

PEI Soccer Association Award Winners - 2007

Administrator of the Year

Kenny Martin has been the President of the WWR SC for the past three years. He is always thinking of the clubs best interest and most importantly the best interest of the players. Kenny is involved in every aspect of the club – he actively participates in club registration, he works tirelessly at the annual club tournament each year, and he helps plan and prepare for the youth and mini closing each year. Kenny also coaches, and despite having his own three children on three different premier teams, he coached an u-12 girl team because that was where a coach was needed. It was a rare time that Kenny wasn't at the soccer complex when games were going on. If he wasn't there you knew that he must be away at another field for a game. The time, planning and lobbying that Kenny has put in for a much needed new soccer club house is another one of his many efforts for WWRSC.

Volunteer of the Year

Sam Jeyes – Community based sport is an important context for voluntary activity in Canada. Sport volunteerism is a form of social citizenship that contributes to the development of strong communities. Sam Jeyes has shown his dedication for not only the Stratford Soccer Club but for the community this past soccer season. Sam has been a volunteer with the Stratford SC for three years. He was heavily involved in the planning of the Annual Stratford Soccer Tournament as both the referee assignor and game scheduler. He was on site as a volunteer and referee for the entire weekend and was integral in pulling off one of the largest and most successful tournaments in the Club's history.

In addition Sam coaches at the mini level in the Stratford Club, he is a generous sponsor, and he also acts as the treasurer of the Referees Association.

A father, businessman, committee member and player for the senior men's team, Sam is a well rounded citizen who is always willing to lend a helping hand.

Lowell Stewart Memorial Award

Curtis Hall - Curtis is a skilled and accomplished soccer player who is small in physical stature but has great skill and understanding of the game. He is always respectful of both officials and opponents, and never misses practice or games. He can be seen most night of the week at the complex either practicing or observing others training, picking up whatever he can to improve his game.

Curtis is a great volunteer too in the club. He is a great coach in the mini-soccer program, looking after an under-6 team, and on under-10 game night he always gave up his time to referee. The players and the coaches always enjoy Curtis's involvement and he receives many compliments for his efforts and enthusiasm.

Junior Female Player of the Year

Kayla Balderston enjoyed a tremendous season. She was captain of the Eliot River Girls under-16 team and was the team's top scorer. She was also captain, and again the leading scorer, for the under-16 provincial team.

Her work ethic and positive attitude placed her as an immediate leader, whom the players looked to for guidance. On the field, Kayla's ability to move the ball and see the field allowed her to make the players around her better. She loves to play soccer, which is obvious every time she walked onto the field whether it was a game or practice. The passion and energy that she brings is contagious, and she was a popular pick-up by the Piazza Joe's team to take part at the seniors in Halifax, where she made a great contribution.

Kayla is one of the most gifted young soccer players on PEI. She plays her usual center midfield role combining great vision with a great passion for the game. She has been a regular at the Atlantic Training Centre, and playing and practising with other good players has really helped her game.

To round off an excellent season she was the team leader for Bluefield, earning league all-star honours and finishing as top scorer

Junior Male Player of the Year

Dan McAleer - This season Dan was captain of the Winsloe Blues U18 team, and in this position Dan lead by example, always giving 100% in training or in games, and exhibiting a level of fair play that most young men of this age seem to forget. Dan is always respectful of his coaches, opponents and officials a true role model for his 12 first year teammates.

Dan's on field accomplishments this year are reflected through his teams success, going undefeated against all Under 18 teams they played both league and tournament and leading the Blues to a 4-2-2 record against the First Division Senior Men's teams in interlocking play. In many of these games Dan showed tremendous ball handling abilities to get his team out of trouble and to start the attack and his knowledge of team play is second to none.

At the request of his coaches, Dan was moved to central defense for the Challenge Cup, and without hesitation he agreed as he knew it would benefit his teammates. The Blues went on to win the Provincial Challenge Cup without allowing a single goal again in large part because of Dan's play. At the nationals he constantly led by example, playing every minute, and it was fitting that he scored one of the crucial penalties in the shoot-out that secured the bronze medal.

At UPEI he has already established himself as a crucial player in the centre of midfield, and he looks to have an excellent varsity career ahead of him.

Senior Female Athlete of the Year

Kristina Weatherbie - Arguably the most skilful player ever from this province, Kristina Weatherbie played for the Stratford Foxes Senior women's team, and game in and out, her name would always be found in the scorers column.

However, her main achievements this year occurred on the pitch with her university of Cape Breton team, where she is a 4th year player.

