



Saskatoon Youth Soccer Inc.'s Friend of Soccer Award 2017

April 13, 2018

About the Award:

The Saskatoon Youth Soccer Inc. (SYSI)'s *Friend of Soccer Award* is awarded each year to those who have contributed to youth soccer in a meaningful way. An award recipient is selected by each Zone Board for a total of five awards each year.

Nomination Process:

SYSI is pleased to announce we have revamped our *Friend of Soccer Award* nomination process and are now recognizing one recipient per zone instead of one overall recipient per year. We feel there are plenty of deserving volunteers for this award and are excited to be sharing this award with five worthy volunteers each year going forward! Each year individuals may nominate a worthy volunteer of our award and submit their nomination to their respective Zone board. Each of the five Zone boards will compile their nominations and select one recipient to represent their Zone for that year. SYSI will then recognize all five recipients at the "Outdoor Pre-Season Coaches' Night" in April. The nomination form can be found on our website under the "Forms" section. The deadline for nominations will be March 1 of each year and each Zone must form their decision by April 1 of each year.

2017 Award Recipients:

Zone 1 – SUSC – LORENA WALLS



Saskatoon United Soccer Club awarded Lorena Walls as their Friend of Soccer recipient for 2017. Lorena has been volunteering within the soccer community for 2 years and is currently a team manager and SUSC's Registrar. A fellow SUSC Board member nominated her and had the following to say: "Lorena has been the pillar for the last 2 years of success in SUSC and she has helped to build our zone up and give the confidence it needs to lead us into the future and keep us

strong. Lorena has been working long hours during the week and weekends to put together programs that have helped the players, the parents, coaches, and Board. Her leadership has steered our zone well and enabled us to look at a bright future with the programs she has enacted. She has helped us increase our membership while also helping us increase our Board so that we are able to help the players within our zone better. Lorena has contributed to the soccer community in many ways but most noteworthy is where she was put into the registrar role with little to no help from previous members in her role, she was able to take control of it while enacting strong programs that have helped her do her job easier while also helping technical get a better base for programs and teachings in the zone. By doing this she has gained

the respect of many parents and players within our zone as well as volunteers and parents from other zones.”

Zone 2 – Hollandia – PAOLA KOBUSSEN & SEAN WILSON



Hollandia Soccer Club has awarded two outstanding individuals, their male and female coordinators, Paola Kobussen and Sean Wilson, to share the 2017 Friend of Soccer award. Paola has been volunteering within the soccer community for 5 years and is currently Hollandia’s female coordinator, a team manager, and assistant coach but also served as Silverspring’s Community Soccer Coordinator for a number of years. Sean has been volunteering within the soccer community for 4 years and is currently Hollandia’s male coordinator and a coach. A fellow Hollandia Board member nominated them and had the following to say: “Both Paola and Sean demonstrate the highest level of engagement and care for the community. Their positions are integral to ensuring all coaches and managers in our club are prepared for their positions, have a point of contact for solving problems, and act as role models in the coaching and manager positions themselves. Their participation on our technical committee ensures the personal attributes and social concerns of the players are taken into consideration when making placement decisions. Paola and Sean are accountable to every player in our club. Over the past 4 to 5 years, they have assisted over 1,500 players and their families, and an average of 27 teams a season. They have provided invaluable administrative assistance to the technical committee and have served as the first point of contact for both players and managers when a concern arises. In most cases they are able to use their superior problem solving skills to address issues before they become formal complaints. In addition to fulfilling their roles as coordinators, they both consistently coach, assistant coach, and manage teams in the club, even when their children are not on those teams. Paola routinely attends provincial competitions as a female coach on the bench for teams that don’t have a certified female coach. Sean often steps up to mentor coaches on the male side of the club. In Paola and Sean’s role in the club, they have a high degree of daily accountability, with little reduction in duties throughout the year. If they are not actively supporting teams and players during the season, they are helping recruit coaches and managers for upcoming seasons. Their support to the technical committee and Percy has allowed consistent high levels of services for our club and players.”

