



*Enshrined in Saskatoon Sports Hall of Fame

Shannon Baerg

A cycling criterium seems like half-past delirium.

Riders race laps on a road circuit. There are sprints and breakaways. There are corners. There are crashes. "There are a lot of tactics," said Shannon Baerg of the Saskatoon Cycledelia-Brainsport Club.

Baerg was at the front of the pack at the Canadian senior women's crit championships in Brandon in 1993, finishing sixth

Shannon's brother ***Cam Baerg**, who also competed as a cyclist, is enshrined in the Saskatoon Sports Hall of Fame as a rower.



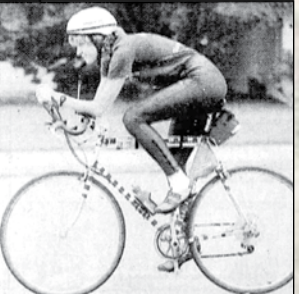
—Saskatoon StarPhoenix

*Fiona Cribb

On an early spring weekend in 1995, Fiona Cribb was one of Sunday's best.

Swimming, cycling and running, she won bronze in triathlon at the Pan American Games in Mar del Plata, Argentina.

Fiona biked at triathlon worlds in 1991 in Australia and in 1992 in Ontario. She and her sister Alina biked at triathlon worlds in 1993. Their brother Alastair was in the road race in the 1977 Canada Games in St. John's, NL.



—Saskatoon StarPhoenix

*Don Gallo

Don Gallo means cycling.

Don Gallo means Penticton.

On one Saturday in the summer of 1998, he spent almost half of his waking day on the bike. Competing in the Subaru Ironman Canada in Penticton, Gallo cycled for almost eight hours, going 180 kms.

His best sit-and-talk time was in the early 1980s. He was part of the first meeting in Penticton that established Triathlon Canada.



—Saskatoon StarPhoenix

Bruce Gordon

Bruce Gordon was a details guy.

As a triathlete, he knew that meant cycling long distance. He'd have to learn pace. He'd have to develop muscle and aerobic endurance. He'd need power and speed. He'd need a food plan packed with energy.

He was 38 years old in his first triathlon, the Subaru Ironman Canada in Penticton in 2001.

He got better. He got faster.

In the 2010 Ironman Canada, Gordon was 47. His time for the 180 km cycling leg of the triathlon was 45 minutes faster than it was 2001.



—Saskatoon StarPhoenix

*Irene Kokotailo

Over hill and over trail, Irene Kokotailo went flat out. Speed, indeed.

She went to the world mountain biking championships in France in 1993. Three weeks of rain turned the cross-country course into a rock and dirt fondue. Twenty eight riders started, 18 finished. Kokotailo finished fifth.

She went to the world veteran championships in Colorado in 1994. Kokotailo was the top Canadian in downhill, finishing sixth. She was the top Canadian in cross-country, finishing eighth.



—Saskatoon StarPhoenix

Wheels so good

Cyclists roll out quality miles

*Curtis Leschyshyn

NHL defenceman Curtis Leschyshyn of Saskatoon didn't play the dump and chase game as a cyclist. He attacked.

He hired a cycling coach. He averaged almost 500 kms a week in training on roads near his home in Littleton, Colo. He won two stages in the Boulder Stage Race.

On a holiday in Europe, he cycled Alpe d'Huez, a climb in the Tour de France so steep it would make a mountain goat nervous. "I'm sure some think it's a little outrageous or excessive," Leschyshyn told the *Calgary Herald*. "I enjoy it."



—Saskatoon StarPhoenix

Scott McGibney

Scott McGibney of the Saskatoon Cycling Club was king of the road.

He was Saskatchewan's time trial champion four times in the 1970s. He won the provincial 100-mile title in 1981.

McGibney was Saskatchewan's cycling coach for the 1977 and 1981 Canada Games.

Murdo McNabb

Picture this: A 40-lap race in downtown Ottawa. There are 47 cyclists, including the Canadian junior champion from Ontario. For more than half the race, two cyclists separate themselves from the pack. With five laps left, they're caught. Now it's a race to the finish.

Saskatoon's Murdo McNabb, 17, is rocket man. With an explosive kick, he wins the Ice Cream Cycling Festival's twilight criterium, a race that features not only the best juniors in Canada, but some of the big wheels from the U.S., too.

