



Media Release

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For Immediate Release

High School Volunteers Recognized

The Manitoba High Schools Athletic Association recognized a number of volunteers on Monday, June 16th, during the MHSAA Annual Meeting held in Portage La Prairie.

The Winner of the 2007-2008 Grey Cup Legacy High School Coach of the Year Award is **Rene Comeault** of Warren Collegiate. Rene has been coaching Track and Cross Country running at Warren Collegiate since 1994 and has developed a very impressive track program. His teams consistently capture banners at the Provincial Cross Country and Track & Field Championships. This past season, his JV Girls and Varsity Boys took top honours in the Zone 5 Cross Country Championships, while he swept all categories in the Zone 5 Track & Field Championships. His school also captured the "AA" Category at the MILK Provincial High School Track & Field Championships with 143 points. Warren Collegiate also captured the "AA" Category at the Rural Provincial Track & Field Championships. Over the last seven years, Warren has won 23 out of 28 Zone Track & Field Banners and 19 of 28 Zone Cross Country Banners. Warren has a school population of approximately 230 students and have about 80 participants taking part in Cross Country and Track & Field. Rene is also the Zone 5 Track Convenor for the last 10 years, and was the Rural Provincial Convenor in 2006 and 2007.

Rene will receive a \$2,000.00 prize, courtesy of the Grey Cup Legacy fund administered through the University of Manitoba.

The Frank McKinnon Award, presented to an outstanding volunteer, is named in honour of the long-time Carman Collegiate principal and former MHSAA president. The 2008 award goes to **Tom Johnson** of John Taylor Collegiate. Tom has coached high school rugby for 21 years at a variety of schools and high school hockey for 19 years at Stonewall and John Taylor Collegiates. He has served on the Executive for a number of leagues, including terms as President of the Winnipeg High School Hockey League, and on the MHSAA Board of Directors. Tom has also been Rural Track & Field Provincial Convenor, and Meet Manager for Zone 5. He was co-convenor for the "AAAA" Provincial High School Hockey Championships. Tom is an outstanding volunteer and always willing to commit to programs to benefit students. Tom is currently the Physical Education Department Head at John Taylor Collegiate and has been involved in coordinating and organizing a number of sports at the league, Zone and Provincial levels. Tom's commitment and dedication to high school sport is unparalleled in the province.

Certificates of Recognition, in honour of long-time service and commitment to high school athletics were also presented to:

Ashley Prest, Sports Reporter for the Winnipeg Free Press. Ashley has covered amateur and high school sport at the Free Press for 21 years. She has a Journalism degree from the University of Regina. A former high school athlete in her own right, field hockey and basketball were her main sports. Her favourite MHSAA event was the Basketball Festival held in Brandon where all Provincials were held in the same place. She enjoys covering high school sports because she feels that, “these are the young people who understand balance, pride, and how to respect themselves, their families and schools, as well as how to make the most of the many opportunities before them.”

Brian McMillan of Frontier Collegiate, in Cranberry Portage, Manitoba. “Mick” has been coaching for nineteen years, the last nine in Cranberry Portage. Previous to being up north, he was in Brandon and Swan River. He coaches a variety of sports, including: volleyball, basketball, curling, badminton, soccer, track & field and golf. His teams have captured six Zone Championships in Volleyball, and have had continued representation in volleyball, golf, basketball and badminton. He has been Zone 11 President for a number of years.

Pat Alexander of Garden Valley Collegiate in Winkler. Pat has been coaching at Garden Valley for fourteen years, primarily Volleyball and Track & Field, and some basketball. Pat has been the Meet Convenor for the Provincial Rural Track & Field Championships as well as actively involved in the organization of other provincial championships. In addition to Track & Field and Volleyball, he is also involved with the University of Manitoba Bisons, as well as some community coaching.

Curt Allen of Erickson Collegiate. Curt has been coaching Volleyball and Track and teaching for eighteen years. He has also coached four years of Hockey. On numerous occasions, Curt has refereed and hosted a number of interzone games and has been involved in the organization of many Provincial Championships and activities.

Roger Bamburak of Garden City Collegiate. Roger has been teaching and coaching for over thirty years and is now coaching his former athletes’ children. His main sports are Cross Country Running, Indoor and Outdoor Track & Field. He has won over thirty Kildonan Conference titles, and last year, captured all four categories in Cross Country at the Conference level. He has won seven Provincial Cross Country Championship, five consecutive in the JV Girls Category.

Curtis Grieve of Stonewall Collegiate has been coaching 15 years with hockey and baseball his main sports. The last 4 years in Stonewall he has been involved with the Hockey and Baseball programs. The highlights have been silver medals at baseball provincials 2006, and “B” Division Hockey Champs 2006. Curtis has been championship convenor for MHSAA Provincial Baseball and Soccer.

Ruth Loney of Pilot Mound. Ruth has taught at Pilot Mound school for just a little over 12 years and coached varsity girls volleyball for 13 years, girls basketball for 11 years,

fastball for 11 years, track and field, girls golf, badminton, and several other sports. Her Pilot Mound teams have won the “A” girls basketball championship, including two bronze medals. Pilot Mound has been a finalist in the fastball provincials, placed third once, and also placed third in the volleyball provincials one year.

The Manitoba High Schools Athletic Association is a registered athletic organization that coordinates school athletics in the province. The association supports almost 30,000 student athletes and 2,500 volunteer Teacher coaches. The MHSAA is funded through grants from Sport Manitoba, corporate partners, membership fees, gate receipts and other revenue.

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