



Saskatoon Youth Soccer Inc.'s Friend of Soccer Award 2019

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 is end of February each year and each Zone must form their decision by late March each year.

2019 Award Recipients:

Zone 1 – SUSC – Celeste Glasser-Cook



For the short amount of time Celeste has been on the board, she has made a huge impact – she lifted our Zone's social profile to new heights. We had fun and the Facebook & Instagram posts were informative and creative. She took the time to ensure everything was informative, correct, creative and took pride in what she did. She loved it!

Zone 2 – Hollandia – Hernan Tapia



Hernan is a long-time friend of soccer in Saskatoon. For the past twenty-five years, most boys entering the Hollandia system have passed through Hernan's capable hands.

There is an adage in soccer that the best coaches should be with the youngest players, and shortly after joining Hollandia, Hernan was entrusted with developing a sound foundation for all boys entering the club at the under ten or under eleven age groups.

An exceptionally good player in his day, Hernan played a big part in inspiring his sons, Pato and Cesar, who eventually represented our Province and National All-Star competitions. Hernan played for many years in local men's leagues and was always a well-respected competitor who was liked by all. He also spent many years as a referee,

where he was known for his calm manner and fairness.

A gentle person with a great sense of humour, Hernan is the ideal guide, coach, and mentor for the youngest players, and he has had a major influence on all Hollandia's male players who have graduated to higher levels of soccer. He is eternally enthusiastic and optimistic; the first coach to want to get his team going every season. A mark of his quality is that there is seldom any drama or disciplinary matters to worry about on his teams. He treats players and parents with the utmost respect and thus earns the respect of all with whom he interacts. Hernan is a true friend of the beautiful game.

Zone 3 – Aurora Soccer – Alex Hein



Alex is a dedicated coach, who has done amazing things! He started coaching with the Saskatoon United Soccer Club (SUSC) in his teens, after a successful youth playing career with SUSC. Alex's parents, Bruce & Bev, were heavily involved with SUSC wearing many hats within the organization and so it was natural for him to become involved as well. We are very thankful he chose to continue to be involved with the game and become involved with our club.

Moving to Aurora four years ago, Alex has led several Premier & PSL girls' teams to successful seasons and developed some fantastic players along the way, sparking their lifelong passion for the game and continued involvement in the game. He has also been part of the Aurora Accelerated Development Academy (ADA), Aurora summer camps and coached several other age groups, including U11, U13 & U17B Premier (a team he also took to Las Vegas in 2019), as well as recently joining the Aurora Board of Directors and Aurora Technical Committee.

His passion and love for the game is second to none! Over the last few years, you would find Alex volunteering his time and coaching three teams at a time in addition to academy training. It's hard to find a more mature, passionate, knowledgeable and dedicated young man. Aurora and Saskatoon Youth Soccer are blessed to have him. Thank you for everything you do Alex!

Zone 4 – Lakewood – Garnette Weber



Garnette has been a coach with Lakewood, PSL as well as assisted with the Saskatchewan REX program. During her time with Lakewood, she has often coached or assisted with multiple teams and served as a team and club physiotherapist. Garnette is a great mentor for female players and helps connect them with adult and/or University programs. She is always furthering her coach development and assists wherever she can in the community.

Zone 5 – Eastside – Angèle Thiessen



Angèle Thiessen first and foremost always wanted what was best for the kids, no matter their age or skill level. She invested her time heavily into the organization starting in 2008 as a team manager for both of her son's teams. Over the years she became more involved and was recruited into various roles including:

- assisting with club equipment management.
- volunteering to help with the Eastside soccer tournament including chairing the tournament for several years, and finally being a resource for any incoming tournament coordinators.
- sitting on the Eastside board from 2011 to 2019 in various roles including tournament coordinator, coordinators chair, treasurer and finally as Vice President.

She never shied away from the tough situations. She had the unfortunate task of navigating our soccer tournament through not just one, but two rainout weekends, where all games were rescheduled and moved indoors at the very last minute. Her calm demeanour and willingness to roll up her sleeves and get the job done was recognized by the number of teams that made sure to thank her for finding a way to let them play, even in such a hectic situation.

Above all the best way to summarize her involvement in soccer and Eastside was her willingness to always be one of the one to step forward and take responsibility. For her it was about making sure the kids always had a well-organized event to participate in, so they had a fun time. Whether it was making sure to have a bag of candy for the kids after the game, always being the first to volunteer for the Eastside Family Day in the Park, attending a late night SYSI board meeting or being one to freely express her opinion during a discussion, Angèle made Eastside a better organization. She made a difference and is well deserving of this award.

Past Recipients:

1989 Al Day
1990 Jill Postlethwaite
1991 Bob Speed
1992 Ross Wilson
1993 Ken & Carol Wagner
1994 Jim Cook
1995 Percy Hoff
1996 Huw Morris
1997 John Riggs
1998 John Tomchuk
1999 Garry Harder
2000 Lawrence Martz
2001 Bernadette Garrity
2002 Pat Gillies
2003 Gloria Rowan
2004 *not awarded*
2005 Mike Grevers
2006 Brett Mario
2007 Bob McAllister
2008 Hal Lackie
2009 Terry Carruthers
2010 Tom LaPointe
2011 Joe Garcea
2012 Ed Halyk
2013 Mark Lord
2014 Bob Rohachuk
2015 Wilf McDougall

2016 Zone 1 - *not awarded*
Zone 2 - Sean Collins
Zone 3 - Mark Schramm
Zone 4 - *not awarded*
Zone 5 - Trevor Conquergood

2017 Zone 1 - Lorena Walls
Zone 2 - Paola Kobussen/Sean Wilson
Zone 3 - Shaun Eaton
Zone 4 - Leonard Lewko
Zone 5 - David Chan

2018 Zone 1 - Shawn Dyky
Zone 2 - Leigh Saunders
Zone 3 - Kevin Foster
Zone 4 - Dan Weber
Zone 5 - Lynne Gelner

2019 Zone 1 – Celeste Glasser - Cook
Zone 2 – Hernan Tapia
Zone 3 – Alex Hein
Zone 4 – Garnette Weber
Zone 5 – Angele Thiessen

2020 Zone 1 – Michele Mason
Zone 2 – Randy Poelzer
Zone 3 – Dan Cote
Zone 4 – Melanie Scott – Kwan
Zone 5 – Jodi Blackwell