"I can't believe it," McNabb told the *Ottawa Citizen*.

Brian & Oskar-Stack Michasiw, Chris & Luca Veeman

Brian Michasiw and Chris Veeman were road cyclists at the 1989 Canada Games in Saskatoon.

Brian's son Oskar-Stack Michasiw was a mountain biker and Chris's son Lucas Veeman was a road cyclist at the 2022 Canada Games in the Niagara region.

Call the Michasiws and the Veemans the Four Wheelers.

Keely Shaw

Individual pursuit is a match sprint. Two cyclists start the race from a stationary position on opposite sides of the track.

It's a test of sustaining maximum effort.

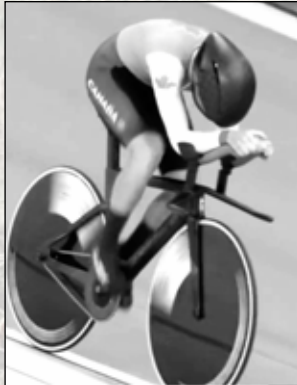
It's called the Hurt Box.

In the medal round at the 2021 Paralympics in Tokyo, Keely Shaw of Midale trailed through the first 1,000 metres.

At 2,000 metres, she had the lead.

She won the 3,000-metre race by 1.5 seconds, winning bronze.

She won bronze in the pursuit again in the 2024 Paralympics in Paris. In the history of the Olympics and Paralympics, Shaw is the best Saskatchewan cyclist ever.



—CBC Gem

*Jake Wetzel

Jake Wetzel the cyclist isn't just about size — he was 6-4 — it's about style. What a motor. What drive.

He got his first mountain bike when he was 14. At 15, he won the inaugural Rocky Mountain Classic at Blackstrap. At 16, he posted the best result ever by a Saskatchewan cyclist in the World Cup, finishing third at a race in Quebec. At 17, in his first year of racing cross-country, he was fifth at nationals. At 18, he went to the world junior cross-country championships in Colorado.

"Over a 50-kilometre course, you're often alone and you have to push yourself," Wetzel said in an article in the *Star-Phoenix*. "I like that."



—Saskatoon StarPhoenix

Thank you

Hall of Fame sponsors

● Al Anderson's Source for Sports



● Holiday Inn, Holiday Inn Express



● B & B Tree Service



● Hunter's Bowling



● The Bob Adams Foundation



● Kinsmen Club of Saskatoon



● Cherry Insurance



● Saskatoon Entertainment Group



● DCG Philanthropic Services Inc.



