

PEI SOCCER 2019 AWARD WINNERS

'Alan Godfrey' Volunteer of the Year



L-R: Linda Godfrey, Jennifer Bryson

Jennifer Bryson

Club: North Shore Sharks SC

This will be Jenn's fifth season volunteering with the club and she has gone out of her way over the past several years to keep the club running smoothly. She fills any role as needed, always with a smile and an organized approach.

She helps coordinate coaches for the mini program, assists with registration, purchases any club equipment needed and stocks the canteen. In addition, she took on the role of assistant coach for a U7 group last year as well and frequently runs the canteen herself. Without her efforts on the club's social media platforms, the club would not have seen the resurgence in registrations that is helping grow the club.

She shows up every soccer night with a smile and a positive attitude, deals with player and parent issues calmly and generally helps every soccer night run smoothly.

People like Jenn are the bedrock of any volunteer sports organization, as they would simply not operate if they weren't there.

Coach of the Year



L-R: Mike Connolly, David Vos(SoccerStop)

Mike Connolly

Club: Eliot River Ramblers SC

Team: U11G Green

- U11 Girls End of year tournament winners
- U11 Girls Eastern Eagles Tournament winners.

Coach of the Year Mike Connolly had a great summer and then fall, first with the U11 girls green team out of the Eliot River Ramblers SC and then with Englewood boys.

Stressing that the game is all about learning, development and fun; the U11 girls put all of that into practice by also coming out on top at two tournaments, winning at Eastern Eagles and the end of year tournament at Sherwood. The girls had such a positive experience. They all improved greatly over the year, played as a team and most importantly they all became friends. They have all developed well as soccer players thanks to Mike's patient approach to teaching and learning.

Mike also coached the Englewood boys school team. They had only a few boys that had ever played organized soccer before and had to draw from grade 6 so there would be enough for a team. Mike was very patient and made sure everyone played, but at the same time helped mold them into a team. This was the first ever soccer championship – Intermediate A - for Englewood. The school has one of the smallest school bodies on PEI.

In addition, if he wasn't busy enough, he also coached the Bluefield High School team which finished in 4th place.

Junior Female Player of the Year



L-R: Lauren Clark, Chris Wright(Subway)

Lauren Clark

Club: Summerside United SC

Lauren has turned into a very good goalkeeper and has a maturity beyond her years, playing for the U17 PEI FC team despite still being eligible for under-15. She is well-rounded keeper – athletic, with good handling, and her quick reflexes mean she is an excellent shot-stopper, especially from close range.

In November Lauren was invited to attend the Whitecaps High Performance Player camp, and she impressed so much she was selected to play in the Game of Distinction at the end of the camp, alongside some of the best players who attended in the country.

Junior Male Player of the Year



L-R: Mike Eyolfson(ADL), Riad Jaha, Chelsey Gorveatt(PEI Soccer)

Riad Jaha

Club: Sherwood Parkdale Rangers SC

Riad is the back to back winner of this award following another exciting year.

After a fine Whitecaps camp in 2018 which saw him selected to the Youth team to play in Madrid, Riad was invited back for second camp in February of last year.

Again he impressed the coaches, and he was invited permanently to join the Whitecaps Academy squad in August 2019.

A very good defender, Riad trained with the Provincial and PEI FC teams until his big move to Vancouver where he will be suiting up against other MLS Academy teams and playing in prestigious tournaments.

Junior Referee of the Year



L-R: Jim Chandler(PEI Soccer), Mary Cate Dodds

Mary Cate Dodds

Certification level: District

Big games assigned to:

1. Assistant Referee for NS U17 Boys Tier 1 games
2. 2019 U13/U14 Girls Atlantic All-Star

In 2019, Mary Cate again demonstrated experience and ability beyond her short refereeing career. As a result, as well as being a regular member of the officiating teams handling PEI FC games throughout the summer, Mary Cate was assigned to a number of Senior Men's games; a challenging environment that she handled with ease.

She was also assigned to important games at the U13 and U14 girls Atlantic All-Star competition. As a quiet, confident official, Mary Cate has had the opportunity to work with many of our more senior officials – all of whom have all provided positive feedback on her performance, calm demeanor and professionalism.

Senior Referee of the Year



L-R: Jim Chandler(PEI Soccer), Brandon Lund

Brandon Lund

Certification level: District

Big games assigned to:

1. PEI Senior AAA High School Finals
2. 2019 ACAA Men's Final

Not only is Brandon one of the busiest officials on PEI, he is quickly developing into one of the strongest Assistant Referees on the Island, if not Atlantic Canada. His consistently high level of performance throughout the season resulted in regular assignments in the AUS and ACAA, appearances in both AAA high school finals and a much deserved assignment on the line for the 2019 ACAA Men's Championship Final.

During Thanksgiving Weekend, Brandon represented PEI Soccer admirably as one of the local officials assigned to the U17 National Championships. Feedback on his performance from the event was positive on all accounts: A fit, professional, high quality official. We're looking forward to Brandon's continued growth in the seasons to come.

First Year Referees of the Year



L-R: Ehab Moustafa, Jim Chandler(PEI Soccer), Grace Connolly

“In recognition of dedication and exemplary performance as a first year referee”

Grace Connolly is a first year referee is showing great promise. She has a good knowledge of the game that helps her with her consistent foul recognition. Beyond refereeing Grace took part in our varsity sub-board program which had her in the referees' room with our top officials to learn that side of the game. Coming from great refereeing genes, her positive work ethic and eagerness to learn will keep her moving forward in the refereeing ranks.

