



Canadian College Sport Connections

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NAME THE CCAA NEWSLETTER

Its official!! The CCAA member-institutions have casted their votes.

The CCAA is proud to present to you **Canadian College Sport Connections**, the Official Newsletter of the Canadian Colleges Athletic Association.

Thank you to all of who voted!!

CCAA NATIONALS

2005 CCAA National Badminton Championships getting underway

In less than a week, student-athletes will be travelling to the City of Barrie, Ontario, for the 2005 CCAA National Badminton Championships hosted by Georgian College from March 3-5, 2005.

Since it first hosted this event 23 years ago, Georgian College will welcome back some of the country's most talented CCAA badminton players who will proudly represent their conference. The 2005 National Championships will be hosted on campus in a newly renovated Athletic & Fitness Centre. "Georgian College is pleased to host the 2005 CCAA National Badminton Championships. These championships will be the first national event in our new Student Centre. The students, staff and community members from around the Barrie area are excited to see some of the best badminton in the country," indicated Michele McConney, Georgian College Athletic Director and 2005 CCAA National Badminton Championships Host Convenor.



Following an outstanding performance at the **Atlantic Colleges Athletic Association (ACAA)** Badminton Championships, Université de Moncton, who dominated the tournament to finish 1st overall, and Mount Allison University will lead the ACAA Team to the National Championships. The **Ontario Colleges Athletic Association (OCAA)** will be represented by six-time overall OCAA badminton team champions Cambrian College, as well as Centennial, George Brown, Seneca, Mohawk, Georgian, Fanshawe and St. Clair College. Winning four of five categories, the Mount Royal College (MRC) Cougars emerged as the number one contender at the **Alberta Colleges Athletic Conference (ACAC)** Badminton Championships, and hopes to secure a first place win with the help of Concordia University College of Alberta. From British Columbia, members of the Langara Falcons and the Douglas Royals will be representing the **British Columbia Colleges Athletic Association (BCCAA)** at the National Championships.

Competition is expected to be fierce at this year's National Badminton Championships with outstanding performances and strong contenders in CCAA Athletes of the Month Kyle Holoboff and Tori Johnstone from Langara College (BCCAA). ACAA MVPs and CCAA Athletes of the Month Russell Carson (Mount Allison University) and Julie Landry (Université de Moncton) will be vying for 1st place in the Men's and Women's Singles events. Dominating throughout and finishing the season undefeated, OCAA George Brown's Van Ta will defend her title in Women's Singles. Representing the ACAC, CCAA Athlete of the Month Jonathan Vandervet and partner Tiffany Chan will be fierce contenders in Mixed Doubles.

To get the latest news, results and developments within the 2005 CCAA Badminton National Championships, please visit Georgian's official website and add the link to your *Favorites* page - <http://www.georgianc.on.ca/athletics/CCAA/index.html>.

To read the full story, visit the following link: <http://www.ccaa.ca/badminton/05022501.htm>

2005 Coca-Cola CCAA Men's Basketball Championships on Line

Fans of CCAA Basketball who can't make it to the Northern Alberta Institute of Technology, in Edmonton, for the Men's National Championships, held on March 16-19, will now be able to catch all the action on the Internet. No more "real time scoring" from a ticker! Now you will be able to watch the game as it happens from the comfort of your office or home.



NAIT, an industry leader in video-conferencing, will break new ground in CCAA sports coverage by web-casting all thirteen games of this year's Championships. Your free, front row tickets to the "final eight" are as near as your computer. The 2005 CCAA Men's National Basketball Championship website - WWW.2005NATIONALS.CA - is your one-stop source for information on participating teams, game schedules, souvenirs and access to the Internet broadcasts.

NAIT successfully web-cast the finals of the 2002 CCAA Badminton Championships and found it to offer an affordable yet effective alternative to cable TV coverage.

