



## Class of '24

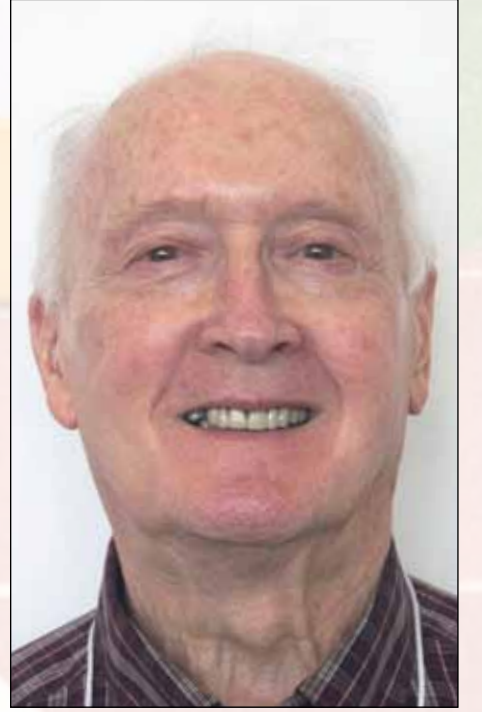
37th induction dinner  
Saturday, Nov. 2  
Prairieland Park



ATHLETE INDUCTEE

### ELAN BALLANTYNE

Competed in Canadian championship in ringette and university basketball



BUILDER INDUCTEE

### RON BODEN

Athletics official for more than 50 years



ATHLETE INDUCTEE

### STAN HOLCOMB

Silver medallist in Paralympics in 100 metres



BUILDER INDUCTEE

### TODD HINDS

Coach with the Canadian national women's wrestling program for 10 years



ATHLETE INDUCTEE

### DIONE (MEIER) BLACKWELL

Pitcher on Canadian softball team in 2008 Olympics

ATHLETE INDUCTEE  
**JENNI HUCUL**  
Canadian junior athletics champion in 100 metres three times; competed in World Cup in bobsleigh



BUILDER INDUCTEE

### BRENDA O'CONNOR

Youth soccer coach, international athletics official



TEAM INDUCTEE

**DBJ LEASING WOMEN'S SOFTBALL**

Canadian senior women's champions in 2000

**Top, left to right:** Coach Jan Hiebert, Stacey (Dansereau) Thompson, Karen McDonald, Jacki Nichol, Leslie (McPherson) Attwell, manager Marianne Hiebert