She led all AUS players in scoring, tallying a total of 13 goals. That ties her for the all time goals lead at the University with thirty six regular season goals.

Those goals also secured her the Most Valuable Player award and a First Team all Star selection for the AUS conference.

After her Capers went on to win the AUS crown she added a first team All Canadian All Star to her collection of awards.

Her Caper team went on to win the National CIS Championships hosted at Cape Breton University.

Senior Male Player of the Year

Michel Daoust was outstanding in 2007. With the Velvet Underground team he was the leading scorer in the League, and defenses never, at any time, were able to relax when Michel was in the penalty area. He received the Golden Boot award with VU Breakers in the Nova Scotia Soccer League. He also enjoyed some excellent performances at nationals.

In the fall, Michel continued his great year for the University of Western Mustangs.

He scored in extra time and penalties over Brock University to take his team to the OUA Final Four Championship, and he was selected as an OUA West second team All Star. He then scored in injury time against the number #1 ranked Carleton Ravens to secure a spot at the National Championships in BC, and at the championships he then scored twice to earn his team a bronze medal at the Nationals.

In addition, he was also named to the all – tournament team for the championships.

Junior Referee of the Year

Ernesto Carranza - has been officiating for three years and continues to improve each season. He has all the qualities of a good official - he is keen, quick to learn, and he most importantly, he listens when advice is offered. He is always looking at ways to improve his game. He has good fitness, demonstrates a good knowledge of the laws, and always gives his best when in the middle. Ernesto's improvement over the course of the season was immense, and if he continues to show enthusiasm for the role, he will become a very good official. A keen sportsman with lots of interests. It will be soccer's gain if he continues with his refereeing.

Senior Referee of the Year

Mike Connolly - continues to set the standard for Island referees. In his 3rd year as a national official he got many top assignments, including officiating Montreal Impact in the United Soccer League in front of 12,000 people, the Canada Boys Under15 exhibition games in Newfoundland, the Nova Scotia Soccer League, and the Senior Nationals in Halifax. In addition he continues to referee many of the top games at the university level, and took charge of games at the AUS Women's Play-offs in Charlottetown, including the final game between Dalhousie and Cape Breton

As well as his own officiating Mike continues to play an important role in developing young officials, giving clinics and assessing both junior and senior referees alike. He continues to be a fantastic resource for Island officials and is a person many of us respect and admire for his achievements on the field.

Coach of the Year

Wally Morrison - of the Winsloe West Royalty Boys under-18 team enjoyed a magnificent year.

A great enthusiast and teacher, Wally's teams always play the game in the right way, and in 2007 the boys achieved an incredible feat, becoming the first Island youth team ever to win a medal at a national championship, when they defeated Ontario on penalties to secure a Bronze medal.

Throughout the season Wally had his boys ready, and they played and competed well in the tough Island Senior Men's league 1st Division, before then going on to win the Under-18 Provincial Challenge Cup. At the nationals they recovered from a slow start to put together some excellent results, and the accolades they received for winning the bronze were very well deserved.

In addition, Wally also led the Colonel Gray Colonels to his 4th title in the High school season, and during the busy summer he even found time to coach the Winsloe under-16 girls 1st division when they needed somebody behind the bench. Wally also took this team and won a provincial bronze medal.

Of course, Wally could achieve all what he did on his own, and great credit for the under-18 triumph must also go to his assistant coach Roger Vessey.

Team of the Year

WWRSC Under 18 Boys - The Winsloe West Royalty Boys under-18 made Island soccer history in 2007 by becoming the 1st youth team to win a medal at a national competition when they won a bronze in Fredericton.

The team had enjoyed an excellent season - they had shown that they were one of the best teams in the region by winning a hard fought gold at the Winsloe Police Association tournament, and they grew stronger as the season progressed, helped by playing in the Senior men's 1st Division. Playing at this level helped them develop a toughness which proved invaluable later on.

They comfortably won the Under-18 Challenge Cup, before starting their big adventure in New Brunswick. After a slow start, where they dropped their first two games to Alberta and BC, the team rebounded with a 1-0 win over Nova Scotia, and in a must win game against Saskatchewan, they recorded an excellent 3-2 win, Jake Byrne scoring twice.

In the bronze medal game against heavy favorites Ontario, the Blues took the game to penalties before recording an incredible victory. Without doubt it was one of the best performances ever by an Island team. Full credit goes to the players, and the coaching staff of Wally Morrison, Roger Vessey and team manager Sean Casey.

