

Athlete of the Year finalists announced

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Sask Sport Inc. has announced the finalists for the 1992 Athlete of the Year Awards.

Master Athlete of the Year

Rob Currie: An accomplished volunteer administrator and coach, Regina's Rob Currie is also a successful master athlete. At the Canadian Masters' Summer Sport Festival, 33-year-old Currie came away with two gold, three silver and two bronze in both team and single events. At the Northwestern International Rowing Association Regatta, he captured golds in single, double and quad competition.

Kenn Thomson: A 1992 Volunteer Recognition Award recipient, Kenn Thomson of Moose Jaw began his speed skating career at the age of 29. In the past 13 years he has become the most successful masters speed skater Saskatchewan has ever produced. Thomson holds 22 provincial and three Canadian records in both short and long track speed skating.

Irene Kokotailo: Provincial running star Irene Kokotailo was sidelined by a hip injury in April, but road racing's loss was mountain biking's gain. Kokotailo dominated the local scene which led her into national competition. The Saskatoon resident won both the downhill and cross country events at the Canadian championships, making her the first Saskatchewan cyclist to win a national title.

Team of the Year

Regina Optimist Dolphin Swim Club: Celebrating its 25th Anniversary, the Dolphins swim

club got more than just silver this year. At the 1992 Canadian National Youth Championships, the club eclipsed the competition with a 596-point margin of victory. The Dolphins were also declared the Top Age Group team in the country, out-scoring 200 clubs across Canada.

Regina Razors Special Olympics Floor Hockey Team: After winning the provincial championships in June, the Regina Razors channelled their energies toward the Canadian floor hockey championships in Prince Edward Island. The team's record of three victories, one loss and a tie secured a berth in the final against New Brunswick. The Razors won the Canadian championship by a score of 4 to 3.

Saskatchewan ATA Trapshooting Team: After walking away with the Canadian team championship for the past five years, the Saskatchewan ATA Trapshooting team set its sight on the world championship. The Saskatchewan squad found itself tied for the world title with Iowa before they snatched the victory in overtime, making them the first Canadian world champions in the event's 67-year history.

Male Athlete of the Year

Tim Berrett: Saskatoon's Tim Berrett continues to walk tall on Canada's track and field scene. Berrett, who finished 14th at the 1992 Summer Olympics in Barcelona, established himself as the premiere race walker in the country by setting a new Canadian

record in the 20 km race walk. Berrett, 27, is the number-one ranked Canadian athlete in both the 20 km and 50 km.

Allan Francis: Allan Francis stepped into the spotlight when he was named to the Canadian Mens Epee Squad which finished 7th at the 1992 Summer Olympics in Barcelona. That honor was more than appropriate: Francis, Saskatchewan's leading fencer, finished 5th in the Canadian mens individual epee as well as placing 7th at a U.S. Olympic circuit event.

Jeff Thue: Jeff Thue's landmark year in wrestling culminated in a silver medal in the freestyle heavyweight division at the 1992 Summer Olympics. In addition, 23-year-old Thue finished first at the Canada Cup, the senior nationals, and the Olympic trials. Thue attends and wrestles for Simon Fraser University in British Columbia.

Female Athlete of the Year

Dawn Birley: Fifteen-year-old Dawn Birley of Regina got her kicks in 1992, capturing numerous medals in the junior category of W.T.F. taekwon do tournaments throughout North America. Her accomplishments include two gold medals at the United States Open Tae Kwon Do Championships, one gold and one silver at the Can-Am Tae Kwon Do Championships and a bronze at the Canadian Olympic team trials.

Tracy Duncan: Saskatoon's Tracy Duncan, 21, used to make her

mark on the track but in 1988 she changed her strides to strokes. A dominant force on the Prairies since 1989, this rower crossed the finish line first at the following singles events: the Canadian Rowing Championships, Northwest International Regatta, Western Canadian Sprints and the Winnipeg Invitational Regatta.

Stacy Singer: In 1992, 15-year-old Stacy Singer of Regina reclaimed her place atop the baton twirling world by winning every competition entered. She won her fifth consecutive world junior championship as well as all possible provincial, Western Canadian, and national titles. Singer also received

the first-ever Special Recognition Award from the World Baton Twirling Federation.

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Zone 1 Winter Games

Early entry is very important

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The Saskatchewan Zone 1 Winter Games co-ordinator G. Kot of Redvers is busy stressing the importance of early entry into the games being held in her community Feb. 19th to 21st.

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