**Middle:** Erin DeLaet, Tania Harrison, Kara Johnston, Karen Thull, Beth Davis.

**Front:** Jacquie Scarlett, Jennifer Wood, Tamara Franklin, Carla (Ward) Agarand

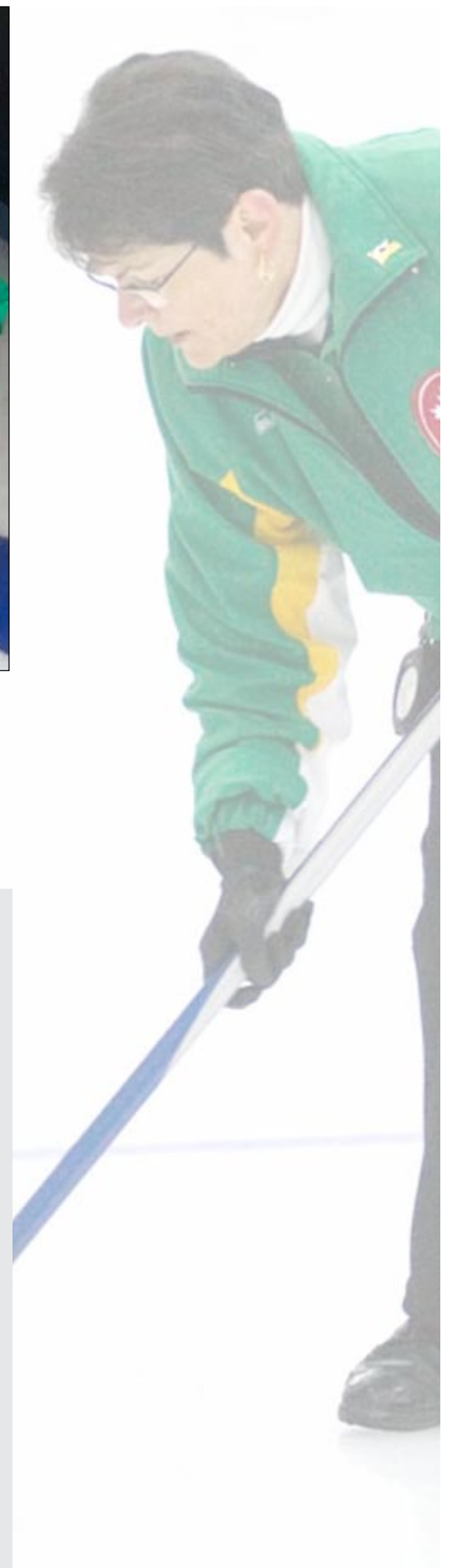


TEAM INDUCTEE

**LEE MORRISON RINK**

Canadian masters champions for age +60 in 2009

**Left to right:** Marg Griffiths, Peggy Hergott, Bernice Van Der Velden, Lee Morrison



SPORTS ORGANIZATION

**SASKATOON VALKYRIES**

Champions eight times in the Western Women's Canadian Football League

# Take me out to the ball game

## Softball and Saskatoon a special connection

**Back:** Manager \*Gail Hopkins, \*Lee Morrison, \*Joy Barrie, \*Ann Hopkins, Gloria Clarke, \*Joan Drummond, \*Sheila Rowan, field coach Hugh Hopkins  
**Middle:** \*Joyce McKee, \*Marlene Ackerman, \*Joan Duprey, Sandy Johnston, \*Judi Garman, Marg Curry, \*Val Jensen  
**Front:** Gwen Rempel, \*Vera Pezer



—Saskatoon StarPhoenix

### 1966 IMPERIALS

**The Imperials** is a team for the ages. **Gail Hopkins** starts the Imperials in 1959 and is with the club as a coach and manager for all its 12 years. In 1960, the Imperials defeat the Prince Albert Chicks to win the provincial intermediate commercial women's title. In 1963 and 1964, the Imperials win the provincial senior B title. In 1965 in Winnipeg, the Imperials compete in the first Canadian senior women's championship, going 0-2. In 1967 in Vancouver, Toronto Willowdale Carpetland defeats the Imperials in the Canadian final. In 1968 in Winnipeg, Toronto again defeats the Imperials in the final. Due to rain, the game is moved indoors to the Winnipeg Arena, ending after midnight. In 1969 in Fort Erie, ON, the Imperials are the first team from Saskatoon to win the Canadian women's title. In 1970 make it a double at nationals, repeating as Canadian champions.

The 1966 Imperials (left), provincial senior B champs, are something else. Talk about athletes. Talk about skill and range: **Marlene Ackerman** wins the Canadian senior women's basketball title twice as a guard with the Adilman Aces. **Joy Barrie** coaches high school badminton, basketball, track & field and volleyball. **Gloria Clarke** wins a basketball title in the Western Can-

\*Enshrined in Saskatoon Sports Hall of Fame

ada Intercollegiate Athletic Association as a forward with the University of Saskatchewan Huskies.

**Marg Curry** is a guard on the Canadian team in the 1971 world basketball championship in Brazil.

**Joan Drummond** is a .400 hitter with the Imperials in 1969.

**Joan Duprey** pitches a perfect game for Canada in the preliminary round at the 1970 world softball championship in Japan.

**Judi Garman** sets the record for the most career wins by a coach in women's college softball in the United States.

**Ann Hopkins**, a catcher, is twice named the MVP in the Canadian championship.

**Val Jensen's** record in junior girls javelin in the Saskatchewan high school track and field championships is 63 years old.

