

Media Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Sport Manitoba Announces Women to Watch Grant Recipients

Page 1 of 3

Women to Watch Grant Recipients Aug – Nov./09

Athletes and Teams

Jamee George – Rugby

A Manitoba rugby player now attending and playing for St. Francis Xavier University in Nova Scotia, Jamee represented Canada in the Scotland and England tour for the U19 National team. She was named an Atlantic University All Star and her team went on to win a silver medal at the CIS Nationals.

Jamee will be using her grant for extra training in the off seasons that will go towards her goals on being on Canada's National team.

Leah Kirchman – Cycling

Leah won Gold for Team Manitoba in the Criterium this past summer at the Canada Games. She is also the Provincial champion in the road and mountain bike events. Leah will be using her grant for costs associated with a new Time Trial specific bike and race wheels that will allow her to take seconds off her time.

Norman Wild Female Midget AA Hockey Team

The team is made up of players from Gillam, Cross Lake, Split Lake, The Pas, Wanless and Thompson. This is the first time they will be playing in the elite league of Female Midget hockey in Manitoba. Some team members travel up to 8 hours to be with the team during practices and games. The grant money will be used for travel costs for players, ice rental, and tournament fees.

Marlene Desaulniers-Bernard – Synchro

Marlene has been a synchronized swimmer for the past nine years competing in Western Canada and Nationally. She also competed internationally at the French National Championship held in Paris where she placed 7th in technical solo and 8th in her free routine. Marlene will be using her grant to attend more international competitions and to make the team for the upcoming Canada Winter Games.

Note: Part of the grant money awarded for this quarter of grants for the athletes came from Andrea Robin who owns and runs AuraStella jewelry. She made a donation to the women to watch program from proceeds of her sale of jewelry.

Coaches awarded Women to Watch Coaching Grants:

Tasia Lightly – a former elite badminton athlete and an up and coming Badminton coach whose goal is to coach the Canada Games or WCSG teams.

Megan Hunter – a former competitive paddling athlete who is pursuing attaining her level 3 certification course.

Jaclyn Deonarine – Jaclyn was a competitive elite synchronized swimmer who has developed as a coach, judge, and Board Member for Synchro Manitoba

Kaley Maksymyk – Kaley was also a competitive elite synchronized swimmer and teammate of Jaclyn who is training to be a coach and possibly an apprentice coach for the upcoming Canada Winter Games

Cheryl Jean Paul - Cheryl coached Team Manitoba at the past Canada Games and is helping to build the Red River College Basketball program.

Suki Chhoeun – An assistant coach for the U of W Westman Basketball program, Suki is planning on enlisting in the NCI next September in Winnipeg.

Marie- Helene Desmarais – A level 4 gymnastics coach Marie-Helene will be coaching her athletes at the 2010 WOGA Classic in Frisco, TX to gain international experience for both her and her athletes.

Sport Manitoba provides the leadership for initiatives that increase and enhance opportunities for participation by women in sport. A major initiative is the Women to Watch Grant Program.

Working in partnership with Provincial Sport Organizations and Coaching Manitoba, Sport Manitoba provides a monthly grant of \$500 to a female athlete, team, official or volunteer to assist them in enhancing their women in sport career.

A \$500 monthly grant is also awarded to a female coach to assist them in further developing the skills necessary to attain a higher level of coaching or increased level of coaching experience.

<http://www.sportmanitoba.ca/programs/womensport.php>

-30-

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