

Women to Watch Recipients – August/08 to November/08

Alana Miller – Squash

Alana is a 28 year old full time squash player who played 20 international squash tournaments in 2008 that included travel to Asia, the Middle East, Europe and North America. She is the highest internationally ranked Canadian player with a 36th place world ranking. Alana is currently the national women's squash champion and won a gold and silver medal at the 2007 Pan Am games. In 2009 Alana plans on competing in more than 15 international tournaments and will use her grant money towards these costs.

Lindsay Penner – Figure Skating

Lindsay is a 15 year old Novice level figure skater from The Pas. In the Norman region of Manitoba Lindsay is one of only two competitive figure skaters thus she must travel over 1200km every second week to train with her coach in Virden. This training has paid off as she was selected this year to the provincial team that will compete at the BMO Skate Canada Western Challenge this past December. Plus even with missing every second week at her school in The Pas Lindsay still maintains an A average in her grade 10 class. She will be using her grant money to continue travelling from her town to Virden to work with her coach to improve her skills.

Chantal Van Landeghem – Swimming

Chanel is only 14 years old but was selected to be one of ten Canadian females in the 17 and under category at the Australian Youth Olympic Festival this year. This multi-sport event was formed to identify future Olympic champions.

Chantal broke over 20 provincial records, three national age group records in the relay, and one individual Canadian record in the 100 fly last year which led to her being selected to the Canadian team for the Youth Festival. She will be using her grant money to help her attend over 6 out of province swim meets to gain the experience she needs to make the national team and reach her goal of attending the 2012 Olympics.

Genevieve Nicole Collins – Field Hockey

Genevieve is a 17 year old field hockey player who was chosen the Tournament all star at the U19 National outdoor championships. She was also selected to a National team recruitment camp in Vancouver this past March. Her long term goal is to be recognized for her exceptional play on the field which would lead to a spot on the National team. In the near future she would like to assist team Manitoba win a gold medal at the U19 Indoor Championships this year in Calgary. She will be using the grant money for her travel fees and sport equipment.

Paige Smith and Kellie Baker – Women's Softball

Both Paige and Kellie are working towards securing a spot on the 2009 Canada Summer Games Softball team for Team Manitoba. Both have to drive hundreds of kilometers each month to attend practices in Southport and Winnipeg. Paige is attending Valley City State University in North Dakota on a softball scholarship while earning a degree in Sport Psychology. Kellie, who was a member of the silver medal softball team at the 2007 WCSG, is also a competitive volleyball player which leaves her little time to

get a part time job. Her team, the Westman Magic, won a silver medal in Western Canadians this past summer. Both athletes will share this grant and use the money towards their travel expenses to practices and games.

Coaches

Shari Hebert – Rhythmic Gymnastics

Shari will be accompanying her team to the LA Lights International Rhythmic Gymnastics competition in Culver City, USA where she will gain international experience to enhance the programs in Manitoba and assist in placing athletes on the national team.

Marie – Helene Desmarais – Gymnastics

Marie-Helene will be attending the 2009 Gymnix International competition in Montreal in March. At this event there will be the first edition of a World Cup series where some of the World's best will be competing. Also during that event they will be holding the National Pre-Novice training camp. Marie-Helene will gain valuable experience as a coach and as a Master Judge.

Jill Twordik – Women's Softball

Jill is currently the assistant coach of the Team Manitoba Women's Softball team competing in PEI this summer. Jill will be using her grant money to complete her level three coaching certificate, a requirement for all coaches attending these games. This means she will have to travel in to Winnipeg from Brandon 5 times to complete her 4 modules required for the theory component. Jill still stays active in the sport of Softball and currently plays for the Magic Senior Women's Open team.

Emily Silver – Rowing

Emily Silver, who is one of two active female rowing coaches in Manitoba, is currently working with Team Manitoba's athletes training for the Canada Summer Games in PEI. She also works with Senior and Master competitive athletes and University athletes. Emily also needs her level 3 certification to attend the Canada Summer Games and is using her grant money to complete the certification. She needs to take many trips out of province to work with level 4 rowing coaches and her grant money will be used to travel out West for her last practical task.

Pamela Kok – Volleyball

Pamela is a volunteer Volleyball coaches who runs a program for young girls in grades 7/8 from underprivileged families. She would like to use the funds for tournaments and winter volleyball as they haven't been able to attend any tournaments due to lack of funds. She works with these girls so that they can develop their skills and be successful in making a high school volleyball team. She wants to make their sport experience as positive physically and emotionally as possible.