's most consistent performers in the past two years with gold medal performances at the 2003 Pan Am Championship, 2003 Hans von Zons in Germany, 2003 New York Athletic Club, 2004 Austrian Ladies Open and the 2004 Canada Cup. Tonya won Canada's first medal for a woman in Olympic Wrestling: a silver at the 2004 games. A post-graduate student at Brock University and also an assistant coach with the Brock Wrestling Club, Tonya has put in tremendous effort and dedication to her sport, and continues to train full time and appear at speaking engagements across Canada.

Ontario Male Athlete with a Disability

Curtis Thom of Mississauga, nominated by the Ontario Wheelchair Sports Association.

At 17 years old, Curtis Thom is the youngest competitor on the National Wheelchair Racing team. Curtis competes against athletes twice his age and experience but still ends up coming home with gold. In 2003 Curtis was undefeated in Provincial competition and was the Ontario Federation of School Athletics Association High School Provincial Champion in the 5000-meter event. In March 2003 at the Windsor Indoor Classic Games, he won the junior indoor track record for 800, 1500 and 3000 meters. Curtis also volunteers as an assistant coach for the Cruisers Junior Sledge Hockey team and as Athletics representative for the Ontario Wheelchair Sports Association.

Ontario Female Athlete with a Disability

Stephanie Dixon of Toronto, nominated by Swim Ontario.

In recent years Stephanie has become an international force in Paralympic swimming. She started swimming at the age of two and by the age of thirteen she was competing in Ontario. She was a double silver medalist in the 2002 Commonwealth Games. Her strong desire to be the best paid off at the 2003 Canadian Open, where Stephanie won five gold medals, a silver medal and broke the world record in the 200 individual medley.

Ontario Male Coach of the Year

David Smart of Ottawa, nominated by Ontario University Athletics (Basketball).

As head coach of the 2003 Carleton University Ravens Men's Basketball team, Dave Smart had an outstanding year. Under his leadership the Carleton Ravens were undefeated both in the regular season and in the playoffs. They were the 2003 Ontario University Athletics Champions as well as the 2003 Canadian interuniversity Sport Champions. Not only is Dave a great coach but he is also a great role model who spends hours volunteering at basketball camps and clinics for aspiring young players.

Ontario Female Coach of the Year

Tobie Gorman of Ottawa, nominated by Gymnastics Ontario.

Tobie is head coach at the Ottawa Gymnastics Center, and has been coaching for more than 25 years. She is a level 3 National Coach who is known as an outstanding role model whose balanced approach to coaching is highly respected by her athletes and peers. In 2003, Tobie coached both the second and fourth placed all around gymnasts at the Canadian Championships. At the 2003 Pan American Games she was the coach of two silver medal team athletes as well as the fifth all around gymnast and at the World Championships Tobie coached two athletes on the team that qualified Canada for the Olympic games.

Ontario Team of the Year

Carleton University Ravens Men's Basketball Team (Ottawa), nominated by Ontario University Athletics. *In the 2003 season, the Ravens won all their regular season games by an average of 22-points per game. In front of a sold out crowd, they went on to win all of their post-season games to become the OUA's Playoff Champions. The winning did not stop there, as the Ravens went on to win all their games at the Canadian Interuniversity Sport Championships and become, for the first time in ten years, CIS champions.* For further information on winners and recipients, or to request interviews, please contact each recipient's Provincial Sports Organization.

The Ontario Sport Awards were introduced 38 years ago to give Provincial Sport Organizations the opportunity to acknowledge the top athletes and coaches within their sport. The evening is organized by **sportalliance** in partnership with the Ontario Ministry of Tourism and Recreation. 2004's awards marks the second year the sportalliance has organized the event under a partnership agreement with the Government of Ontario.

The Syl Apps Special Achievement Award, named after the legendary Toronto Maple Leaf captain and 1936 Olympian, honours Ontario's best sport volunteers and administrators. Mr. Apps also sat in the Ontario Legislature and was a life-long campaigner for Ontario's young people and for healthy living. The Corporate Sport Citation honours Ontario corporations who have made significant contributions to Ontario's sport community.

