

May 13, 2008

Alberta Athletes of the Year selected for the 2007 season

Edmonton... A world junior curling championship team, a world-ranked skier, and a swimmer and heptathlete bound for the Beijing Olympic Summer Games are among the amateur athletes being recognized as the Alberta Athletes of the Year for 2007.

“Alberta athletes continue to prove themselves to be champions and ambassadors of their sport,” said Cindy Ady, Minister of Tourism, Parks and Recreation. “These athletes are a testament to hard work and showcase the success of our sport development system. Congratulations to each award recipient for their effort and achievements.”

<u>Female Athlete of the Year</u>	<u>Male Athlete of the Year</u>	<u>Team of the Year</u>
Jessica Zelinka <i>Athletics (Track & Field - Heptathlon)</i>	Jan Hudec <i>Alpine Skiing</i>	Charley Thomas Team <i>Junior Men’s World Curling Champions</i>
Erica Morningstar (<i>Junior</i>) <i>Swimming</i>	Andrew Schnell (<i>Junior</i>) <i>Squash</i>	

The Alberta Athlete of the Year program was created in 2002 by the Alberta Sport, Recreation, Parks and Wildlife Foundation to recognize the achievements of the province’s amateur athletes. The Alberta Team of the Year has been awarded since 2004.

“I want to recognize all of the outstanding individuals and teams who were nominated, and congratulate those who were selected for the 2007 awards,” said Orest Korbutt, Chair of the Alberta Sport, Recreation, Parks and Wildlife Foundation. “Your achievements over the past year have strengthened Alberta’s sport and recreation network.”

The athletes will be honoured at the Alberta Olympic, Paralympic and Athlete of the Year Salute to be held Tuesday October 14 in Calgary.

-30-

Attachments: Biographies of the Athletes and Team of the Year

Media inquiries may be directed to:

Dan Huang
Communications
Tourism, Parks and Recreation
*780-427-1828
Cell: 780-974-6269

Darrell Joy
Sport Consultant
Alberta Games & Marketing
403-297-2705

*To call toll free within Alberta dial 310-0000.

May 13, 2008

Alberta Athletes of the Year for 2007

Jessica Zelinka - Female Athlete of the Year

Jessica Zelinka, a heptathlete based in Calgary, won the gold medal in the women's heptathlon at the XV Pan American Games in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil with a point total of 6,136 points.

Erica Morningstar - Junior Female Athlete of the Year

At 18 years of age, Erica Morningstar from Calgary broke her own Canadian record in the 100m freestyle, clocking 54.08, and placing fifth in the 2007 World Aquatic Championships in Melbourne, Australia. She is the first Canadian female swimmer to swim under 54 seconds for the 100m freestyle short course and will compete for Canada in the 2008 Summer Olympics in Beijing.

Jan Hudec - Male Athlete of the Year

Alpine skier Jan Hudec, based in Calgary, made his mark early in 2007 with a second-place finish in the Downhill at the World Alpine Ski Championship in Are, Sweden. His placing was the best Canadian result in the history of the event. At the same championship, Hudec also placed seventh in the Super-G event. Hudec, who finished seventh in the Lake Louise World Cup Downhill in 2004, skied the same course and captured a gold medal in the downhill in November 2007.

Andrew Schnell - Junior Male Athlete of the Year

Andrew Schnell of the Glencoe Club in Calgary competed during the 2007 Scottish Junior Open in Edinburgh, an event attracting the top international squash players from India, Great Britain, Canada and the United States. Schnell went on to win this Under-17 International Junior Championship.

Charley Thomas Junior Curling Team - Team of the Year

Calgary skip Charley Thomas and his team of lead Kyle Reynolds, second Matthew Ng, and third Brock Virtue captured the World Junior Curling title in Eveleth, Minnesota in March 2007. The team completed the round-robin in first place with an 8-1 win-loss record. A victory over Sweden in the final gave Canada the championship, and for Charley Thomas and Kyle Reynolds, back-to-back world junior curling titles.

More information on the Alberta Athletes of the Year is available at www.asrpf.ca.

-30-

Media inquiries may be directed to:

Dan Huang
Communications
Tourism, Parks and Recreation
*780-427-1828
Cell: 780-974-6269

Darrell Joy
Sport Consultant
Alberta Games & Marketing
403-297-2705

*To call toll free within Alberta dial 310-0000.

[Alberta Government](#) | [News Room](#) | [Ministries Listing](#) | [Tourism, Parks and Recreation Home Page](#) | [News Releases](#) | [Top of Page](#) |

[Send us your comments or questions](#)