● Sask Lotteries



● Discover Saskatoon



● World Trade Center
Praeland Park

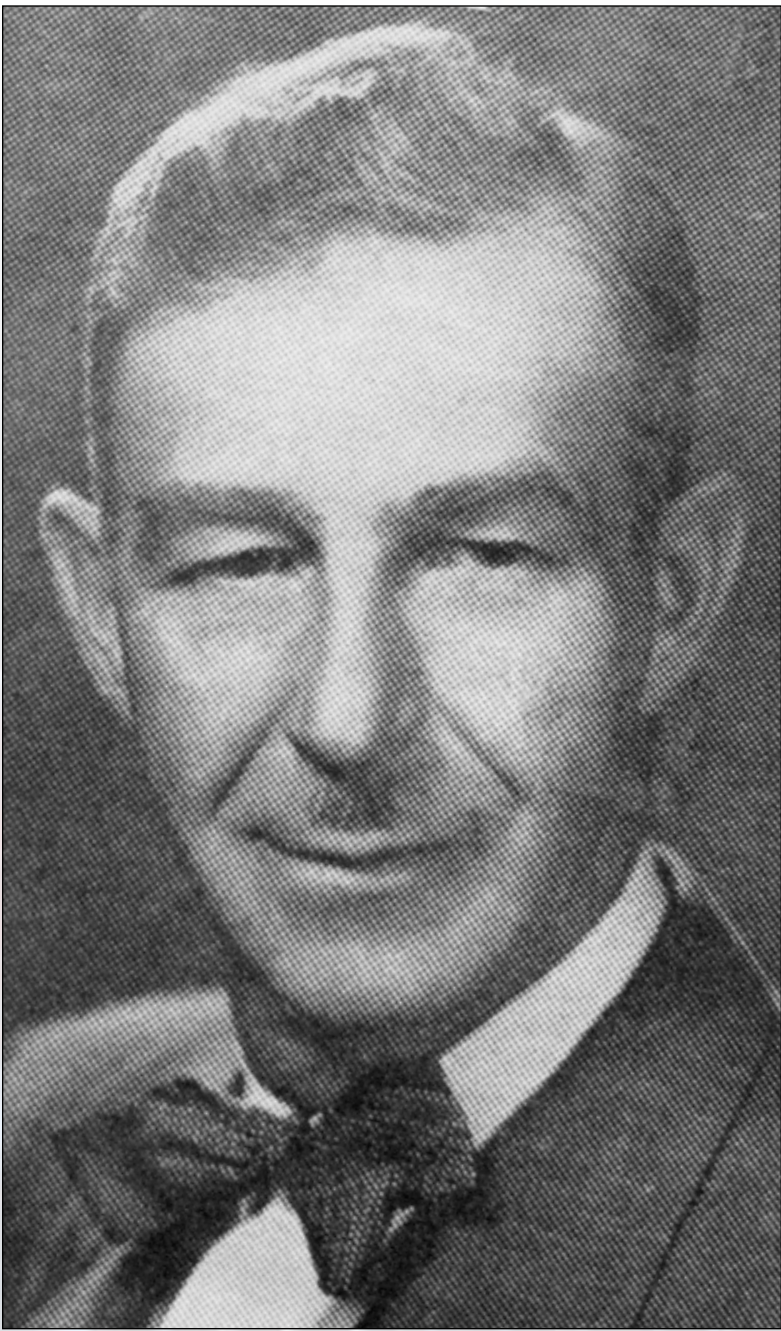


Hall directors

- Dave Elder
- Kelsie Hendry
- Dana Kidd
- Bryan Kosteroski
- Dave Moore
- Jacki Nichol
- Bob Reindl
- Brian Shalovelo
- Kerry Tarasoff
- Jim Wilson
- Dale Yellowlees

Members at large

Jerry Shoemaker
Mary Green
Bob Florence



—PH-91-4-19, James R. Teed

Mayfair Pool

Building blocks

Jim stated Piggott Construction with one employee in 1936. In the years ahead his business changed the look of Saskatoon.

Piggott Construction was contracted by Wartime Housing Limited to build 300 houses in the city.

Piggott Construction built Mayfair Pool, the J.S. Wood Library, a four-million gallon storage tank at city waterworks and overpasses at Saskatchewan Crescent, Elghth Street and Taylor Street on the approach to Idylwyld Freeway.

Checking in

‘Be my guest,’ said Jim Piggott, who owned the Patricia Hotel for 32 years.

Piggott bought the hotel on Second Avenue in 1941 from **Charles W. Sampson**, its original owner.

Sampson, a philanthropist who gave annual scholarships to students in nursing and piano, lived in The Pat until 1959, when he was 100.

Among the other people who lived in the Patricia were **Earle Newbold**, the manager of the Granite Curling Club who was a left-winger on the Saskatoon Wesley team that was runner-up to the West Toronto Nationals in the 1933 Memorial Cup for the Canadian junior hockey championship, and ***Bert Scharfe**, the superintendent of Saskatoon Transit who won the world hockey championship in 1934 as a centre with the Saskatoon Quakers.



—Saskatoon StarPhoenix

*Bert Scharfe

Blades in the beginning

Jim Piggott had a rude introduction to junior hockey.

He owned the Saskatoon Quakers in 1956-57 when they were a first-year team in the Saskatchewan Junior Hockey League. The Quakers went 1-50 that season. Their only win was against the Melville Millionaires, with the Kid Line of **Jim Howard**, **John Kenny** and **Don Wilson** scoring two of Saskatoon’s three goals.

Piggott’s Quakers were in the SJHL for seven more years. In 1964, he changed the team’s name to the Blades, staying in the SJHL for two seasons.

The breakout year was 1966. Piggott of the Saskatoon Blades, ***Bill Hunter** of the Edmonton Oil Kings, **Scotty Munro** of the Estevan Bruins and **Del Wilson** of the Regina Pats were the founding fathers of the Canadian Major Junior Hockey League in Western Canada.