**Joyce McKee** is skip on the rink from the Hub City Curling Club in 1961 that wins the first Canadian women's curling title.

**Lee Morrison** wins Canadian curling titles 40 years apart.

**Vera Pezer** wins the Canadian curling championship four times. She's a fixture at the Lobstick golf tournament in Waskesiu.

**Sheila Rowan** advances to the Canadian curling championship seven times, winning the Tournament of Hearts three times and the senior title once.

The U19 women, senior men and masters men Canadian softball championships are in Saskatoon this summer.



—Saskatoon StarPhoenix

### GERRY CARN

**Gerry Carn** is at the plate in senior ball for 20 years.

He plays for the Saskatoon Knights of Columbus in the 1943 provincial final against the Regina Royals.

With the Saskatoon Legion, he is among the league leaders in 1948 in hitting doubles.

In a game with the Legion in 1950, he spoils a perfect game for **Jimmy Cotts** of the Merchants with a bouncing single into the heart of the infield in the eighth.

Carn wins the provincial senior championship with the Saskatoon Royals in 1952.

He wins the batting title in the Saskatoon Senior Men's League in 1953, getting on base with a hit in 18 of the Royals' 22 games.

He celebrates the joy of victory with the Mohawks in 1956 as they finish first in the league, then knows the low of defeat when they're swept by the second-place Royals in the final.

With his glove at second base, he vacuums ground balls.

Carn is behind the plate as an umpire for Game 1 of the Saskatoon Ladies City senior softball final in 1942 between the Pats and Ramblers.



—Saskatoon StarPhoenix

### \*ANN TKACHUCK

**Ann Tkachuck's** breakout year is 1971.

She plays for the Charlie Brown All-Stars. Coached by **Dennis Beerling**, they outscore their opponents by 33 runs in four games to win the provincial junior girls softball title.

Tkachuck plays for the Saskatoon Blue Angels, who win gold in the Saskatchewan Summer Games in 1972 in Moose Jaw.

When softball is added to the Canada Games in 1973 in Burnaby, B.C., Tkachuck,

\***Pat Harrison**, \***Bev Mazurkewich**, \***Kathy Messner**, \***Marvel O'Donnell**,

\***Carol Rayburn** and \***Sherry Wright** — teammates with the Charlie Brown All-Stars in midgets — win Games gold with the Blue Angels.

In 1976, Mazurkewich, O'Donnell, Tkachuck and Wright are on Saskatoon's new senior team, Harmony Centre, coached by \***Bob Stayner**, that wins provincials.

Tkachuck plays first base for Harmony Centre in winning the Canadian title in 1978 and 1980.

She plays for Harmony in the 1979 Pan American Games in San Juan, Puerto Rico, finishing fourth.

Tkachuck plays on the Canadian team that finishes second at the 1980 World Games in Santa Clara, Calif., eighth in the 1982 International Softball Federation world championship in Manila, Philippines and wins silver in the 1983 Pan Am Games in Caracas, Venezuela.



—Saskatoon StarPhoenix

### \*KEN ROWLEY

The park is **Ken Rowley's** place.

Rowley starts playing with the senior Merchants in 1954.

He is an outfielder with the Westside Merchants when they defeat the Prince Albert Royals in the 1958 provincial championship and win the senior B title. **Ollie Fiddler** of the Merchants is the story in Game 1 in the series, the first pitcher in history with a no-hitter at provincials.

Rowley wins senior A provincials back-to-back with the Merchants in 1961 and '62, both times defeating the Regina Royals; the Merchants going 0-for-2 at Westerns in 1962.

In 1966, Rowley becomes coach of the Merchants. He is tossed out of the game in the seventh inning in the deciding game in the 1966 Saskatoon Senior League final. Charging out of the dugout to a dispute a call that **Pete Guenter** of the College Lads is safe in a slide into third, Rowley bumps plate umpire **Boris Sipko**. Lads win the league, but the Merchants defeat the Lads in provincials and go to nationals in Calgary.