The list of award recipients are:

SYL APPS SPECIAL ACHIEVEMENT

Baseball Ontario, Florence Simsons of Scarborough
Boxing Ontario, Val Ryan of Ancaster
Gymnastics Ontario, Tamara Bompas of Sharon
Hockey Development Centre for Ontario, Margot Page of Kitchener
Modern Pentathlon, Richard Horne of Bolton
OFSAA, Dale Huddleston of Odessa
Ontario 5 Pin Bowlers Association, Jennifer Guay of Whitby
Ontario Amateur Wrestling Association, Bill Smith of St. Catharines
Ontario Blind Sports Association, Mark Maycock of Brantford
Ontario Cricket Association, Petra Pompey of Pickering
Ontario Cycling Association, Jim Crosscombe of Toronto
Ontario Equestrian Federation, Alexander J. (Sandy) Mitchell of Ashburn
Ontario Soccer Association, Lynne McGarrigle of Markham
Ontario Tennis Association, Pierre Lamarche of Burlington
Ontario Track & Field Association, Paul Poce of Mississauga
Ontario Volleyball Association, Merv Mosher of Kettleby
Ontario Wheelchair Sports Association, Bruce Waite of Toronto
Paralympics Ontario, Shirley Shelby of Toronto
Row Ontario, Jack Lapum of Peterborough
Skate Ontario, Osborne Colson of Toronto
Ontario Ski Council, Jack Perry of Dunrobin
Softball Ontario, Pattie Sharpe of Odessa
Squash Ontario, Peter Ward of Mississauga

CORPORATE SPORT CITATION

Baseball Ontario, Laurel Lindsey, The Toronto Blue Jays, Toronto
Boxing Ontario, Richard Lortie, TOP TEN Canada, Ottawa
Golf Association of Ontario, Dennis Flaherty of Investors Group, Toronto
Hockey Development Centre for Ontario, Arlene Duncan, Laser Quest, Mississauga
OFSAA, Beverly Deeth, The Raptors Foundation, Toronto
Ontario 5 Pin Bowlers, Sid Morris of Sidney L. Morris Financial, Newmarket
Ontario Amateur Wrestling, Dan Pearson of Ultimate Sports and Gear, Toronto
Ontario Association of Triathletes, Julie Tompkins, The Empire Financial Group, Kingston
Ontario Bobsleigh, Richard Rocque, Rocque Mechanical Contracting, Stittsville
Ontario Cricket Association, Austin Ward, Dixie Sports, Toronto

Ontario Equestrian Association, Ron Lubinski, Y Not Farms, Meaford
Ontario Soccer Association, Rose Perri, Bank of Montreal - Affinity Card, Toronto
Ontario Tennis Association, Doug Coombs Amer Sports Canada Inc., Markham
Ontario Volleyball Association, D. Steven Robinson, the Corporation of the Town of Coburg
Skate Ontario, Nell Hornsby, Best Western International, Mississauga
Softball Ontario, Mike Regan, Ironhead Originals, Toronto
Squash Ontario, Stan Meek, Don Park, Toronto

The Ontario Sport Awards are the highest level of recognition the Ontario government gives for the exemplary contributions of athletes, coaches, volunteers and corporate supporters to sport opportunity and development in our province.

The Ontario Sport Awards are a part of the Ontario Games Program, a community and sport development initiative managed by the Sport Alliance of Ontario through funding provided by the Government of Ontario. Corporate Partners for the 2004 Ontario Sport Awards include Bell Canada, Tippet-Richardson, Canaccord Capital, Olympic Spirit - Toronto, TIMEX, Karbon Apparel, Molson Breweries and Mike Cheliak Photography.

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For More Information:

[Jim Bradley](#), CEO
Sport Development Centre, **sportalliance**
1185 Eglinton Avenue E., Suite 201
TORONTO ON M3C 3C6
416 426 7074