

## **PEI Soccer Association Award Winners - 2006**

### **Junior Female Player of the Year 2006 :: Ashley MacKenna**

Ashley McKenna is considered to be one of the finest goalkeeping prospects in the region, and in 2006 she enjoyed an outstanding season. Playing at the under-18 level in an bid to improve her game, she was outstanding for the Stratford Foxes, but it was at the under-16 all-stars in Saskatoon that she really caught the eye, earning recognition from the national scouts for some fantastic performances, allowing just 6 goals in 4 games, the best ever performance by an Island girls team at an all-star competition. She was the Team MVP and the reason why the girls were able to enjoy a very respectable 7th place finish. Her progress is being monitored by the national scouts at the Atlantic Training Centre where she will be training through the winter. In addition to her agility and bravery in the net, Ashley enjoys working with the younger keepers at the Stratford club, passing on what she has learnt to assist in their development.

### **Senior Male Player of the Year 2006 :: Matt Thomson**

Matt Thomson of the Velvet Underground has been one of the province's best senior players for many years, and in 2006 he once again showed the qualities that make him a great leader on the field. Whether in midfield or in the attack, Thomson always has a big influence on any game he plays, whether it is through his fierce tacking, his eye for goal, or his ability to lead by example and make every player on his team play to their potential. Along with possibly Ryan Anstey, Matt has made one of the biggest contributions to UPEI soccer in the past few years, and in 2006 he had his best ever season in front of goal, leading the Panthers with 7 and having a hand in countless others. For his efforts he was named not only an AUS 1st team all-star, but a CIS 2nd Team All-Canadian. His leadership will be hard to replace in 2007.

### **Lowell Stewart Memorial Award 2006 :: Sara Stewart**

Sara played soccer for the U-18 Sherwood-Parkdale Rangers team that played in the premier Women's League. She was co-captain of the team that finished third in the league. Sara is a dedicated driven player who puts her heart in the game at the highest level. She works extremely hard at taking free kicks with her favorite soccer player being David Beckham. Sara's desire to excel for herself and her team was evident this year by starting a fitness program on her own to become stronger and faster. Her fitness coach John Wilbert of judo fame speaks highly of her determination and dedication to improve herself. Sara's U-18 soccer team went to the National's in Laval in October 2006. Once again her contribution to the team was outstanding. Her team was short handed due to illness and injuries and Sara was asked to play for the majority of the games. Her contribution as captain off the field by e-mailing practice times, game times, and other team matters is also worth noting. Sara's role to the Sherwood Soccer Club as assistant to skills development in the U-12 girls first division was invaluable. Each Saturday morning she assisted with the development of soccer drills, teaching the girls the game, showing them soccer tricks and acting as a role model to encourage future generations of girls in soccer. Along with her volunteering, Sara took the entry level referees exam in the spring, and she never missed an assignment, went where she was asked and always did her best, even under trying circumstances.

### **Junior Male Player of the Year 2006 :: Ryan Casey**

Winsloe's Ryan Casey is highly skilled as a player, equally talented with both feet, and he plays the game very skillfully and competitively, with great composure. Ryan is mature beyond his years as a player and as an individual. This maturity makes Ryan a classic team leader as he led his club's U-16 Premier Boys team to a first place finish during the regular season, and a silver medal at the Provincial Cup final. During the 2006 season, Ryan also played for the Provincial U-16 all star team, his high school team that won the Provincials, and was a pick up by his Club's U-18 team to go away with them to the Club National Championships as an alternate player, where he performed very well. Ryan is dedicated to improving himself as a soccer player and equally as an individual, as shown by his dedication to the various teams that he played on during the 2006 season and the different roles that he had on each of these teams. Ryan is truly a team player that leads by example, and he is well regarded by both coaching staff and teammates alike.

### **Alan Godfrey Volunteer of the Year 2006 :: Irene Power**

They say that to get something done, ask a busy person, and no-one does more, or is busier, than Irene Power of the Sherwood Parkdale Rangers. The former registrar and current secretary of the Club, Irene has been volunteering for many years, and she has the knack of seeing what needs to be done before anybody else, and doing it with little fuss or fanfare. In addition to the secretary duties, Irene managed three teams in 2006 - the under-15 Provincial All-Stars, the Sherwood under-16 girls, including organizing their trip to nationals, and even the Charlottetown Abbies under-18 girls 1st division team when they were stuck for a manager. Her great organizational skills meant that everybody was well prepared, and the coaches and the players all had much more enjoyable seasons because of Irene's efficiency. Well respected throughout the club, every organization needs a volunteer like Irene Power. They are the lifeblood of the clubs, and she is fully deserving of being a finalist for the Alan Godfrey Volunteer of the Year Award.