Rowley is an assistant coach when the Merchants win provincials in 1970 and 1974 and 1977.

For years, the annual Merchants Tournament is the biggest ball game in town. Rowley is the tournament's chair.

He coaches minor softball.

He is on the board with the Saskatchewan Amateur Softball Association. Thanks to Rowley, the plate is set.



—Saskatoon StarPhoenix

### \*LOUISE VAWTER

The story of **Louise Vawter** is swing and a miss. This happened over and over in her career as a pitcher: Player at the plate. Hitter loads. Vawter fires.

Take a regular season game in the Saskatoon Senior Ladies' Softball League. The Pats send 21 players to the plate against Vawter. No one gets a hit. No one scores. The Grey Cab Ramblers win 10-0.

At the Western Canadian championship in Edmonton in 1946, Vawter is the starter pitcher for the Ramblers in their opening game, beating the Medicine Hat Legionettes. Vawter relieves

\***Muriel Coben** in a win over the St. Vital Tigerettes of Winnipeg in the first game of the best-of-three Western final. The Ramblers take Game 2 for the title.

The Ramblers repeat as Western Canadian champions in 1947 in Winnipeg. Vawter is on the mound against the host C.U.A.C. Blues in the fourth game of the best-of-five final. In the bottom of the 13th inning and the game tied 1-1,

\***Hazel Smith** of the Ramblers reaches first on an error, steals second and scores the title-winning run on a single to centre field by \***Martha Caudie**.

Vawter is the winning pitcher with the Vanguards when they defeat the Ramblers in the deciding game of the league final in 1954.

She is named the league MVP with the Vanguards in 1955.

Vawter pitches for the Diamonds when they defeat the Langham Pats to win the northern final in 1956.



—Saskatoon StarPhoenix

### \*PORKY HULME

**Clifford (Porky) Hulme** is off and running in sports day at Manitow Beach in Watrous in the summer of 1929, finishing a close second in the race for boys 16 and under.

In 1932, on a pitch still slick from rain, Hulme sets up a goal for the Callies in a 3-2 win over Mayfair Athletic in the Saskatoon junior soccer final.

In 1933, it's almost November when the Saskatoon Hilltops play their first football game of the season. Hulme, a 140-pound speedball, scores a safety touch on punt coverage and Saskatoon defeats the Regina Dales 5-1 at Cairns Field for the Saskatchewan junior title.

In 1939, Hulme is a centre on the Saskatoon Quakers hockey team that loses the first two games in the best-of-five final in the Saskatchewan Senior League to the Moose Jaw Millers. Hulme has an assist in a 4-3 overtime win in Game 3. He hits the post in a 3-2 win in Game 4. In Game 5 at the Arena, Saskatoon defeats Moose Jaw 2-1 in double overtime for the title.

Hulme's super sport is softball.

He starts playing ball in 1930, playing third base for Campbell's Cafe, later known as the Merchants. In 1948 he has the best batting average in the league in the regular season. In the playoffs, the Merchants sweep the Vancouver Narrows in a best-of-five series at Cairns Field. They're the first team from Saskatoon to win the Western Canadian championship.

In 1954 he leads the league in home runs and is named its MVP.

In 1963, at 49, he is a playing coach with the College Lads, who win the Saskatchewan playoff in the American Softball Association series.

In 1970 Hulme is an assistant coach with the Imperials when they win the Canadian senior women's title.



—Saskatoon StarPhoenix

### BILL BURNIECE

**Bill Burniece** brings softball out of the dark.

As the leaseholder of Cairns Field on Avenue A, Burniece has lighting installed in the park in 1939. Softball is played at night in Saskatoon for the first time.

A year later, Burniece upgrades the lighting, extending it deeper and wider. Saskatoon now has night baseball, too.

Burniece, who owns Bill's Taxi, is a big-time promoter and sponsor of women's ball. He has been since the mid-20s.

In 1926, Burniece's Pats won the title in the Saskatoon Girls Baseball League.