—Hockey DB.com

*Jim Piggott
Headmanning the puck

Teams he owned

*Enshrined in Saskatoon Sports Hall of Fame

- Saskatoon Quakers Pacific Coast Hockey League 1951-52
Western Hockey League 1952-55
Senior amateur 1951-52, minor pro 1952-55
- Regina Regals Western Hockey League 1955-56
Minor pro
- Brandon Regals Western Hockey League 1956-57
Minor pro
- Saskatoon Jr Quakers Saskatchewan Junior Hockey League 1956-64
Junior
- Saskatoon Regals Western Hockey League 1957-58
Minor pro
- Saskatoon Quakers Western Hockey League 1958-59
Minor pro
- Victoria Cougars Western Hockey League 1959-61
Minor pro
- Los Angeles Blades Western Hockey League 1961-67
Minor pro
- Saskatoon Blades Saskatchewan Junior Hockey League 1964-66
Junior
- Saskatoon Blades Canadian Major Junior Hockey League 1966-67
Major junior
Western Canada Junior Hockey League 1967-68
Western Canada Hockey League 1968-76
- Saskatoon Olympics Saskatchewan Junior Hockey League 1971-76
Junior



—CP-5563

Jim Piggott served on the board with Saskatoon Arena Ltd. for five years in the 1950s. The Arena on 19th Street opened in 1937. Shareholders included almost 2,000 people who paid \$10 per share in a fundraising drive to build the rink. The city leased the Arena in 1956 and bought it a year later for \$239,151.

California dreaming

Piggott brought pro hockey to California. Piggott had owned a team in the semi-pro Western Hockey League since 1952. In the spring of 1960, he applied to move his B.C. franchise, the Victoria Cougars, to Los Angeles. The bid was denied because an arena in L.A. was not available.

In the spring of 1961, the Memorial Sports Arena opened its doors to hockey. **Dan Reeves**, the owner of the NFL’s Los Angeles Rams, became Piggott’s business partner in the WHL.

“There should be hockey here,” Reeves said in a interview with **Bob Oates**, a columnist with the *Los Angeles Examiner*. “It’s a fascinating sport with a future.”

Piggott changed the team’s name. The Cougars were now the Los Angeles Blades.

Willie O’Ree of Fredericton was a forward with the Blades for six years, from their start to their finish. As a Boston Bruin, O’Ree was the first Black player in NHL history.

***Bobby Schmautz** of Saskatoon joined the Los Angeles Blades as a teen. He went on to score 988 points in his 13-year career in the NHL.

Schmautz and **George ‘Corky’ Agar** are the two Saskatoon Blades who played for the Los Angeles Blades.

Corky Agar’s father, **George ‘Bus’ Agar** was coach of Piggott’s Victoria Cougars for one year, coach of Piggott’s Saskatoon Quakers for one year, coach/manager of Piggott’s Los Angeles Blades for two years and GM/coach of Piggott’s Saskatoon Blades for six years.

Piggott and Reeves were thinking NHL. They were in the running when the NHL considered who would own the league’s expansion team in L.A. NHL governors picked **Jack Kent Cooke**.

Game over, said Piggott. After the 1966-67 season, after six years in the city, his Los Angeles Blades were done.



—Saskatoon StarPhoenix

*Bobby Schmautz

At the post

Jim Piggott and his wife Vi were into horse racing.

They bought Jejen for \$3,500 at Gulfstream Park in Florida.

Their horse Happy’s First won at Woodbine in Toronto.

Maybe Tish was the story of the day at the Saskatoon Exhibition meet. A two-year-old owned by the Piggotts, Maybe Tish won its maiden by six lengths.

Earlier in the season, Maybe Tish finished third in a race in Calgary. Favored in a three-furlong race in Edmonton, Maybe Tish finished second as Friary Law Boy set a track record for Northlands.

Maybe Tish’s winning jockey was **Don Richards**, a 26-year-old blond from California, who a sports reporter for the *Calgary Herald* called “one of the top-flight booters in the West.”

Richards came North in 1952 to join the racing circuit. He won the Canadian Derby in 1953 at Polo Park in Winnipeg.



—Saskatoon StarPhoenix

Don Richards
on Maybe Tish

Piggott Award

The rookie of the year in the Western Hockey League receives the Jim Piggott Memorial Trophy.

Since its inception in 1967, only one player from the Saskatoon Blades has won the award; left-winger **Ron Fairbrother** in 1968.

