

# MEDIA RELEASE



December 16, 2011

## **Four Young Manitoban Coaches Awarded Money to Attend School**

WINNIPEG, MB – Coaching Manitoba, a program of Sport Manitoba, announced four student coach bursaries totaling \$2,000 for the 2011-2012 academic year. Twenty-five applications were received, representing sixteen different sports being coached across Manitoba. This year's recipients are:

### **2011 Silvio Sboto Memorial Rural Male Coach Award recipient: Warren Birch.**

- Birch is from Carberry, Manitoba.
- He has been coaching volleyball for eight years already with experience at the high school level, club team level and provincial team level. He is currently the Assistant Coach and Technical Advisor for the Brandon University Men's Volleyball Team.
- Birch is a graduate of Brandon University (BU) earning a BGS degree in the spring of 2010, and is now currently enrolled in the Bachelor of Education program at BU.
- <http://www.gobobcats.ca/teams/mens-vb/coaches/>

### **2011 Silvio Sboto Rural Female Coach Award recipient: Jessica Watson.**

- A graduate of Miles MacDonnell Collegiate. Watson has been coaching figure skating for the past two years. She is currently the head coach for the Ice Illusions Intermediate Synchro Team coaching out of the East St. Paul Community Center as well as a CanSkate coach out of the Selkirk Skating Club.
- Watson expects to graduate the University of Manitoba in 2012 with a Bachelor of Science, Computer Science Major and Math Minor.

### **2011 Jeff Collins Winnipeg Male Coach bursary recipient: Marc Babaluk.**

- Babaluk is currently the head coach of the Elmwood Giants baseball team from the Manitoba Junior Baseball League. He recently coached Team Manitoba's baseball team to a fourth place finish at the 2011 Western Canada Summer Games. Babaluk also has experience as hockey coach working with both the St. Boniface Riels and the Winnipeg East Railcats.
- Babaluk plans to graduate with a Marketing Major in Business Administration from Red River College in 2012.

**2011 Jeff Collins Winnipeg Female Coach bursary recipient: Sarah Lesperance.**

- A recent graduate of College Beliveau, Lesperance has been coaching ringette for the past four years. She recently attended the Canada Winter Games as a ringette athlete for Team Manitoba and hopes to one day represent Team Manitoba again as a coach. Last year, Lesperance coached the U12 "A" Southdale team to a city championship.
- In her first year at the University of Manitoba, Lesperance is considering a Degree in Recreation Management or Business. She is looking towards graduating in 2015.

**Coaching Manitoba** annually presents bursaries to four students who have demonstrated a commitment to coaching in Manitoba. The goal is to encourage students to continue coaching while attending a post-secondary institution. Students who are, or will be, enrolled in the upcoming school term in post-secondary education and currently coaching for a school, club or community centre are invited to submit an application. One male and one female student coach from the Winnipeg region and one male and one female student from rural Manitoba are selected to receive a bursary of \$500 to be used towards their tuition.

**Sport Manitoba** is a not for profit organization and the lead planning, programming and funding agency for the development of amateur sport in Manitoba. Located in the Sport for Life Centre, 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 & Museum, and KidSport. Services provided include the Sport Medicine Centre, Sport Performance Centre, and Sport Resource Centre.

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