Tournament chair, Gregg Meropoulos was quick to point out that web-cast coverage of the Championships is a result of the collaborative efforts of many, but singled out some key players. "Keiron Quigley from NAIT's Department of Curriculum Innovation, together with Patrick Galenza and Chris Durham from Radio and Television Technology (RTT) have supported this project from the beginning." RTT students will man the two cameras and provide play-by-play with added color commentary by a number of veteran ACAC Basketball coaches.

The quality of the broadcast will vary from audio-only on those with dial-up service to television quality for high speed, broad-band subscribers.

Gregg added "Now that we have committed to web-casting the entire event, the next challenge is to make the CCAA membership and the public aware of this unique opportunity to watch eight of the finest collegiate teams in Canada battle for national supremacy."

The tournament draw and brackets will be updated on the website as soon as the information is forwarded to the host committee.

Submitted by Gregg Meropoulos, Athletic Director and Tournament Chair - NAIT

Women's Basketball Championship to be hosted in new gym

On February 18th, the SAIT Trojans were re-united with their home court as the SAIT Campus Centre Gymnasium renovations were completed. New electronic bleachers, new dividing curtain, new score clock with score table, paint job, and re-finished floor completed the half a million dollar renovation project that began in November.

The Trojans and their fans were very excited to be back "home" and look forward to the CCAA Women's Basketball Nationals to be held there March 17-19th.



Submitted by Lori Nielson, Marketing and Media Relations - SAIT

Who will be at the 2005 Mazda CCAA National Volleyball Championships?

Men's Volleyball

1. Red Deer College (ACAC)
2. Capilano College (BCCAA)
3. Collège de Sherbrooke (FQSE)
4. Grant MacEwan College (ACAC)
5. University College of the Cariboo (BCCAA)
6. Humber College (OCAA)
7. University of New Brunswick-Saint John (ACAA)
8. St. Thomas University (ACAA)

Women's Volleyball

1. Collège de Sherbrooke (FQSE)
2. University College of the Cariboo (BCAA)
3. Grande Prairie Regional College (ACAC)
4. Cégep François-Xavier-Garneau (FQSE)
5. Okanagan University College (BCCAA)
6. Cambrian College (OCAA)
7. Red Deer College (ACAC)
8. St. Thomas University (ACAA)

The CCAA would like to wish all the teams good luck in the upcoming 2005 Mazda CCAA Men's and Women's National Volleyball Championships!!

Make sure to visit the official websites of the 2005 CCAA National Championships!

With the CCAA National Championships quickly approaching, Host Organizing Committees are working hard to ensure all the final preparations and arrangements are being made. In the midst of doing so, each Host has developed an official website to bring you the latest news, results and developments within their Championship.

Add the links to your *Favorites* page!

- Men's Basketball - Hosted by Northern Alberta Institute of Technology (NAIT) in Edmonton (AB) from March 17-19, 2005

<http://www.2005nationals.ca>

- Women's Basketball - Hosted by Southern Alberta Institute of Technology (SAIT) in Calgary (AB) from March 17-19, 2005.

<http://www.saittrojans.com/wbbnationals/>

- Men's Volleyball – Hosted by St. Thomas University in Fredericton (NB) from March 10-12, 2005.

<http://www.stu.ca/volleyballnationals>

- Women's Volleyball – Hosted by Collège François-Xavier-Garneau in Québec (QC) from March 10-12, 2005.

<http://www.cegep-fxg.qc.ca/championnat>

- Badminton – Hosted by Georgian College in Barrie (ON) from March 3-5, 2005.

<http://www.georgianc.on.ca/athletics/CCAA/index.html>

SPORTS NEWS

Cager blasts onto CEGEP scene

The following article was published in The Montreal Gazette – Amateur Athletes of the Week – Wednesday, February 16th 2005. Interview by Arpon Basu, Freelance.

Rookie Elise Caron posts amazing stats. Mentally tough 5-foot-4 guard has transformed Edouard Montpetit into basketball powerhouse.

Elise Caron's numbers, standing alone, are astonishing.



