



**20  
24**

# MULTI-SPORT AWARDS BANQUET PROGRAM

PREPARED BY  
**WOOD BUFFALO  
SPORT CONNECTION**

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IN PARTNERSHIP WITH  
**WOOD BUFFALO SPORTS HALL OF FAME**



# ABOUT YOUR HOSTS



We are here today because of the culmination of years of planning, envisioning, and passion from the many people who worked to put this event together for you. This collaboration with the Wood Buffalo Sports Hall of Fame and the Wood Buffalo Sports Connection Society will recognize extraordinary people within our great region in the arena of sports excellence. Athletes, teams, volunteers, coaches as well as officials will be nominated under the two chosen categories: high performance and community. The winners will have the honor of being the first to ever receive one of these prestigious awards. There will also be four inductees into the Sports Hall of Fame this evening who have shown great assiduity to sport representing our community at some of the highest sport stages.

We would like to congratulate all of the nominees and inductees as well as thank our sponsors and everyone involved in bringing this event to our region! We are extremely excited and hope you enjoy the Wood Buffalo Regional Multi-Sport Awards Banquet!

**Jon Turner**  
Chair, Board of Directors  
Wood Buffalo Sport Connection Society



On behalf of the Wood Buffalo Sports Hall of Fame Society, it is my privilege and honour to congratulate our four inductees. We have deep and rich history of sport in the Wood Buffalo region, each of our inductees have shown commitment, respect and perseverance as they have competed, built and mentored at the highest level. We recognize them and their legacies today for their contributions to sport in our community and from our community to around the world. Sport shows us through effort we can achieve what we set our mind to, through supporting one another we can lift each other higher to achieve dreams never thought possible, through perseverance we can overcome obstacles. We recognize our inductees tonight, as they represent the values we revere and hold in the highest regard. Join me in welcoming them into our Hall of Fame!

**Matt Pate**  
President,  
Wood Buffalo Sports Hall of Fame Society

# WBSHOF 2024 INDUCTEES



## TRISH LEIBEL



**Trish Leibel**, born in 1977 in Fort McMurray, Alberta, began her wrestling career later than most, being introduced to the sport in Grade 11 by her phys-ed teacher, Jeff Collins. Initially the only female on her team, she moved to Calgary for her senior year to train with the University of Calgary Wrestling Club, where she won the 1995 Alberta Schools Athletic Association championship in the 61 kg class. Over the next few years, she achieved significant success, including three consecutive Canadian Cadet titles and two National Junior belts.

While attending the University of Calgary from 1995 to 2000, Leibel secured three U Sports gold medals in her weight classes, often competing against Laura Jones from Brock University. She later earned another U Sports gold as an athlete/coach for Lakehead College. Recognized as the "Outstanding Junior Female Wrestler" by the Alberta Wrestling Association from 1996 to 1998, she also represented Canada internationally, winning a gold medal at the 1998 Pan American Championships and competing in multiple World Wrestling Championships. Influenced by six-time World Champion Christine Nordhagen, Leibel was honored as the Outstanding Canadian Female Wrestler at the Canada Cup in 2000 and won another national gold in 2001 with Thunder Bay's Thunderwolves Club.

# WBSHOF 2024 INDUCTEES



## DANNY LINDSTROM



Born in 1960, **Danny Lindstrom** began boxing at age 10, achieving an impressive amateur record of 76 wins and 4 losses while training at the Clearwater Boxing Club. A Metis, he won multiple titles, including three-time Canadian champion and three-time Alberta Golden Gloves champion, and was ranked No. 6 in the world in the light heavyweight division. He represented Canada at the 1983 Pan-American Games and was set to compete in the 1984 Olympics but turned professional to support his family. As a professional, he held both the Canadian light heavyweight and heavyweight titles, with a record of 13 wins, 11 losses, and three draws. Notably, he fought Michael Moorer in the "Rumble Under the Dome" in 1990, becoming the first Indigenous person and Albertan to compete for a heavyweight world title. Lindstrom passed away in 2018 at age 57, leaving a lasting legacy in boxing and inspiring many young athletes, particularly within the Indigenous community.



