

May 5, 2005

McDonald's and MHSAA Award 16 High School Basketball Scholarships

Sixteen \$500.00 scholarships were awarded to Manitoba high school student athletes on May 5th, 2005, as part of the 2005 BEST (Basketball Education Scholarship Team) Program. Including this year's scholarship awards, McDonald's Restaurants of Manitoba in partnership with the MHSAA have supported a total of 162 students since the program began in Manitoba in 1995, presenting over \$75,000.00.

This year's recipients are: (Brief biographies of each recipient accompany this release)

"A" Boys	Kyle Prevost , Ross L Gray School/ Ryan Zadorozny , Gilbert Plains Collegiate
"A" Girls	Jessica Turner , Hartney School/ Ashley Baker , Strathclair School
"AA" Boys	Mathew Baranowski , Goose Lake High School/ Justin Hurd , Teulon Collegiate
"AA" Girls	Stephanie Campbell , Boissevain Collegiate/ Katelyn Deremiens , Elton Collegiate
"AAA" Boys	Kyle VanCaeyzele , St. Norbert Collegiate/ Jonathan Boville , Linden Christian School
"AAA" Girls	Kayla Mitchell , Arthur Meighen High School/ Ogechi Asagwara , St. Norbert Collegiate
"AAAA" Boys	Justin Comte , College Jeanne Sauve/ James McGill , Silver Heights Collegiate
"AAAA" Girls	Sarah Reilly , Dakota Collegiate/ Jessica Stromberg , Oak Park High School

The BEST Program is administered by the Manitoba High Schools Athletic Association Inc. (MHSAA), while the scholarship funding is provided by the 58 McDonald's Restaurants in Manitoba. This year, the program has provided \$500.00 scholarships to sixteen young Manitoba high school basketball players, for a total of \$8,000.00.

The scholarships are made available to graduating seniors who have excelled with their school's basketball team and who plan to pursue a post-secondary education. The solicitation of nominees and selection of scholarship recipients is based on academic, basketball and citizenship criteria, and is coordinated by the MHSAA and selected in cooperation with McDonald's and members of the Manitoba sports media. All graduating students in Manitoba, from the four classes of provincial high school basketball competition – "A", "AA", "AAA" and "AAAA" - are eligible to apply.

On behalf of all Manitoba McDonald's, Randy Cunnington – Owner/Operator, congratulated all of the winners. He stated McDonald's is pleased to provide continued support for such a worthwhile program and they are proud of the success that these high school students have achieved and are honoured to present them BEST awards for their academic and athletic excellence.

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“A” Category – Any Rural School Under 125 Students

Boys

Kyle Prevost of Ross L Gray School led his team to a silver medal at the Provincial “A” Basketball Championships. He had eight triple-doubles in the regular season and received numerous All-Star and Player of the Game Awards. He maintains an 88% academic average, is on Student Council, played the lead role in the school drama and also coaches junior high basketball.

Ryan Zadorozny of Gilbert Plains Collegiate led his team to the Zone 8 “A” Boys Basketball Championship. This guard stands 5’5” and averages 18 points per game. He led the team in scoring in 10 out of 16 games and was named MHSAA Athlete of the Week during the regular season. He is President of Student Council, on the grad committee and holds an 84% average.

Girls

Jessica Turner of Hartney Collegiate, led her Hornets to their first Provincial berth in 15 years. As the Hornets’ captain, Jessica averaged 12.8 points and 10.7 rebounds per game and was named to the Zone 9 All-Star Team. Jessica maintains a 78% academic average, participates in her church as a Sunday School Teacher, is the 4-H President in her area and also competes in Curling and Rugby.

Ashley Baker of Strathclair School led her team to a silver medal at this year’s “A” Girls Provincial High School Basketball Championships where this 5’9” athlete earned All-Star honours. During the regular season, she averaged 17.7 points and 12.1 rebounds per game. She was the SkyHawks captain and in the Provincial Championship game, she scored 33 out of the teams 42 points total. In school, she is the Valedictorian, school coordinator for the Community Access Program and maintains an average of 83%.

“AA” Category – any city of Winnipeg school with less than 100 students and rural schools with 125 – 300 students.

Boys

Justin Hurd of Teulon Collegiate played the small forward/shooting guard position and averaged 31 points and 14 rebounds per game. He capped off the season as the MVP of the “AA” Boys Basketball Championships which his team won. During the regular season, he received two MVP honours, one All-Star Award and was named MHSAA Athlete of the Week. Justin also excels in academics, maintaining an 87% average.