Fairbrother, playing on a line with **Bernie Blanchette** and **Mick Shaw**, broke the league record for goals by a rookie with 57.

Jeff Friesen, who played midget for the AAA Saskatoon Contacts, won the award as a Regina Pat in 1993.

Brayden Schenn, who played midget for the AAA Contacts, won the award as a Brandon Wheat King in 2008.

Saskatoon’s **Brayden Yager** won the award as a Moose Jaw Warrior in 2022.



—Saskatoon StarPhoenix

Ron Fairbrother

Touching base

With inductees in the Saskatoon Sports Hall of Fame

***Alison Lang** is being inducted into the Canadian Basketball Hall of Fame this summer with the 1979 national women's team. The Canadian team finished third at the world championship in South Korea, the first time Canada won a medal at women's worlds. Lang played high school basketball for the Walter Murray Marauders . . .

***Jacquie Lavallee** is an assistant coach with the University of Saskatchewan Huskies women's basketball team that won the U SPORTS national championship in March in Vancouver. The Huskies were 24-2 in the regular season and play-offs. Their average margin of victory was 35 points . . . ***Melanie Sanford** is an assistant coach with the Huskies women's volleyball team that qualified for nationals for the first time in 24 years, finishing seventh in the Canadian championship in Winnipeg . . . Athletics Canada has recognized ***Toni Beerling** and ***Judy Warick** for 50 years of service in the sport. Beerling is an official in horizontal jumps. Warick is a masters athlete and coach and a vertical jumps official . . . ***Mandi Tuplin**, who coaches track and field at Swift Current Comprehensive High School, is the latest recipient of the ***Bob Adams** Outstanding Coach Award. The award is given annually by the Bob Adams Foundation, which honours athletes and coaches in track and field in Saskatchewan . . . ***Jamie Epp** of the Saskatchewan Huskies won the U SPORTS award as the men's assistant coach of the year in track and field. Epp, ***Dean Bertoia**, ***Kelsie Hendry**, ***Todd Johnston**, ***Jason Reindl**, ***Ivan Tam** and ***Karlyn Wells** were on the coaching staff of the Huskies track & field team at nationals in March in Windsor. The Huskies women's team finished third, the men 22nd . . . Jockey **Tim Moccasin** of the Saulteaux First Nation will be inducted into the North American Indigenous Hall of Fame in Green Bay, WI., this summer. Moccasin set a North American record for a jockey by winning 14 consecutive races at Marquis Downs in Saskatoon in 2001 . . .

The ***1978 & 1980 Saskatoon Harmony Centre** senior women's softball teams will be inducted into the Saskatchewan Sports Hall of Fame at the Conexus Arts

1946

Replay



—StarPhoenix

Olga Kostyniuk

No one could catch ***Olga Kostyniuk** in 1946.

Kostyniuk, who was in Grade 2 at Pleasant Hill, won the 50-yard skipping race in the Saskatoon public schools track & field meet at Cairns Field on Avenue A.

She was the skipping champ again in 1947.

In Grade 8 she was the city champion in the 75-yard dash and broad jump. She was on the volleyball team at Pleasant Hill coached by **Muriel Smith** and **Myrlene Wilson** that won the city public schools title.

At Tech Collegiate, she was the city high school champion in discus.

Kostyniuk hit the heights in basketball. In 1953, she won the provincial high school championship with the Tech Tigers, coached by ***Andy Voykin**. Tech defeated the Moose Jaw Boogie Bouncers in the two-game final.

In 1959, Kostyniuk won the Canadian senior basketball championship as a forward with the Saskatoon Adilman Aces. The Aces, coached by ***Bob Stayner** and ***Jack Adilman**, defeated in the final the Vancouver Eilers, who had won the title the previous nine years.

Olympics, won bronze with the Canadian eights in the 2022 world championships and won silver in eights in the 2024 Olympics.