They go 18-0 in winning the title again in 1929. Burniece becomes president of the Girls Baseball League.

In women's softball, the Pats defeat the first-place Trojans to win their first Saskatoon league title in 1938.

In 1944, the Pats defeat Edmonton Army & Navy in Cairns Field to win the Western Canadian women's softball title. The Pat also defeat Vancouver Neons, the B.C. champs, in an exhibition game at Cairns.

Attendance in 1944 to watch women's ball in Saskatoon is more than 50,000. Burniece spends a good chunk of what he makes at the gate at Cairns Field to improve the park for spectators and players.



—Saskatoon StarPhoenix

### \*PETE ZACHARIAS

**Pete Zacharias** is king of the hill.

He has a one-hitter as the College Lads defeat the Merchants in the fifth and deciding game in the American Softball Series Saskatchewan playoff in 1963 at Holiday Park.

He doesn't allow a hit until the eighth inning as the Lads blank the host Prince Albert Jacks to win the Saskatchewan title in 1965.

He is 14-1 with the Lads in 1966.

He leads the league in innings pitched with the Lads in 1969. Added to the Merchants lineup for the Canadian championship that season at Gordie Howe Park, he gets the pitching win in four games, has a save as a reliever, allows one earned run in five games and is named the MVP. Merchants win the national title.

Zacharias starts 10 games with the Lads in 1970. He is the only pitcher in the league to go the distance in every one of their starts that season.

His earned-run average with the Jacks in 1973 in the Western Major Fastball League isn't even a buck and a half.

**Top:** \*Pat Spizawka, \*Gordon Chouinard, David Thompson, \*Jay Sim, \*Tim Bashforth  
**Middle:** George Thompson, \*Alvin Willard, Mark Hamilton, Ron Thompson, Cam Tetrault  
**Bottom:** Peter Mack, coach Leo Tetrault, coach Art Bashforth, manager \*Laura Thompson, \*David Redekop



—Saskatoon StarPhoenix

### 1973 WILSON JETS

A group of kids who grow up near the train tracks in the City Park neighbourhood deliver the goods.

\***Tim Bashforth**, **Mark Hamilton**, **Peter Mack**, \***Jay Sim**, \***Pat Spizawka**, **George Thompson**, **Ron Thompson** and **Cam Tetrault** are on the Wilson team that wins the Saskatchewan bantam boys softball title in 1971.

Two years later, in 1973, they play for the Wilson Jets team that wins the midget A title in the Saskatoon Minor Fastball Association, defeating the Mayfair Whips in the series final, with two of their wins by shutout. Melfort defeats Wilson in an extra inning in the provincial midget final on a hot August weekend in Rush Lake.

Five players on the Wilson Jets — Bashforth, **David Redekop**, Sim, Spizawka and **Alvin Willard** — and manager

\***Laura Thompson** are with the Saskatoon Imperial 400s team that wins the Canadian junior championship in St. John's, NL in 1978.

Hamilton, Tetrault and Thompson are on

the KG team that wins the provincial YBC junior boys title in 1972.

Tetrault is on the Saskatoon boys team that rolled a record pinfall in winning the Canadian high school title in 1973.

Spizawka, a heavy hitter as an infielder, is a coach with the Rempel Brothers when they win the Canadian senior title in 1994.

Bashforth, a pitcher, goes on to win the pennant twice with Saskem in Regina's senior softball league.

Sim, a catcher, is on the Canadian national team that wins gold in the 1987 Pan American Games in Indianapolis, gold in the 1991 Pan American Games in Havana, Cuba and gold in the 1992 International Softball Federation world championship in Manila, Philippines.

\***Gord Chouinard** of the Jets is a starting defensive end for the Saskatoon Hilltops when they defeat the Ottawa Sooners to win the Canadian junior football championship in 1978. The November weekend in Gordie Howe Bowl is so cold the goalposts are shivering.

