

MEDIA RELEASE



A CELEBRATION OF MANITOBA'S BEST COACHES

Winnipeg April 25, 2009 – Manitoba coaches were honoured today for their contribution to sport, leadership, personal development and coaching effectiveness.

The Coaching Manitoba Excellence Awards are an annual event established to celebrate Manitoba's best coaches. These awards are designed to acknowledge the contributions coaches have made to their sport and athletes over a number of years.

"Recognizing coaches is an essential part of what we do," states Greg Guenther, Director of Coaching for Sport Manitoba. "It's very important to formally recognize the dedication, hard work and commitment our coaches are making to the community and the amateur sport system."

This year awards winners are:

Vince Leah Memorial Grassroots Award – Tony Franklin

Tony is a certified level 1 hockey coach out of Deloraine. In the past twelve years he has coached the CIAU Brandon University Bobcats, the Southwest Male Directors Cup team, Female Under 18 Program of Excellence, and the Deloraine High School and novice teams. He coaches for the hometown hockey school and the Deloraine Breakfast Club program. He is also a member of Hockey Manitoba's National Coach Mentorship Program and their Director of High School Hockey.

Dr. Jack Hunt Memorial Developmental Award – Pedro Daza

Pedro has been coaching in Winnipeg for over 20 years and is completing his level 3 certification. The last year he has been focused on preparing our Team Manitoba Boys Soccer team for the 2009 Canada Summer Games. Pedro recently returned from a training camp in Brazil that he set up for the Manitoba boys. Pedro was awarded the Coaching Manitoba Global Coach of the Month for January 2009.

Peter Williamson Memorial High Performance Award – Janet Arnott

Janet is already a highly decorated member of the sport community. She is a member of both Manitoba and Canada's Curling Hall of Fame for her career as an athlete. As a level 3 certified coach Janet began to get recognition for her success coaching the Jennifer Jones team. In 2008 Janet received the City of Winnipeg's Outstanding Achievement Award and their Award for Sport Excellence. She also received Petro Canada's Coaching Excellence Award.

Peter Dick School Systems Award – Daryl Ford

With over 32 years of coaching experience Daryl has coached many sports out of the communities of Glenboro and Brandon. He holds coaching certifications in Hockey, Basketball and Volleyball where he has reached his level 3. A highlight of his career was winning Gold at the 2005 Canada Summer Games men's volleyball competition. Daryl has an amazing 24 zone championship wins under his belt.

Sport Manitoba also honoured individuals who have been coaching a minimum of twenty-five years in the Province as well as coaches who participated at an international event in 2008.

The Manitoba Aboriginal Sport and Recreation Council also recognized the winners of the 2008 Manitoba Aboriginal Coaching Award Kristy Fewchuk of Winnipeg and Jim Partaker of St. Claude.

The Coach of the Year award will be presented May 21st at the 2009 Sport for Life Gala hosted by Sport Manitoba.

Sport Manitoba is a not for profit organization and the lead planning, programming and funding agency for the development of amateur sport in Manitoba. Sport Manitoba partners with over 100 organizations to deliver sport in our province and is responsible for programs including the Power Smart Manitoba Games, Coaching Manitoba, Team Manitoba, Manitoba Sports Hall of Fame and Museum and KidSport.

“Good coaches build better people!”

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