



Press Release
March 23, 2005

**REGIONAL WINNERS ANNOUNCED
FOR THE
2004 TOM LONGBOAT & NATIONAL ABORIGINAL COACHING AWARDS**

Akwesasne, Ontario March 23, 2005 – The Aboriginal Sport Circle (ASC), Canada's National Voice for Aboriginal Sport officially announces its 2004 regional recipients for the most outstanding Aboriginal athletes and coaches in Canada. **All winners are eligible for the prestigious National Awards to be presented on April 21, 2005 at the National Aboriginal Hockey Championships & Sport Excellence Awards, Miramichi, New Brunswick.**

"The caliber of talent of these athletes & coaches truly exemplifies the hopes and dreams of the Aboriginal Sport Circle said Lyle Daniels, Chair of the Aboriginal Sport Circle. The Aboriginal community celebrates their accomplishments and the recipients should be proud of who they are."

Tom Longboat was one of the greatest athletes ever to compete in Canada, winning races and setting records wherever he went. He inspired countless followers of every ethno-cultural background while proudly affirming his own aboriginal heritage,' said Bruce Kidd, Tom Longboat Historian and Dean, Faculty of Physical Education and Health, University of Toronto. 'The winners of the Tom Longboat Awards carry on his tradition. The Awards stimulate athletic excellence and show that aboriginal athletes continue to rank among the very best."

In the fall of each year, the Aboriginal Sport Circle circulates a national call to the Aboriginal Community and the Canadian sporting community to submit names for the Longboat and Coaching awards. Each nomination reflects their athletic and coaching accomplishments, positive role in community and concern for holistic development.

A national selection committee representing the Aboriginal Sport Community selects the top male and female national recipients for each award. The male and female national winners will be announced April 21, 2005 at the National Aboriginal Hockey Championship & Sport Excellence Awards. The National Aboriginal Hockey Championships brings together more than 500 athletes & coaches from Aboriginal communities in Canada who represent the best of their sport in addition to volunteers, elders, sponsors and dignitaries. The event promotes sporting excellence across Canada, and reminds Aboriginal Canadians how sport lifts the human spirit. It is a tribute to the hard work, the dedication and the victories of some of our countries finest.

The 2004 Regional Winners are:

Tom Longboat Awards

Name	Sport	Province/Territory
Females		
1. Kelcy Armstrong	Skating	Yukon
2. Sheena Sangris	Volleyball	Northwest Territories
3. Lara Mussell	Ultimate Frisbee	British Columbia
4. Patti Wolroth	Hockey	Alberta
5. Charmane Naytowhow	Athletics	Saskatchewan
6. Shelley Hurska	Ringette	Manitoba
7. Michelle King	Hockey	Ontario
8. Kaylea Germain	Cross Country Running	New Brunswick
9. Mariah Nevin	Hockey	Nova Scotia
Males		
1. Jarod Tuton	Hockey	Yukon
2. Marvin Migwi	Team Sports	Northwest Territories
3. Richard Peter	Wheelchair Basketball	British Columbia
4. Alwyn Piche	Volleyball	Saskatchewan
5. Garnet Desjarlais	Ball Hockey	Manitoba
6. Nathan O'Nabigon	Hockey	Ontario
7. Kahonwase Rice	Canoeing	Eastern Door & North
8. Nathan Francis	Hockey	New Brunswick
9. Chad Denny	Hockey	Nova Scotia

National Aboriginal Coaching Awards

Name	Sport	Province/Territory
Females		
1. Shareen Hill	Swimming	Yukon
2. Kara Jan Willie	Soccer	British Columbia
3. Leiha Crier	Hockey	Alberta
4. Rhonda Mitchell	Hockey	Ontario
Males		
1. Gary Bailie	Skiing	Yukon
2. Alain Lepine	Football	British Columbia
3. Danny Buffalo	Hockey	Alberta
4. Faron Asham	Baseball	Manitoba
5. Kevin Kakagamic	Volleyball	Ontario
6. Allen Diabo	Lacrosse	Eastern Door & North
7. Patty Ward	Hockey & Baseball	New Brunswick
8. David Winters	Soccer	Newfoundland & Labrador

The Aboriginal Sport Circle

The Aboriginal Sport Circle is Canada's national voice for Aboriginal sport, which brings together interests of First Nations, Inuit and Metis peoples. We are committed to the development of Aboriginal athletes and coaches by supporting their efforts to achieve personal excellence through sport. The ASC takes a holistic approach to sport by promoting an environment which offers a balanced approach to the physical and mental, as well as the spiritual and cultural development of Aboriginal athletes, coaches and community sport leaders.

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For more information or bios on the recipients, please contact:

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