

For Immediate Release

June 19, 2008

### **Scholar/Athlete Awards Presented**

The Manitoba High Schools Athletic Association and Manitoba's Credit Unions, presented \$1,000.00 scholarships to four outstanding Manitoba High School student athletes on Thursday, June 19, 2007 at a Government House reception hosted by Lieutenant Governor, John Harvard. In order to be considered for this award, students must participate in at least two interscholastic athletic activities, and maintain a minimum 85% academic average. Other criteria that are considered are the student's involvement in school and community activities, athletic achievements, as well as a two hundred word essay outlining the importance of school sport to the student.

The 2007-2008 Credit Union Scholar Athlete/Award winners are:

**Kirsten Clark of Hapnot Collegiate in Flin Flon**  
**Karen Oswald of Oak Park High School**  
**Dane Pischke of Fort Richmond Collegiate**  
**Robyn Small of Treherne Collegiate**

**Kirsten Clark** of Hapnot Collegiate in Flin Flon, participates in Basketball, Volleyball, Soccer, Badminton and Track, while maintaining a 97.3% academic average. She was selected as a Basketball Graduating All-Star and captain of the Volleyball, Basketball and Soccer teams. Kirsten volunteers at Rotary functions, the Inner Wheel boot sale and Flin Flon petting zoo. She is a soccer referee and leads reading sessions for elementary classes. Kirsten is Athletic Council President, a member of the Senior band and has helped to organize athletic Fundraisers.

Kirsten states, "Athletics are the other half of a healthy and valuable education.....High school athletics is so much more than an extracurricular activity. It is a chance to develop communication skills and teamwork. It is laying the foundation for dedication, punctuality and commitment. It is preparing the student body for the rest of their lives. Athletics teach students the important life skills necessary to function outside of high school. They provide a purpose and set goals for athletes in ways that other activities cannot."

**Karen Oswald** of Oak Park High School was captain of the Basketball, Hockey, Cross Country Running and Track & Field teams, and was selected as a Graduating All-Star in Basketball and Hockey. This 97.3% average student finished sixth in the Cross Country Provincials and won gold in the 800 m at the recent Milk Track & Field Provincial Championship. Karen also coaches two WMBA basketball teams and is the assistant track coach at the Junior High. She is a member of Student Council, Youth in Philanthropy group and helped to organize the grade 12 retreat and pep rallies at Oak Park. Karen was selected Valedictorian of her class, and has also received Hockey and Basketball scholarships.

Karen states, “My favourite memories by far within sports have been made throughout high school. Since Grade 10, I have been involved with school sports, playing hockey, basketball, soccer, track & field and cross country; I have been named Captain of many teams and a member of the Athletic Committee. To me however, the titles mean very little in comparison to the amount I have learned, the experiences I have had and the people I have met throughout these sports. I have learned leadership qualities, the value of teamwork and I have developed great respect for my school, teammates, coaches and sport as a whole.”

**Dane Pischke** of Fort Richmond Collegiate participates in Volleyball, Basketball and Track & Field. He maintains a 94% academic average, was awarded the Nikki Redekop Volleyball Scholarship, Dr. Dale Iwanoczko Memorial Volleyball Scholarship and was a Graduating All-Star. He also competed in both high jump and triple jump at the Provincial Track & Field Championship. Dane volunteers at the Golden Door Geriatric Centre and Victoria General Hospital Adult morning Program. He was a member of the Grad committee and is involved in the Terry Fox Run, Walk for the Congo and Walk for Darfour at his school.

Dane states, “My high school sport experiences at Fort Richmond Collegiate were the most enjoyable and special times in the three years which I was enrolled there. I learned the basics of each of the sports that I played, and more importantly, the basics of life. The hard work I gave in the gym and on the court/field taught me to work hard in the classroom and has given me the confidence, personal development and leadership that I will need as I enter post-secondary education at the University of Manitoba, and later on in the working world.”

**Robyn Small** of Treherne Collegiate was selected as a Graduating All-Star in Basketball and Volleyball, and was a Provincial All-Star in the Basketball Provincials where her team won the silver medal. Robyn maintains a 95% academic average and also participates in badminton, track and fastpitch. Robyn is also Student Council Treasurer, a member of the grad committee and school choir. Out of school, she is a Lifeguard/swim instructor who finds time to coach figure skating and help Coach Fastpitch for girls 11 and under.

Robyn states, “High school sports have been a huge part of my life. I enjoy winning, but I know that success comes on many different levels. I have gained confidence by being a

high school athlete, and I feel that I can do anything with hard work and belief in myself. Athletes rely on physical toughness, but they also need mental toughness and this is where academics and athletics meet. One of the most important lessons I have learned is to respect everyone: teammates, opposition, coaches, refs and yourself. I have worked with a variety of coaches and I know that a coach is a very special person. I became a coach because I looked up to my coaches and wanted to be a positive role model to younger students.”

These awards are sponsored by Manitoba’s Credit Unions in cooperation with the Manitoba High Schools Athletic Association. The scholarships presented will be used to help offset tuition costs and other expenses of post secondary education.

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