



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

Friend of Soccer Award Past Recipients

1989 - Al Day
1990 - Jill Postlewaite
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 - Gary Harder
2000 - Lawrence Martz
2001 - Bernadette Garrity
2002 - Pat Gillies
2003 - Gloria Rowan
2004 - Not Awarded
2005 - Miike Grevers
2006 - Brett Mario
2007 - Bob McAllister
2008 - Hal Lackie
2009 - Terry Carruthers
2010 - Tom LaPointe
2011 - Joe Garcea
2012 - Edward Halyk
2013 - Mark Lord
2014 - Bob Rohachuk
2015 - Wilf McDougall

2016:
SUSC - No Nomination
Hollandia - Sean Collins
Aurora - Mark Schramm
Lakewood - No Nomination
Eastside - Trevor Conquergood
2017
SUSC - Lorena Walls
Hollandia - Paola Kobussen/Sean Wilson
Aurora - Shaun Eaton
Lakewood - Leonard Lewko
Eastside - David Chan

2018
SUSC - Shawn Dyky
Hollandia - Leigh Saunders -
Aurora - Kevin Foster
Lakewood - Daniel Weber
Eastside - Lynee Gelner

2019:
SUSC - Celeste Glasser - Cook
Hollandia - Herman Tapia
Aurora - Alex Hein
Lakewood - Garnette Weber
Eastside - Angele Thiessen

2020:
SUSC - Michele Mason
Hollandia - Randy Poelzer
Aurora - Dan Cote
Lakewood - Melanie Scott - Kwan
Eastside - Jodi Blackwell

2021:
SUSC - Morgan Reagan
Hollandia - Alicia Osses
Aurora - Steph Hnatiw & Crystal Shendaruk
Lakewood - Samantha Lamborn
Eastside - Michael Diegel

2022:
SUSC - Cory Clason
Hollandia - Darcy & Erin Pederson
Aurora - Mukasa Bagonluri
Lakewood - Tim Wong
Eastside - Dean Stanzel

2023:
SUSC - Alan Brewster
Hollandia - Kevin Brown
Aurora - Vijay Tumber
Lakewood - Chris Todd
Eastside - Kevin Cuff



2024 Award Recipients:

Zone 1: SUSC – Jeremy Sirman

Years of Service: 5+

Positions held within Zone/Community Association: Coach

Has Been a part of SUSC for many years offering his time as a coach at most levels in a player's development it's always been about others never about him.

His loyalty and commitment to the players he has coached has been outstanding in a very humble and modest fashion, and comes with a smile on his face and a warm heart in whatever his duties are and have been with our club.

He exemplifies the true meaning of a friend of soccer, players parent's and all attached with the club have the utmost respect for Jeremy, he continues his legacy helping SUSC grow and develop in all areas of our club.

On behalf of Saskatoon United Soccer Club, we congratulate Jeremy on this award it's richly deserved.

Zone 2: Hollandia – Wamith Gorges

Years of Service: 10+

Positions held within Zone/Community Association: Coach

Wamith Gorges is an outstanding coach whose dedication and passion for soccer has his impacted not only his players, but the soccer community. He encourages an environment built on inclusivity and respect. As a coach, he leads by example by thanking the officials and showing his teams opponents respect.

Wamith goes beyond coaching the game - he looks to instill lifelong values such as persistence and teamwork. His ability to connect with players is unmatched—earning their trust, and becoming the coach they all want to return to year after year. He coaches multiple teams, gives countless hours to our youth, and leads by example through active participation in practices and games.

Wamith is truly a player's coach—dedicated, personable, and invested in each player's development both on and off the field.



Zone 2: Hollandia – Char Adamus

Years of Service: 14

Positions held within Zone/Community Association: Coach

Starting her outstanding contribution to the soccer community as a mini-soccer coach at Willow Grove and Silver Spring community associations, Char has been a positive force and inspiration to many privileged to experience what she brings to the game.

In her 14 years of engagement in soccer, she has coached both boys' and girls' teams at Aurora before moving to Hollandia, where she has taken charge of several girls' teams in addition to serving on the Hollandia board, where her contribution is highly valued and where she is not shy to take on projects such as planning and organizing the recent Coach appreciation dinner.

Char is a deserving nominee for this award in part because of her contribution to community, zone, and provincial soccer, as well as her ability to be one of the leading female coaches in our province.

Zone 3: Aurora – Shaun Eaton

Years of Service: 20+

Positions held within Zone/Community Association: Coach, Board member, volunteer

Shaun Eaton has been a dedicated volunteer with the Aurora Soccer Club since 2001, contributing in numerous roles including coach, board member, and through ongoing volunteer efforts. His commitment extends beyond time—Shaun has generously sponsored several players, ensuring that financial barriers don't stand in the way of their love for the game. Through his business, Soccer Locker, Shaun has provided event sponsorships, not only for Aurora Soccer Club but also for other Organizations, including SYSI.

Shaun is a true role model for players and coaches alike and he is well deserving of this recognition.



Zone 4: Lakewood – Becky Kirkham

Years of Service: 2

Positions held within Zone/Community Association: Technical coach, Interim General Manager and Female Technical Lead.

It's hard to put into words the impact Becky Kirkham has had on the Lakewood Soccer Association, but "immense" is a great place to start. As our Female Technical Lead, Becky brings not only skill and leadership to the field, but also heart, vision, and an unwavering commitment to the game and the community that surrounds it.

Becky is always the first to step up when needed—most notably in the summer of 2024, when she seamlessly took on the role of Interim General Manager. Her leadership during that time kept things running smoothly and further proved just how capable and dependable she truly is. A passionate advocate for female soccer, Becky champions the importance of women coaching women and has played a vital role in empowering young female athletes and coaches alike. Her dedication extends beyond her role—she lives and breathes soccer and is constantly working to grow and strengthen the game at every level.

Becky's presence in the Lakewood soccer community is more than just felt—it's foundational. We are incredibly lucky to have her, and it's no surprise she's being recognized with this well-deserved award. Congratulations, Becky—you continue to inspire all of us.

Zone 5: Eastside – Jaclyn Gaucher

Years of Service: 7

Positions held within Zone/Community Association: Coach

Jaclyn is a dedicated and passionate advocate for youth soccer in her community. A standout player growing up in Saskatchewan, she competed at the provincial, national, and university levels, completing five full years with the University of Saskatchewan Women's Soccer Team.

Since joining Eastside as a coach in 2018, Jaclyn has consistently demonstrated her commitment to the game, offering guidance, mentorship, and leadership to young players. Her ability to inspire and support athlete development has made a lasting impact, and her dedication to the sport makes her a truly deserving recipient of this award.