Ehab Moustafa is a top quality player with a high level of skill and knowledge of the game that he has taken and applied to refereeing. He quickly showed his assistant refereeing abilities during the Atlantic All-Star tournament this past summer. He was always willing to fill whatever appointment is asked of him.

Senior Female Player of the Year



L-R: Mayor Philip Brown(City of Charlottetown), Nikki Roberts

Nikki Roberts of Brackley Beach enjoyed an exceptional varsity season, leading the Holland College Hurricanes to an Atlantic Championship.

The all-action midfield player was instrumental in the Hurricanes comfortably winning the regular season, and then the College Atlantic title, earning a place at the National Championship.

A fine tackler and passer who reads the game very well, Roberts started all 12 games for the Hurricanes and was often the first name on coach Kris MacKinnon's game sheet.

For her effort she was named an ACAA all-star, the ACAA Player of the Year, and was also an all-Canadian.

Senior Male Player of the Year



L-R: Sam Smiley, Hon. James Aylward(Gov. PEI)

Stratford's Sam Smiley has been one of the Island's best players for a number of years, and he had a fine 2019 season.

Technically excellent, the quick striker is often the go-to guy on whichever team he plays for and he was on the PEI FC senior team that won another inter-provincial New Brunswick Senior League title.

It has been at UPEI though that Sam has really stood out. In a team that has at time struggled to score, it has often been Sam who has unlocked the defence to either grab a goal himself, or unselfishly set up one of his teammates.

For the 2019 Panthers Sam registered 4 goals and 4 assists, contributions which helped his team earn a play-off spot. Arguably his biggest moment came in the AUS quarter-final, where the sixth seeded Panthers upset a strong 3rd ranked UNB squad, courtesy of Sam's goal in extra-time.

He was deservedly named a 1st team AUS all-star in 2019, a nice reward after having twice before earned 2nd team honours.

Team of the Year



Mike Eyolfson – ADL(left), Eliot River Ramblers U13G Division 1 Team

Allie Bowers, Rachel Campbell, Mava Gauthier, Emily Holmes, Reagan Hunter, Addison Langley, Sophie LeClair, Rachel MacFadyen(K), Claire Mallett, Alexis Marshall, Arian Pot, Lily Sanderson, Addison Smith, Ashlyn Tremere, Jonathan Gauthier(C), Mike LeClair(C), Carol LeClair(M).

Club: Eliot River Ramblers SC

Team: Eliot River U13G Division 1 Team #2

This team had an outstanding season winning three trophies.

The team won the Eliot River All Girls Tournament and the Central Queens Clippers Tournament. This team went 11-0 in regular season play with 34 goals for and 7 goals against. Even when this team was down in games they found a way to fight back and pull out the win. On and off the field these girls were best friends and always together through it all. Team spirit was high and never a negative comment at games or practices.

Coaches Jonathan Gauthier and Mike LeClair did an excellent job with this amazing group of girls.

Defensively they were really strong with 5 shutouts on the season, with Rachel MacFadyen in net having a great summer.

- Shutout in the quarterfinals and semi-finals and conceded 1 goal in the final.
- Won the Subway Youth Soccer Provincial Title with a victory over their club mates Eliot River U13 Girls Team #1.

Lowell Stewart Memorial Award



The award recognizes soccer skill development, dedication to soccer, sportsmanship and support within a club.

L-R: Kirk McAleer(PEI Soccer-President), Mary Cate Dodds & Marg Stewart

Mary Cate Dodds

Club: Sherwood-Parkdale Rangers SC

Team: U18 Girls Premier

The winner of this award displays all of the attributes of dedication, sportsmanship, and involvement in her community.

In addition to playing soccer each season with Stratford Soccer Club and the former Hillsborough United, Mary Cate Dodds has been a dedicated member of the PEI Provincial High Performance teams from U12-U17 and a member of the 2018 PEI FC U17 team. She also played AAA Inter-Scholastic soccer for both Stonepark Intermediate and Charlottetown Rural High School. This season, she captained her high school team as it won its fifth straight Senior Women's AAA Provincial title. Mary Cate is a level-headed soccer player and her commitment to the game and to her team are evident in her attendance and effort at training, her quick-thinking on the pitch, and her approach to fair play.

In addition to playing soccer, Mary Cate was a coach with Stratford Soccer Club's Mini Soccer program before becoming a soccer referee in 2016. Over the past four years, she has refereed in Stratford's mini-soccer program and the U13 and U15 youth soccer leagues, as well as various tournaments. She has also served as an assistant referee for the senior leagues. Mary Cate's approach to the game and her solid understanding of the laws have allowed her to persevere as an official and continue to contribute to the sport that she loves.

Extra-curricular contributions are a pre-requisite to winning this award, and Mary Cate's contributions to her community extend way beyond soccer. Through her work to complete her Duke of Edinburgh Award, she had the opportunity to volunteer at Andrews of Stratford, helping out with their recreation activities. Through her Leadership course at Charlottetown Rural, she had the opportunity to participate as a "Big" with Big Brothers, Big Sisters for a semester as well as in a program called "Rising Youth" through which her leadership team funded and served a meal at the Upper Room Soup Kitchen.