**Enshrined in Saskatoon Sports Hall of Fame*

Centre in Regina Sept. 20 . . . For the sixth time in history, Saskatoon is the site of the Canadian women's softball championship. The event is scheduled for July 30 to Aug. 3. ***Joan Duprey** had 11 strikeouts in the final when the ***Saskatoon Imperials** won nationals at home in 1970. Men's U20 nationals are also in Saskatoon July 30-Aug. 3 . . . ***Brock Pavier** is associate pastor at Woodgreen Presbyterian Church in Calgary . . . ***Gordie Howe** is third in the NHL in career goals with 801 from 1946-80 and 16th in the World Hockey Association in career goals with 174 from 1973-79 . . . Since the NHL Chicago Blackhawks started an alumni association in 1987, two of its three presidents are from Saskatoon:

***Cliff Koroll** and ***Keith Magnuson**

. . . ***Dylan Stus** is the head brewer for Shore Line Brewing Co. in Kelowna, B.C. . . . ***Willie Desjardins** of the Medicine Hat Tigers was a finalist for the **Dunc McCallum** Memorial Trophy as coach of the year in the WHL for the third consecutive season. Desjardins was also nominated for the ***Lloyd Saunders** Memorial Trophy as WHL executive of the year . . .

***Randy Smith** received an Award of Distinction from the Saskatoon Minor Hockey Association. Smith has coached in Saskatoon for 18 years . . . In the last year, two soccer teams from Saskatoon have won Canadian titles. The Saskatoon Alliance won the boys U17 championship in Nova Scotia and Saskatoon Impact won the women's championship at futsal nationals in Regina. Impact also won the championship in 2024. Futsal is 5-on-5 indoor soccer . . . Heptathlete ***Roma Oleksyn** switched to another sport after track and field, joining the Calgary Rowing Club. In her work as a physiotherapist, Oleksyn met **Jessica Sevick**, a biathlete who tore a knee ligament playing soccer. Oleksyn encouraged Sevick to try rowing. That was 2015. Sevick was sixth in double sculls in the 2021

Passings

Richard Chinn, 1947-2025, age 77
Team inductee, 1968 Hilltops
Team inductee, 1970 Huskies men track & field

At 13, Dick Chinn was the fastest school kid in the city, winning the 100-yard race in the Saskatoon Public Schools championships when he was in Grade 8 at Brunskill.

At 15, Chinn was the best midget sprinter in Saskatchewan, breaking a provincial 100-yard record at the annual Qu'Appelle Valley Legion Track Club meet in Montmartre.

At 17, Chinn hit the big time, finishing second to Vancouver's

Harry Jerome, 23, and a world-record holder in the 100 metres, at trials for the Canadian track & field team for the 1964 Tokyo Olympics.

"If Dick had decided to go on with his career he would have been a nationally-ranked runner with the best of them," said ***Bob Adams**, who was a coach on the Canadian team in the 1964 Olympics. "He had a great deal of natural ability and to watch him run was very exciting."

In Chinn's four years at Nutana Collegiate, he won 11 titles in sprints and long jump in the Saskatoon high school championships and four titles in the Saskatchewan high school championships, breaking eight city or provincial records.

He was Dick Quick in football, too.

Chinn played for the Hilltops for three seasons as a flanker, offensive halfback, backup quarterback, defensive back, and a punt/kick returner.

In 1968, his senior season, Chinn scored a touchdown on a 10-yard pass from rookie ***Dave Pickett** in the second quarter as the Hilltops defeated the Ottawa Sooners 27-19 in the Canadian final at Clarke Stadium in Edmonton.

Chinn was an assistant coach to ***Lyle Sanderson** at the University of Saskatchewan when the Huskies won the men's team title at the Canadian championships in Winnipeg in 1970.

Shannon Chinn, daughter of Lynda and Dick Chinn, has been the Chief Athletics Officer of Huskie Athletics since 2021.



Richard Chinn

Nestor Shinkewski, 1942-2025, age 82 Swimming

Nestor Shinkewski was a founding member of the Saskatoon Laser Swim Club in 1980.

Daughter Sandra and son Dean set club records with the Lasers. Son Daryl was on the Canadian age group team for a meet in Germany. In addition to being president of the Lasers, Nestor was an official at local, provincial and national competitions.



Nestor Shinkewski

Look at them now

Athletes, coaches, officials, support staff make news



Gage Grassick

Basketball

Gage Grassick of Prince Albert is a fourth-year guard with the University of Saskatchewan Huskies basketball team. She led the Canada West conference this season in assists and steals and was second in scoring average.

At the U SPORTS national championship in Vancouver, Grassick scored 81 points in three games and was named the MVP. Teammate **Andrea Dodig** was a championship all-star. The Huskies won the Bronze Baby Trophy as Canadian champions.