Mathew Baranowski of Goose Lake High School in Roblin, earned two Player of the Game Awards at the “AA” Boys Basketball Championships. He led his team to tournament victories three times, while scoring an average of 20 points and hauling in 6 rebounds per game. He is active on the Student Council, referees basketball, and is a Sunday School teacher, while maintaining an impressive 95% academic average.

Girls

Stephanie Campbell of Boissevain Collegiate led her team to a silver medal at this year’s “AA” Basketball Championships. She was named to the Provincial All-Star Team and also earned MHSAA Athlete of the Week honours. This forward averaged 12 points and 4.8 rebounds per game and was co-captain of her volleyball team. Stephanie maintains an 87% academic average and is active in her church, as a Sunday School teacher.

Katelyn Deremiens of Elton Collegiate in Forrest, led her team to the Championship title at this year’s “AA” Basketball Championships. This post player was named to the provincial All-Star Team while averaging 13.5 points and 8 rebounds per game. Katelyn maintains an 84% academic average, was co-captain of her Sabres basketball team and is a Student Council Rep.

**“AAA” Category – city of Winnipeg schools with 100 – 400 students
plus rural schools over 300 students**

Boys

Kyle VanCaeyzele of the St. Norbert Collegiate Celtics was named to the “AAA” Provincial All-Star Teams and was recognized with the “Guts Award” at these same championships, where his team took home the silver medal. In tournament play this year, Kyle was named an MVP once and an All-Star twice. This guard averaged 20 points, 6 assists, and 6 rebounds per game. He also maintains an 85% academic average.

Jonathan Boville of Linden Christian School was named an All-Star at this year’s “AAA” Basketball Championships, which is team captured. Jonathan scored 32 points in the Zone 12 Championship game, was an MHSAA Athlete of the Week and won the “AAA” Provincial Spirit of Basketball Award. During the regular season, this guard averaged 26.8 points per game, coached grade 8 girls basketball and volunteers at his church while maintaining a 72% academic average.

Girls

Kayla Mitchell of Arthur Meighen High School led her team to the Zone 4 Championships this season. She was also given the Spirit of Basketball Award at the Provincials and scored a game high 37 points in a regular season game. This point guard averaged 20 points, 11 assists and 7 rebounds per game, participates in Student Council and is the Grad Committee Ceremony Co-chair. Kayla also excels in academics, with an 86% average.

Ogechi Asagwara of St. Norbert Collegiate was also named to the “AAA” Provincial All-Star Team. As a small forward, she averaged 7 assists, 12 rebounds and 16 points per game. Ogechi volunteers at the St. Norbert old folks home, is involved with the school’s Leadership Program and averages 88% in her school studies.

**“AAAA” Category – city of Winnipeg schools with a population over 400 students plus Lord Selkirk,
Crocus Plains, Vincent Massey Brandon and Steinbach Regional**

Boys

Justin Comte of College Jeanne Sauve, was a member of this year’s Provincial “AAAA” Championship team. As a guard, he assisted his Olympiens in winning three regular season tournaments by scoring 12 points and 8 assists per game. Justin maintains an 89% academic average and is a member of the school’s Yearbook Committee and Production Fundraiser.

James McGill of Silver Heights Collegiate was named to the conference All-Star Team, was an MVP and All-Star in separate tournaments. He was also recognized as an MHSAA Athlete of the Week while scoring 22 points per game. This guard also referees volleyball and basketball while coaching grade 6 boys basketball and maintaining an 80% academic average.

Girls

Sarah Reilly of Dakota Collegiate led her team to a Final Four berth in the “AAAA” Championships, where she was named an All-Star. She also received MHSAA Athlete of the Week honours and was ranked the #1 female basketball player by the Winnipeg Sun Top Ten Poll. This grade 12 forward averaged 20 points and 20 rebounds per game. Sarah maintains an 87% academic average and is co-captain of her basketball team and she finds time to coach basketball at younger age groups.

Jessica Stromberg of Oak Park High School was the MVP of the Raider Classic and earned four Player of the Game Awards during the regular season. As the Raiders’ guard, she averaged 18 points, 10 rebounds and 5 assists per game. In her school, she is a member of the Youth Philanthropy Committee, coaches basketball and is a member of the Charleswood Soccer Association Executive Board while maintaining an 89% academic average.