# WBSHOF 2024 INDUCTEES



## THE STEWART BROTHERS



**Bobby**, born in 1974 in Fort McMurray, Alberta, had a notable hockey career starting with the Fort McMurray Oil Barons. He won the NCAA championship with the University of Maine in 1999 and later achieved success in the semi-professional circuit, including winning the Colonial Cup with the Fort Wayne Komets in 2003. Stewart concluded his career with 330 goals and 344 assists and has been the Director of Player Personnel for the Salmon Arm Silverbacks since 2018. He will also be inducted into the Maine Black Bears Sports Hall of Fame.

**Danny**, born in 1979, had a notable international hockey career, playing junior hockey before attending Miami University of Ohio. He spent three seasons in the UHL with the Fort Wayne Komets and Danbury Trashers, then moved to England, where he played for the Coventry Blaze (2006-2010) and won back-to-back EIHL titles. He also served as Player/Head Coach for the Newcastle Vipers and the Fife Flyers, where he was Player/Associate Coach from 2012-2016. After returning to Coventry Blaze as head coach, he was named head coach of the Nottingham Panthers in 2024. Danny finished his career with 802 games, 161 goals, and holds the EIHL record for most games played by an imported player, making him a hockey legend in the UK.

**Jay**, born in 1977, had a successful hockey career starting with the Oakville Blades from 1995 to 1998, where he served as captain and recorded 48 goals and 58 assists. He then played at the University of Wisconsin-Superior, leading the team with 16 goals in his sophomore year and helping them win the NCAA Division III championship in 2002. Jay finished his college career with 40 goals and 32 assists in 108 games and has been inducted into the University of Wisconsin-Superior Athletics Hall of Fame multiple times.

# WBSHOF 2024 INDUCTEES



## FORT MCMURRAY U18 (MIDGET) BARONS



In the **1988-1989** season, Coach Dave Tease took charge of the Fort McMurray Midget Barons, aiming to improve upon a difficult previous year where the team won only three out of 18 games and averaged 39 penalty minutes per game. Tease emphasized discipline to reduce penalties, leading to a pivotal 15-5 victory against the Grande Prairie Storm that boosted team morale. Standout player Tom Keca led the league in scoring with 47 goals and 44 assists, supported by Eric Marchand and Greg Scott. The Barons finished the season with a record of 13-13-4, earning a postseason berth and a seventh-place finish. In the quarterfinals, they swept the second-place Sandy's Oilers, then defeated the top-seeded Lloydminster team in the semi-finals. The Barons clinched the championship against St. Albert, winning decisively in two games, including a 12-6 victory where Dale Unruh scored four goals. Their journey from a struggling team to league champions highlights teamwork, resilience, and effective coaching, serving as an inspiring story for their community.

**Players:** Murray Anhorn, Kerry Belton, Conrad Brown, Colin Cartwright, Tom Coulthard, Peter Jurak, Tom Keca, Tyler Kuhn, Eric Marchand, Brett McCumber, Greg Noble, Pablo Parra, Craig Piercey, Ryan Pruden, Marc Rogers, Greg Scott, Blake Spence, Marc Taplin, Dale Unruh

**Staff:** Head Coach: Dave Tease; Assistant Coaches: Don Brown, Robert Lacroix; General Manager: Marv Behiel



# ARTIST FEATURE

## RHONDA ROBINSON



"I chose to work with Buffalo hide as the Buffalo has great significance to the Metis people. Buffalo provided everything the people needed, from food, to clothing, to needles to bead with, all parts of the Buffalo were used, nothing was wasted. They gave their hearts to Metis people and still continue to provide sustenance today. Whether using the outline of the Buffalo itself or the shape of a heart, its strength and power will be felt to those receiving it. The Buffalo comes with great respect, power and resilience, which is required by those involved in sports. Buffalo live and herds which is similar to what sport team communities do coming together they all contribute their hearts fully. The chosen recipients, as a former hockey and soccer mom, I have no doubt they exhibited all of these traits and more. As a hockey family I saw first hand what a team makes up of and needs to "operate"- the countless hours, and sacrifices of all involved. When I saw this Call For Visual Artists I knew I could contribute in a way that added the heart of the families that benefit immensely from sport as when I create I put my intentions and heart forward in a good way, which is an essential part of being a Metis Woman and Artisan." - Rhonda Robinson





# MSAB AWARDS HIGH-PERFORMANCE



## FEMALE AND MALE ATHLETE OF THE YEAR

Recognizes a female and male amateur athlete excelling at provincial, national, or international competitions.