Grassick is the second Huskie to win the Nan Copp Award as U SPORTS player of the year, joining **Sarah Crooks**, who won the award in 2005-06 and 2006-07.

Grassick won the Mary Ethel Cartwright Trophy as the most outstanding female athlete in Huskie Athletics.



Keiran Dyck

Swimming

Keiran Dyck was the only athlete from the Saskatoon Goldfins Swim Club at the Speedo Canadian Open championships in Edmonton.

Dyck, 17, finished 13th in 400-metre individual medley and 20th in 800 freestyle. He was 22nd in heats in 200 breaststroke, with the top 20 advancing to the final.

Three para swimmers from the Saskatoon Lasers were at nationals: **Shelby Newkirk**, **Hannah Ouellette** and **Breanna White**.

Newkirk, 28, was first in 50 free, 100 free and 100 back. She was second in 100 breaststroke and 200 IM.

Ouellette, 18, was first in 50 back, second in 200 free, fourth in 200 IM and ninth in 50 free.

White, 19, was fifth in 50 free.



Madison Ryan

Ringette

Madison Ryan of Martensville was the leading scorer in the preliminary round of the National Ringette League Canadian championship in Ottawa. Ryan had 16 points in four games for the Saskatchewan Heat.

Ryan added five points in the playoffs for the Heat, which finished seventh.

Western | Cdn

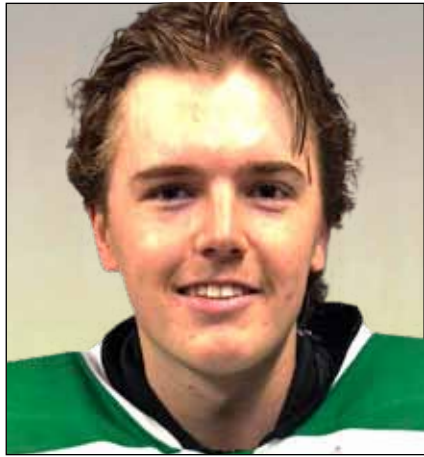
U14AA
Saskatoon Saints.....5th
Team Saskatchewan
Buffalo Plains Rush.....1st

U16A
Team Saskatchewan
Saskatoon Blaze.....2nd
Regina Stingers.....17th
Team Saskatchewan.....18th

U19A
Team Saskatchewan
Regina Ript.....2nd
Saskatoon Blazers.....10th
Team Saskatchewan.....11th

I8+A
Team Saskatchewan
Buffalo Plains Grit.....5th

National Ringette League
Saskatchewan Heat
Based in Saskatoon.....7th



Spencer Stokke

Hockey

Goaltender Spencer Stokke had a record of 30-9-6 (W-L-OTL) in the regular season and playoffs with the Saskatoon Westleys in the Prairie Junior Hockey League.

Fort Knox defeated the Westleys in six games in the best-of-seven final to win its first PJHL title. Two of Fort Knox's wins were in overtime.

Stokke, a native of Watrous, has played for the Westleys for four seasons. He has 64 wins in 106 games in the regular season and playoffs.



Natalie Heggstrom

Wrestling

Natalie Heggstrom of Tommy Douglas Collegiate won the title in the female 90-kg weight class at the Saskatchewan High Schools Athletic Association provincial wrestling championships in Regina in March.

Heggstrom won provincials in the 80-kg class last year and was second in 80 kg in 2023.

Other 2025 provincial champions from Saskatoon

| | |
|---|----------|
| Sofia BoutinHoly Cross | F 53 kg |
| Elizabeth ChapmanHoly Cross | F 50 kg |
| Matthew ElashHoly Cross | M 115 kg |
| Wynn GriffithWalter Murray | M 53 kg |
| Oti KabongoHoly Cross | M 100 kg |
| Max KershawCentennial | M 73 kg |
| Jacob KozakHoly Cross | M 82 kg |
| Tyler LangfordBethlehem | M 90 kg |
| Beckett LavertuMarion Graham | M 41 kg |
| Josue MartinezTommy Douglas | M 47 kg |
| Olipa MwangiHoly Cross | F 73 kg |
| Isabelle ReidCentennial | F 68 kg |
| Ethan SchmittSt. Joseph | M 44 kg |
| Meagan SummersWalter Murray | F 56 kg |
| Jackson TomlinBedford Road | M 50 kg |