The star guard for the College Edouard-Montpetit Lynx CEGEP Triple-A women's basketball team headed into last weekend's games leading the league scoring race by a wide margin with 17.4 points per game. She also ranked among the league's top five in steals (third), assists (fourth), free-throw percentage (fourth), free-throws attempted (third) and made (first), three-point percentage (fifth), three-pointers attempted (fifth) and made (second), and field goals attempted (fourth) and made (fourth).

Based on this information, it would be perfectly reasonable to assume that Caron is a seasoned CEGEP basketball veteran. But she's not. The Grand-Mere native is a green, 17-year-old rookie whose prowess on the court has shifted the balance of women's basketball power in the province to the first-place Lynx, who entered this week ranked fifth in Canada.

"Her strongest aspect is her mental toughness; she's just a heady ball player," an opposing head coach said. "She's the key to (Edouard-Montpetit) moving from the middle of the conference right to the top. She's the one who got them over the hump." Caron has had such an impact on the league, teams have begun employing gimmick defences in a vain attempt to shut her down.

"I knew I'd be able to play here," the soft-spoken Caron said after practice last week. "But I never thought teams would be throwing special defences at me."

In her final year at Ecole Secondaire Durocher in Shawinigan-Sud last year, Caron won the league MVP while scoring a ridiculous 26.5 points per game. Nevertheless, she was pretty much an unknown commodity in Montreal when she made her CEGEP debut this season.

But Caron was not able to rely on the element of surprise for long after torching Dawson College for 28 points in her regular- season debut, leading the Lynx to a 70-57 win. "After that," Caron said, "the pressure dropped quite a bit."

Caron has not come to this point in her development easily. She only picked up a basketball for the first time when she entered Grade 7, but was so determined to master her new sport she would regularly spend an extra two hours in the gym after practice working on her individual skills. After all, not only was Caron new to the game, she was also one of the smallest girls on her team.

"I saw early on that all you needed was the desire to go far," said Caron, who is also one of the smallest Lynx players at 5-foot-4. "I had confidence in what I could do, even if I was small. You just have to be intelligent and work with what you've got."

That's a lot easier for Caron than for most. She's got a ton to work with.

Briercrest College Clipper Women's Volleyball Serves Up the Community!

It is almost a tradition for the Clipper women's volleyball team to get together twice a month outside of their regular practice and games to help out the community of Caronport. The women's volleyball team calls it "Serve Time" in which it gives them an opportunity to get out and help with various tasks that community members would like help doing. The jobs have included a wide variety varying from babysitting a couple hours to raking leaves and painting fences.

Serve Time started six years ago under coaches Jason and Christie Goode. When Liesl Lockhart took over as coach she saw the need to continue this community service. "It gives a chance to plug the team into the community as well as helps the athletes understand the bigger picture" says Liesl. However, this volunteer service has not just been beneficial to the community but has had an impact to the student athlete as well. Some players have come to develop a close relationship with some of the families they have volunteered their time to and have been invited back to homes for coffee or a meal.

Aside from volunteering to the community with their hands they have also been active in joining local high schools in running volleyball clinics to help develop the younger student athlete. "It's been very valuable to get involved in different programs around Caronport and Moose Jaw. The experience is just as enriching for the younger players as for the Clippers. And my players get a kick out of hearing themselves regurgitating the feedback they received in practice to others" comments Lockhart.

"A team as a whole is capable of leaving a strong positive imprint on a community when we look around us for ways to help out. Together we can accomplish a lot and it's an incredible opportunity to be able to work together as a team outside of the gym. We've been very blessed to be a part of this community and Serve Time has sustained that fact."

Written by Curtis Plitt, BC Sports Information Coordinator. Submitted by Dr. Robert Day, Executive Director – Alberta Colleges Athletic Conference

Athletic Director Profile: Yvonne Becker A True Blessing for both the ACAC and Augustana!

Almost every day since 1986, when she became Director of Athletics at Augustana (then Camrose Lutheran College), Yvonne Becker has attempted to have someone understand the connection between athletics participation and academic achievement in a post-secondary setting. Often it is a student athlete, other times it is a coach or a university administrator or a parent. "If we in athletics are not fulfilling the mission of the post-secondary institutions in which we exist, then why are we here?" Becker sees the role of athletics to have students understand how to become better citizens in a global community. She considers the skills of problem solving, goal setting and time management to be more important than slap shots and three-point shots.