Zone 3 – Aurora – SHAUN EATON



Aurora Soccer Club has awarded Shaun Eaton as their Friend of Soccer recipient for 2017. Shaun has been volunteering within the soccer community for over 8 years and is currently a coach, Aurora Board member and serves on the Aurora Technical Committee. A fellow Aurora Board member nominated him and had the following to say: “Shaun is a very positive person that has always stood up for what soccer was about. He always relays a positive attitude and puts enjoyment of the sport in front of anything. I have witnessed many people within Aurora,

board members, parents, coaches, managers all confide in Shaun for advice and knowledge. What you receive back is always genuine and truthful. Shaun has taken on coaching teams in both genders and at all levels throughout the years. He has never turned down a coaching position when asked, and on has numerous occasions taken the task on coaching multiple teams. Shaun has taken the downturn in soccer registrations within Saskatoon very seriously. When I was on the technical committee he was always scouring through past registrations and requesting contact information for players to help populate teams. In one season Shaun advanced our U16 girls from one team of 18 players to two rosters of almost 30 players. The results of this allowed players to play within the skill levels that gave them the most enjoyment and was a very big part of the growth of the zone at this age group. Aurora is very lucky to have a sincere volunteer like Shaun Eaton within its zone boundaries, but the positive influences that Shaun portrays within the soccer community are not limited to Aurora. He is very careful to stretch his help throughout Saskatoon in any way that he can. While Shaun is being nominated for the 'Friend of Soccer Award' for 2017 by Aurora Soccer, Shaun is a true friend of soccer throughout Saskatoon and all zones have benefitted from Shaun being a part of our community."

Zone 4 – Lakewood – LEONARD LEWKO



Lakewood Soccer Association has awarded Len Lewko as their Friend of Soccer recipient for 2017. Len has been volunteering within the soccer community for over 15 years and is currently a coach and President of Lakewood Soccer Association. A fellow Lakewood Board member nominated him and had the following to say: "I have worked with Len on the Board for the past six years. He has been the heart and soul of our club. He is calm, intelligent, and truly loves the game. Len has gone out into the community, the parks, and to all meetings to promote the

sport. Len regularly meets with parents new to the club finding the proper placement and making sure each player is happy. Len also represents the Saskatchewan Soccer Association and shows up at all provincial competitions whether he has Lakewood teams attending or not. He continues to play and manages so much of Lakewood operations by taking calls, emails, filing paperwork, finances, and chairing all Lakewood Board meetings. Our club would not be where we are without him. He is always in the background in Saskatoon soccer but never expects thanks or praise as he simply does it for the kids and the sport. Len truly deserves the SYSI Friend of Soccer Award."

Zone 5 – Eastside – DAVID CHAN



Eastside Youth Soccer Association has awarded David Chan as their Friend of Soccer recipient for 2017. Dave has been volunteering within the soccer community for over 15 years and is currently a coach and long standing member of the Eastside Technical Committee. A fellow Eastside Board member nominated him and had the following to say: "As a coach Dave has spent many hours not only coaching, but developing his coaching skills. Long after his own kids have outgrown club soccer he's

remained coaching. He has always been committed to furthering his coaching skill by continually enrolling in coaching courses offered by SSA and our club and has used that knowledge to assist and mentor new coaches within our club. Dave also is one of the founding members of the Eastside technical committee and was on the hiring committee that hired our first technical director Tom LaPointe years ago. Dave provides a strong consistent foundation to the programming our club has been able to offer. He continues to provide valuable historical advice to the new members of the committee and is a great sounding board for new ideas and initiatives. His coaching skills have taken him and his players around the country to national tournaments and competitions and into Europe for team events. He continually provides the players on his teams an experience they will never forget. Although he has been the driving force behind the enjoyment of many players that have come through Eastside, his involvement in the governance and operation of the club has been invaluable. His contribution to the hiring of our first staff members and technical director Tom Lapointe is one of the biggest feathers in his cap.”

Past Recipients:

1989	Al Day	2008	Hal Lackie
1990	Jill Postlethwaite	2009	Terry Carruthers
1991	Bob Speed	2010	Tom LaPointe
1992	Ross Wilson	2011	Joe Garcea
1993	Ken & Carol Wagner	2012	Ed Halyk
1994	Jim Cook	2013	Mark Lord
1995	Percy Hoff	2014	Bob Rohachuk
1996	Huw Morris	2015	Wilf McDougall
1997	John Riggs	2016	Zone 1 - <i>not awarded</i>
1998	John Tomchuk		Zone 2 - Sean Collins
1999	Garry Harder		Zone 3 - Mark Schramm
2000	Lawrence Martz		Zone 4 - <i>not awarded</i>
2001	Bernadette Garrity		Zone 5 - Trevor Conquergood
2002	Pat Gillies	2017	Zone 1 - Lorena Walls
2003	Gloria Rowan		Zone 2 - Paola Kobussen/Sean Wilson
2004	<i>not awarded</i>		Zone 3 - Shaun Eaton
2005	Mike Grevers		Zone 4 - Leonard Lewko
2006	Brett Mario		Zone 5 - David Chan
2007	Bob McAllister		