# Touching base

With inductees in the Saskatoon Sports Hall of Fame

*\*Enshrined in Saskatoon Sports Hall of Fame*

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The senior boys 4x100-metre relay team from Aden Bowman Collegiate broke a 30-year-old record in the **\*Bob Adams** Saskatoon high school track and field championships at the

**\*Gordie Howe Sports Complex** in May. **Brady Blackburn**,

**Alex Isbister**, **Eastan Loshack** and **Luke Schamber** clocked 43.27 seconds. Holy Cross set the previous record of 43.68 in 1994. Five parents of the Bowman sprinters are enshrined in the Saskatoon Sports Hall of Fame:

**\*Lariene Blackburn** with the 2003, '04 and '05 University of Saskatchewan Huskies track and field team, **\*David Blackburn** with the 1990, '96 and '98 Huskies football team, **\*Randi-Lee Loshack** with the 2003 and '04 Huskies track and field team, **\*Justin Loshack** with the 1991 Hilltops football team and the '96 and '98 football Huskies and **\*Darryl Isbister** with the 1987 and '05 Huskies track and field team. Schamber's mother, **Dr. Nadia Lypka**, was a hurdler with the Huskies...

**Michael Hussey** from Walter Murray Collegiate ran 48.27 seconds in the senior boys 400 metres, breaking the city championship record of 49.5 seconds set by **\*Cyprian Enweani** of Bedford Road Collegiate in 1982... Two athletes with connections to Saskatoon were enshrined in the Humboldt and District Sports Hall of Fame in April. **Brianne Theisen-Eaton** trained with the Saskatoon Track & Field Club and was coached by **\*Todd Johnston**, **\*Dean Bertoia** and **\*Kevin Cumming**. As a heptathlete, Theisen-Eaton was a silver medalist twice in the world outdoor championships and won bronze in the Olympics. **Lyndon Rush** was a linebacker and defensive lineman with the University of Saskatchewan. His position coaches with the Huskies were

**\*Ed Carleton** and **\*Rick Wakeman**. Rush recovered a blocked punt that led to a touchdown in the 2002 Vanier Cup national final. He went on to be a silver medalist in bobsleigh at worlds

and win bobsleigh bronze in the Olympics... **\*Brian Towriss** and the **\*2002-03**, **\*2003-04** and **\*2004-05** Huskies women's track and field teams are being inducted into the Canada West Hall of Fame. In Towriss's 33 years as head coach of the football Huskies, Saskatchewan played in the Vanier Cup nine times and won the U SPORTS championship three times. The Huskies women's track and field teams were Canadian champions for three consecutive years.

**\*Lyle Sanderson** was head coach in 2003 and '04. **\*Ivan Tam** and **\*Scott St. Pierre** were the head coaches in '05... Hockey coach **\*Dave Adolph** is the 2024 recipient of the Jean-Marie de Koninck Coaching Excellence Award in U SPORTS. Adolph was the head coach in men's university hockey for 32 years, four years with the Lethbridge Pronghorns and 28 years with the Huskies. The Huskies were conference champions in seven of those seasons and went to nationals 16 times... **\*Dave King** will be inducted into the Alberta Hockey Hall of Fame in July. King was based in Calgary when he was the head coach of the Canadian national men's team. Also being inducted into the hall are the 2000-21 Red Deer Rebels, winners of the Memorial Cup for

major junior hockey. **Bryce Thoma** of Saskatoon was an 18-year-old defenceman with the Rebels. He went on to play three seasons with the Huskies, coached by Adolph... **\*Colette Bourgonje** is one of the 26 athletes and builders featured in the new Indigenous Sports Heroes digital book created by Canada's Sports Hall of Fame.

## 1978 Replay



—Regina Leader Post

### Jane Bolstad

**Jane Bolstad** had a record-breaking weekend at the Saskatchewan high school track and field championships in Regina Douglas Park in 1978.

Although she was in Grade 9 at Regina Sheldon-Williams Collegiate, Bolstad competed in the junior division with mostly Grade 10s.

Bolstad lowered the one-year-old record in the junior 800 metres held by **Sandra Balezantis** of Holy Cross by five seconds and the one-year-old record in the junior 1,500 held by **Leila Preston** of Moosomin by 11.4 seconds.