### **Administrator of the Year 2006 :: Yvette Reid**

Yvette Reid (Stratford) A finalist in 2005 for this award, Stratford's Yvette Reid continues to work tirelessly for the Stratford club. For the past five years Yvette has filled the office of treasurer, and she has organized the club's annual tournament since 2004. In addition she has coached for the past five years, and helps out on other teams whenever she is needed. Called the "Volunteer of Volunteers," Yvette has the club's best interests always in the forefront of her mind, and she is constantly thinking about the club, its teams, and what needs to be done next. Whenever anybody has a query about anything in Stratford, the response is always the same - call Yvette!

### **Coach of the Year 2006 :: Wally Morrison**

Wally has an extensive history of coaching with the Winsloe club, producing many successful teams. This 2006 soccer season he was fortunate to have coached two provincial winning teams which is a significant coaching accomplishment. His U-18 boy's team won the Challenge Cup for youth soccer and placed seventh at the club nationals. In addition to coaching at the club level during the 2006 season, he won his third consecutive high school AA soccer title for Colonel

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Gray High School this fall. Wally's coaching success is due to his extensive technical knowledge of the game, his loyalty to his players and team, his ability to motivate and challenge his players to excel, and his strong interpersonal skills with his players. Wally expects a lot from himself as a coach and he communicates his expectations of commitment, dedication, hard work, intensity, and passion for the game to his players. In addition to being a coach in the Winsloe Club, Wally also holds the position of Youth Director and is always willing to assist other coaches with their team practices and player development.

### **Team of the Year 2006 :: WWR Blues U-18 Boys**

The Wally Morrison coached under-18s enjoyed an excellent season, convincingly winning the Challenge Cup, and placing a very credible 7th at the club nationals. The core group of players of the team have represented the team and the province at club Nationals for U-14 and U-16 also. At this year's club nationals the team lost 1-0 to a very strong BC team, probably their best ever performance as a team. They were complemented by many observers for their sound team play and strong fundamentals of the game. In addition, they were recognized for exemplary behaviour as individuals representing their club, community and province. They were great ambassadors representing the soccer community of PEI on and off the soccer field.

### **Junior Referee of the Year 2006 :: Cory Deagle**

A 1st year referee who has shown great promise, Cory is enthusiastic and shows great professionalism for a young official. He impressed the executive of the Referees Association with his great attitude and desire to learn. He refereed in the under-12 final four week-end where he was assessed by Mike Connolly on two occasions, and he received very good reviews. Unlike many other junior referees, Cory enjoyed his first summer so much he continued refereeing into the fall season, taking charge of a number of midget games in the school season. He has shown that he has the desire to learn and the enthusiasm for officiating.

### **Senior Referee of the Year 2006 :: Justine Lewis**

Justine Lewis enjoyed an excellent season, and with the right combination of skill, effort and luck, she could well be the next Island referee to reach the top levels in Canadian soccer. Justine this spring passed both the written Class 2 and Class 1 exams, and she represented us at the Girls All-Stars where she did exceptionally well. She also handled the u-18 girls final in the summer, and she was heavily involved in the UPEI games in the fall. On the radar of the CSA, she has made herself known to the National Referees Committee, and they will be following her progress with interest in the coming years, as she is likely to be involved in many high-ranking events. Very serious about her refereeing and very eager to learn, she has shown the promise to get to the top in Canadian soccer. Justine is an excellent role model for all young female referees looking to make their way in refereeing.

### **Senior Female Player of the Year 2006 :: Krista McInnis**

Krista once again showed the Senior Women's league that she is one of the most skilled and determined players to play in the league. Playing center midfield for the Summerside Senior Women's team which travelled to Surrey, BC for the Club Senior National Championships, Krista was a huge factor in the team's great accomplishments this season, from a nearly perfect regular season to a very respectable 8th place finish out of 12 teams at Club Nationals. She was always a danger in the opposing penalty area, and she scored many crucial goals for the team. Krista plays the game of soccer the way it was meant to be played - from firm tackling, to solid two way play to a skilled assortment of passing, dribbling and shooting, Krista always stands out on the soccer field as much of the play during the run of the game goes through her as she tracks back to help her defenders and then makes the runs and passes necessary to begin the counterattack. Always a great example to the younger players of the sport, Krista took on a coaching role this year as well within her club, as she along with her younger sister took on the Under 14 Girls Premier team. She enjoyed a successful career at UPEI and will certainly be a leader in the Senior Women's division for years to come.