



Media Release

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For Immediate Release

High School Hockey Awards presented

The Manitoba High Schools Athletic Association presented a number of hockey scholarships and awards, at a media luncheon held on Wednesday, May 14th, 2008. Nominations were accepted from schools across the province.

The **Winnipeg Jets Alumni & Friends Scholarship** awards a \$500.00 scholarship to a male and female high school hockey player. The criteria for this award includes the student's performance on and off the ice, as well as extracurricular activities, leadership and mentorship accomplishments. This year's winners are: **Karen Oswald** of Oak Park High School, and **Eric Berg** of the Garden Valley Zodiacs of Winkler.

Karen Oswald of the Oak Park Raiders has been playing high school hockey for 3 years and was selected as a league All-Star. She is Captain of the basketball and Cross Country teams and Assistant Captain of the Hockey team, and is also a member of Student Council and Youth in Philanthropy Committee, while maintaining a 97.3% academic average.

Eric Berg, of the Garden Valley Zodiacs has also played high school hockey for three years, and was selected as a Zone 4 All-Star. He is Student Council Co-President, involved with the School Radio Show and is the School Representative on the Winkler Chamber of Commerce. Eric maintains a 92% academic average.

The **D'Arcy Bain/ Fred Stevenson Award** is sponsored by local Winnipeg Physiotherapist D'Arcy Bain, and named in honour of long-time Winnipeg high school hockey coach Fred Stevenson. This award recognizes athletic ability and team leadership. **Lauren Schinkel** of the Sanford Sabres Women's Hockey Team is this year's recipient of the \$500.00 Award.

Lauren plays volleyball, hockey, soccer and Track, while maintaining a 90% academic average. She also volunteers at the canteen, is a member of Grad Committee, French club and referees intramurals. Lauren was selected MVP in Soccer as well as an all-Star in both Volleyball and Hockey.

The Friar Nicolson Award, sponsored by the Manitoba Hockey Hall of Fame and named in honour of long-time CJOB Winnipeg Jets broadcaster, Ken "Friar" Nicholson, sees a \$1,000.00 scholarship presented to a male high school hockey player. Criteria for this award include success on and off the ice, involvement in co-curricular activities and student leadership. This year's winner is **Alastair McFadden**, of the Rivers/Elton Rage.

Alastair attends Rivers Collegiate is captain of the team that includes both Rivers and Elton Collegiates. He had 7 goals and 14 assists in 17 league games and also participates in cross country running, volleyball and baseball. He maintains a 92% academic average, is a member of Student Council, the Reach for the Top team and plays in the Jazz Band. Alastair was also selected as a league all-star this season.

Starting in 2008, the Manitoba Hockey Hall of Fame, has instituted a new scholarship to go to a female high school hockey player, named in honor of Sami-Jo Small. Sami-Jo Small was a tremendous athlete in high school and represented Canada at 3 Olympic Games, in two of which, Team Canada won gold. She was also a member of 5 World Championship winning teams for Canada and was MHSAA Athlete of the Year and Scholar/Athlete Award winner in 1994, while attending College Jeanne Sauve. The Manitoba Hockey Hall of Fame presents the Sami Jo Small Award, a \$1,000 scholarship to a female high school hockey player who is recognized for a combination of excellence in athletics, academics, and community service. This year's recipient is **Tawn Rellinger**, of the Portage Collegiate Saints.

Tawn, captain of the Portage Collegiate Women's Hockey Team, was also the team's leading scorer and in the top 10 scorers in the league. Last year, while living in Newfoundland, she played hockey at the Canada Winter Games in Whitehorse. She coaches soccer, and refs community hockey. Tawn also has been involved in organizing grad events. While maintaining a 93% academic average, she was selected Portage Collegiate Athlete of the Week after scoring 22 points in 14 games. She was also selected as a league all-star.

The **Easton "Unsung Hero" Award** is to be given to a hockey player who may not be the fastest, biggest, or highest scoring, but has been judged by his team to be the "unsung hero." The recipient of this award is **Ryan Gamache** from the Dauphin Clippers Hockey team.

Ryan is a real team leader, leading by example on and off the ice. As the Clippers' Captain, Ryan was a dedicated player, never missing a game or practice and always encouraging his teammates to commit 100%. His coaches stated, "if a measuring stick for awards would be the size of one's heart, then Ryan is a runaway winner!" He received a pair of Easton Synergy Skates.

The **Alexander Josephson Memorial Scholarships** consist of a \$2,000.00 scholarship awarded to a male and female hockey player, in honor of Alexander Josephson, a student, and hockey player at St. John's Ravenscourt School, who tragically passed away in a car accident in 2005. Alex was a member of the 2003 Provincial High School Championship Team and selected as Provincial Allstar. The recipient of this scholarship is a player who demonstrates strong leadership and team play, high scholastic standing, a hard-working attitude, and is proceeding to a post secondary education. A male and female hockey player will each receive a \$2,000.00 scholarship.

The female recipient of Alexander Josephson Memorial Scholarship is **Katie MacMillan** from the Kelvin Clippers women's hockey team.

Katie, Captain of the Kelvin Clippers hockey team, was second in points and scoring on the team, and never missed a game or practice. She was nominated for top defenseman in Division A, maintained a 84% academic average and also participated in cross country, soccer and handball. She was a real team leader and mentor for the younger players and played almost 30 minutes per game. Katie volunteered at Kelvin's annual Christmas Breakfast, is a member of the Grad Committee and volunteered twice a week at the Health Sciences Centre.

The male recipient of the Alexander Josephson Memorial Scholarship is **Andrew Brigden** of Souris School.

Andrew Brigden, captain of the Souris Valley Vipers, led the team in scoring and was in the top ten in the league. Andrew was selected as an All-Star and MVP at tournaments during the season. He is Vice President of Student Council, on the Grad fundraising committee and also is co-captain of the rugby and football teams. Andrew volunteers with the Harvest Food Bank and Coats for Kids, while maintaining a 85% academic Average. If a project in the community is

charitable in nature, then Andrew will always be involved. He displayed a “positive, no quit” attitude and was a leader for a very young team.

The **Ed Belfour Award**, sponsored by Leksands IF in Sweden, Toronto Maple Leafs, Dallas Stars, etc., goaltender, Ed Belfour, who played high school hockey for the Carman Collegiate Cougars, goes to the Most Outstanding Player in Manitoba High School Hockey. The recipient is an all-around hockey player, citizen and leader. The winner is **Andrew Brigden** from the Souris Valley Vipers (see profile above).

For being the 2008 Most Outstanding Player in high school hockey, Andrew will receive and autographed game stick courtesy of Ed Belfour.

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