Bolstad went on to win the Canadian university title in the 3,000 metres in 1984 with the Saskatchewan Huskiettes.

## Hall directors

- |                    |                   |                  |
|--------------------|-------------------|------------------|
| ● Dave Elder       | ● Bob Reindl      | Members at large |
| ● Kelsie Hendry    | ● Brian Shalovelo | Mary Green       |
| ● Dana Kidd        | ● Kerry Tarasoff  | Keith McLean     |
| ● Bryan Kosteroski | ● Jim Wilson      | Jerry Shoemaker  |
| ● Dave Moore       | ● Dale Yellowlees | Bob Florence     |
| ● Jacki Nichol     |                   |                  |

## Look at them now Athletes, coaches, officials, support staff make news



### Bobbi Janzen

Multiple sports

Bobbi Janzen received the Leadership in Athletics award at Saskatoon's annual Graham Women of Distinction Awards in May.

Janzen was born with a degenerative condition that affects sight. A mother of two, she has competed in cross-country skiing, goal ball, hockey and power lifting.

She is a personal trainer and group fitness instructor.



### James Venne

Hockey

James Venne of Saskatoon is a goalie with the Melfort Mustangs, who finished second in Canada in junior A hockey in 2023-24.

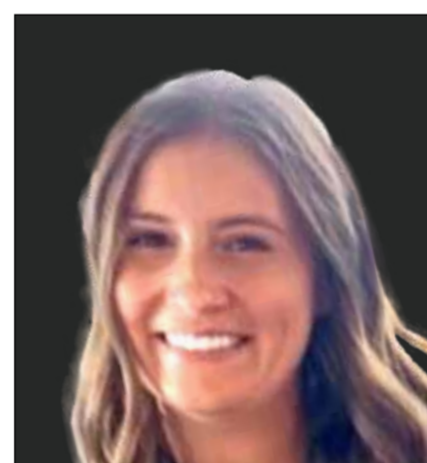
The Collingwood Blues of the Ontario Junior Hockey League defeated Melfort 1-0 in the final of the Centennial Cup in Oakville, ON.

Venne led the Saskatchewan Junior Hockey League in the regular season in games played by a goalie, 47, and wins, 31.

He finished the season with a goals-against average of 2.56 in the regular season and playoffs.

This was Venne's third year in Melfort.

He played pee wee for the Saskatoon Wild Thunder and Wild Lightning, bantam for the Saskatoon Outlaws, midget for the Saskatoon Blazers and juvenile for the Saskatoon Riverkings.



### Taylor McGregor

Athletics

Taylor McGregor of Saskatoon will be on the coaching staff of Saskatchewan's athletics team at the 2025 Canada Summer Games in St. John's, NL. Each province can send two coaches to the Games in the Women in Coaching Apprenticeship Program.

McGregor is a pole vault coach with the University of Saskatchewan Huskies.

When she was a student at Evan Hardy Collegiate, McGregor was a medalist in high jump, long jump, triple jump and pole vault in the **\*Bob Adams** Saskatoon high school championships. She was the provincial high school champion in senior pole vault in 2012.

As a vaulter with the Huskies, Taylor had three top-10 finishes in the Canada West conference championships.



### Andrew Johnson

Wrestling

Andrew Johnson of the Saskatoon Wrestling Club finished first in the 92 kg class at the Canadian senior world team trials in Calgary in May. Johnson won three of his matches by decision and the other one by injury default.

He has qualified for the world championships in October in Albania.

Johnson was an Academic All-Canadian in engineering with the University of Saskatchewan Huskies.

**SueAnne Harms** of the Saskatoon Wrestling Club was third in the women's 59 kg class at the trials.

In the Canadian U23 championships, **Donovan Neudorf** was third in the 61 kg class and **Sierra Mullin** sixth in 55 kg.