Becker understands the value of sport participation in creating life-long skills as she has a significant personal history as an athlete – most notably years of play in collegiate and university basketball and in women's fastball at the Senior A level, attending seven national championships. These experiences led her to coach women's basketball at Augustana from 1975-77 and again from 1986-1996. Her attention to the academic success of her student athletes has resulted in many of them completing Masters and PhD degrees since graduating from Augustana.

Perhaps the combination of her teaching position (she is an Associate Professor of Physical Education and Women's Studies and Chair of the Department of Physical Education), and athletic administration provides Becker with the strong dual focus on academic and athletic excellence in the coaches and student athletes at Augustana. As well, her commitment to have athletics act as a vehicle for the acquisition of life skills for graduates continues to be strong. This commitment is evident in sport development as well. At the provincial level, she has served in many positions for the Alberta Colleges Athletic Conference (ACAC). She has been Secretary, Vice President, President or Past President over the past 12 years. She was the first ACAC Women's Hockey Convenor and has served as chairperson for the Women's Sport Development Committee, the Program Committee and the Ethics Committee. At the national level, she has served as the National Convenor for women's basketball in the Canadian Colleges Athletic Association (CCAA) and is currently the chair of the CCAA Women's Sport Development Committee that is addressing the issue of the decrease in the number of women in coaching positions at the national and provincial level. "The opportunities provided through service in these outstanding organizations have created learning opportunities that I would not have realized in any other environment. I am indebted to my colleagues for the great experiences they have provided," says Becker of her CCAA and ACAC involvement.

Becker continues to strive to reach other goals in her career, the most important being the completion of her PhD which she has undertaken through the University of Queensland in Brisbane, Australia. She is studying the complex identity transformations that female athletes undergo in their participation in sport and everyday life. Her hope is to complete this project by the end of 2005.

Becker's endeavors in education and athletics were recently recognized as she was honoured as a Distinguished Alumna of Camrose Composite High School (CCHS). On November 12, 2004, the new CCHS Wall of Fame was unveiled in a ceremony that featured Becker and three other inductees. "The Wall of Fame was started to celebrate the proud tradition of quality alumni and teachers, with the hope that the inductees will inspire the current and future students," writes Dan Jensen of the Camrose Booster. That is exactly what Becker wishes to do..."to be helpful in creating meaningful experiences for student athletes that will endow them with the wisdom, strength and compassion to be outstanding contributors to their communities".

Becker acknowledges that the **process** of athletics is very complex and intense and that any success in an athletic department is dependent on the teamwork of all of the members of the department. "I have been very fortunate to serve alongside caring and dedicated colleagues who work incredibly hard to support student athletes. I am very grateful for their support," she says.

The ACAC is pleased to have enjoyed Yvonne's presence over the years and continues to be ever grateful for her leadership and passion for college athletes and athletics!

Submitted by Dr. Robert Day, Executive Director - ACAC



CCAA Key Dates and Deadlines – MARCH

- 3** Deadline for Basketball All-Canadian, Player and Coach of the Year award information
- 4** Deadline for PCAA written confirmation to National Office that all participating Volleyball athletes are eligible under PCAA Eligibility criteria
- 3-5** CCAA National Badminton Championships – hosted by Georgian College
- 3-6** PCAA Basketball Championships
- 7** Wildcard and seeding conference call for Men's and Women's Basketball
- 8** Deadline for Academic All-Canadian application – must be typed & sent to CCAA
- 10-12** Mazda CCAA National Volleyball Championships – Women's hosted by Collège François-Xavier-Garneau / Men's hosted by St. Thomas University
- 11** Deadline for PCAA Volleyball Technical and Championship Participation fees.
- 11** Deadline for PCAA written confirmation to National Office that all participating Basketball athletes are eligible under PCAA Eligibility criteria
- TBD** Deadline for nominations for CCAA Athlete of the Year Male & Female
- 17** Deadline for CCAA Coaching Excellence Awards
- 17-19** CCAA National Basketball Championships – Women's hosted by SAIT / Men's hosted by NAIT
- 21** Deadline for PCAA Basketball Technical and Championship Participation fees.
- 21** Deadline for Championship Evaluation Forms for Badminton
- 28** Deadline for Championship Evaluation Forms for Volleyball