### TAYDEN SHOTT



### SIDNEY BARRY



## TEAM OF THE YEAR

Recognizes a team that excelled at a provincial or national level. May include athletes that continued to reach for success in 2023.

## KEYANO COLLEGE MEN'S SOCCER AND FUTSAL TEAM



# MSAB AWARDS HIGH-PERFORMANCE



## COACH OF THE YEAR

Recognizes an NCCP certified coach coaching at the local, provincial, national, or international level who has continued to coach and support their athletes throughout 2023 and created a healthy and safe environment for athletes to continue to train and compete.

## LAURA WOOD



## OUTSTANDING OFFICIAL

Recognizes an official officiating at the local, provincial, national, or international level who has also contributed to the development of officials at the local or regional level.

## DARREN YEE



## INCLUSIVE ATHLETE OF THE YEAR

Recognizes and celebrate an athlete who exemplifies outstanding dedication, perseverance, and sportsmanship in the face of physical, intellectual, or developmental challenges. This award honors their achievements in sports and their inspiring contributions to promoting inclusivity and diversity within the athletic community

## DAU DAU





# MSAB AWARDS COMMUNITY AWARDS



## SPORT BUILDER

Recognizes a person that demonstrates outstanding commitment and longstanding service in developing a club, organization, or sporting event resulting in a positive, developmentally appropriate impact on coaches and athletes.



## KIERRA PELZ

## UNSUNG HERO

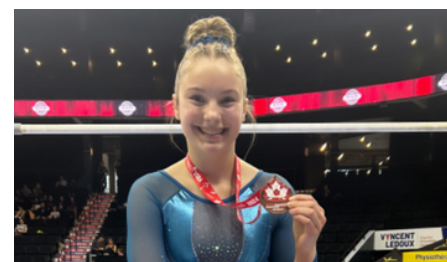
Recognizes achievements and outstanding contribution made by a volunteer to their community or region, or to a specific sport activity, club, team, or group. This contribution has made a positive difference in the lives of others by support and encouragement, often with self-sacrifice and without personal gain.



## TIFFANY & FRANK FONTAINE

## COMMUNITY SPORTSMANSHIP

Recognizes the outstanding contributions and achievements made by an individual or group that have benefited our community in the spirit of sport and sportsmanship.



## TEGAN WANNER

# MEET YOUR SPECIAL GUESTS



## EMCEE: MICHAEL HULL



Mike Hull was born and raised in Cape Breton, Nova Scotia. In 2010, he relocated to Fort McMurray, Alberta, where he soon found a sense of belonging and met his wife. Together, they are the proud parents of two daughters, and Mike is an active and dedicated father.

With a passion for education, Mike has been teaching for 18 years, 15 of which have been spent with the Fort McMurray Catholic School District. His commitment to his students and community has made a significant impact in the region.

In addition to his teaching career, Mike has been a strong advocate for local sports, currently serving as Vice President of the Wood Buffalo Sport Hall of Fame. His influence extends to coaching, where he has led numerous high school teams and spent two years as the head coach for the Women's Keyano Huskies Soccer Team.

Through his work in education and sports, Mike continues to inspire those around him, fostering a love for learning and teamwork in the Fort McMurray community.

## STOVE TALK: WITH MARTY MCSORELY AND JOEL OTTO



Marty McSorley is renowned for his tenure with the Edmonton Oilers, where he contributed to two Stanley Cup victories in the 1980s alongside legends like Wayne Gretzky. As a tough and gritty defenseman, he became a fan favorite and played a significant role throughout his 17-season NHL career, leaving a lasting impact on the sport. Similarly, Joel Otto was a key player for the Calgary Flames, recognized for his versatility as a center and his exceptional two-way play. He was instrumental in the Flames' 1989 Stanley Cup win and was known for scoring crucial goals. Otto's strong work ethic and sportsmanship have inspired many young athletes.

# THANK YOU SPONSORS



# THANK YOU GIFT-IN-KIND DONORS





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Sports Hall of Fame

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