### Isabella Pozzi

Hockey

Isabella Pozzi received the **Paul S. Jaspar** Chartered Accountant Award at the University of Saskatchewan's spring convocation. The Jaspar Award is given to the most distinguished graduate in the Business Administration Certificate Program in the Edwards School of Business.

Pozzi played defence for the Saskatchewan Huskies hockey team for five years, playing 154 games in the regular season and playoffs.

She was an academic All-Canadian in kinesiology, completing a Bachelor of Science in the college in 2023.

**Keely Shaw** was awarded the Governor General's Gold Medal for outstanding academic achievement by a graduate student.

Shaw has studied iron deficiency in people. She won a bronze medal in track cycling in the 2020 Paralympics.

## Passings

**Lyle Bauer**  
1958-2024, age 65  
Football

Lyle Bauer skated with City Park's team in the Saskatoon Playgrounds Hockey League.

He hit the long ball with Wilson in the Playgrounds Fastball League.

He threw the long ball at King Edward, winning the ball throw title in the Saskatoon Elementary Schools track and field meet.

His signature sport was football.

Bauer and **Don Sachs** were the block brothers on Mount Royal Collegiate's offensive line.

Bauer played junior football for the Hilltops and the Calgary Colts. He played university football for the Weber State Wildcats in Oregon as he pursued a degree in business administration. He was a conference all-star in his one season with the Saskatchewan Huskies.

He played in the Canadian Football League for 10 years, all with Winnipeg. Although an injury to his left knee prevented him from playing in the Grey Cup at Edmonton's Commonwealth Stadium in 1984, the Blue Bombers won their first title in 32 years. His play that season helped to make it happen.

Moving from guard to centre, he won the Grey Cup two more times playing for the Bombers, in 1988 and 1990.

After retiring as a player, Bauer went into management, going to the Grey Cup final twice as an assistant GM of the Bombers, twice as Winnipeg's CEO and once as CEO of the Calgary Stampeders.



Lyle Bauer

**Hylke van der Wal**  
1938-2024, age 86  
Athletics

Hylke van der Wal started running when he was 11.

This year, at 86, he registered to run in the annual Watford Alvington Road Race in Ontario. Van der Wal was a fixture in the spring race since 1958 when he won the inaugural edition.

A native of Grootegast, Netherlands, his first home when the family emigrated to Canada was near Watford. Saskatoon became his place. Val der Wal was third in the 3,000-metre steeplechase at the Canadian track and field championships in 1960 at Griffiths Stadium. He was second in steeplechase at the 1963 nationals in Saskatoon. He was Canada's steeplechase champion in 1967 in Saskatoon.

Van der Wal set the pace throughout the 1960s, finishing in the top three at nationals for 10 consecutive years.

As a student at East Texas State, he was named the athlete of the year in the Midwestern Association, a conference in nine states with historically black colleges. Transferring to the University of Nebraska-Kearney, he broke the Antelopes team record in the 1,500 metres. He won the United States intercollegiate title in steeplechase. At trials in Toronto for the British Empire Games, he broke the Canadian steeplechase record by 11 seconds, going on to finish eighth in the event at the Games in Perth, Australia. He hitchhiked from Ontario to California to run in the Golden Gate indoor meet at the Cow Palace in San Francisco.

Van der Wal competed in masters track and field for ages 35 and over in the 1970s and '80s, the '90s and 2000s. Living in northern Saskatchewan in Sucker River, and later in Dalmeny and Radisson, he won medals in the Canadian masters championships in sprints and distance, jumps and hurdles. He ran in the Canadian cross-country championships. He went to the Huntsman World Senior Games in Utah.

Van der Wal won the Sask Sport Excellence Award as master athlete of year in 2010. Among the recipients of the master athlete award are six inductees in the Saskatoon Sports Hall of Fame:

- \***Judy Warick**..... 1990, athletics
- \***Irene Kokotailo**..... 1993, cycling
- \***George Lander**..... 1994, marathon canoeing
- \***Caren Reindl**..... 1995, athletics
- \***Dean Faris**..... 1999, football



Hylke van der Wal