COACHING

Coaches Corner: LC Basketball Coach Phil Allen Sets His Sights . . . LC MBB Coach No Rookie to Success

As many ACAC supporters know well, the Conference has boasted an impressive list of successful coaches who have contributed much to their sports, their institutions, the Conference and their respective players. Certainly foremost among them is Phil Allen, currently head Men's Basketball coach at Lakeland College.

Phil has garnered immediate respectability for the second year Lakeland program. After posting an impressive 13-11 win/loss mark in finishing fourth in the ACAC North Division. As the squad enters the second half of play, the Rustlers boast an unblemished 12-0 record! As it stands now, it appears that play-off aspirants may wish to book accommodation in Lloydminster for the ACAC MBB Final Four, March 4-5!

In his lengthy post-secondary coaching career, Phil has coached at Concordia, MacEwan, SAIT, and now Lakeland College. The 2004-5 season represents his 21st year as an ACAC basketball head coach as well as 3 years as exhibition coach at MacEwan (prior to acceptance into the ACAC). In his coaching career, Phil has coached in an incredible 1033 games, posting a 713-320 record including an ACAC league record (as of Christmas 2004) of 281 wins - 75 losses . . . a 78.9% winning percentage! Phil has also posted a 39 - 16 (70.9%) ACAC play-off record and a 26-12 record (68.45%) in CCAA Nationals competition capturing 2 CCAA gold, 4 silver, 2 bronze medals in 10 trips). Phil's ACAC teams have captured an impressive 10 Conference Championships, 1 second place finish and 3 silver medals.



Currently, Phil is a full-time instructor at Lakeland College in the School of Business. He graduated from the University of Calgary with a BPE then continued his studies graduating with a Masters of Science in Administration from the University of Montana. Phil also holds a Certificate from the Canadian Securities Institute and is currently a PHD candidate at Cappalla University, Minnesota.

Phil, who hails from Edmonton, played in the ACAC for 3 years at Red Deer College under Coach Wayne Lalor. Phil has been married for 25+ years to wife Denise who is currently on staff as a graphic artist in the Marketing Department of Lakeland College. Denise and Phil are parents to two boys, both of whom played or are currently playing in the ACAC: Joel at Concordia (2002-3) and Lakeland College (2003-4), an ACAC All-Conference player, now with the U of A Bears and Cory, currently playing at NAIT.

Phil emphasizes that he has never set personal goals relating to how long he will continue to coach. He relates however, that he understands that Jerry Hemmings, ex-coach at Brandon U., has just been declared the "winningest" coach in Canadian post -secondary basketball with 734 wins so it may just be something to consider as a "target" prior to "retirement" from the game he loves so dearly!

In his outstanding ACAC coaching career, Phil Allen has experienced only two years when he posted sub .500 records, both of them during first year rebuilding programs . . . at GMCC (6 -10) and at SAIT (7-9). Phil's teams have advanced to the ACAC play-offs in 19 of 21 years including his inaugural season at Lakeland College in 2003-4. Clearly, the Rustlers have reason for optimism with Phil at the helm!

Congratulations Phil and good luck!

Submitted by Dr. Robert Day, Executive Director - ACAC

NCCP Technical Courses offered at Men's Volleyball Nationals

Volleyball New Brunswick will be hosting a **NCCP Community (Level 1) Technical Course** in conjunction with the Mazda CCAA Men's National Championship at St. Thomas University in Fredericton (NB) on March 12-13, 2005. The course fee is \$75. Volleyball New Brunswick will also be hosting a **NCCP Provincial (Level 2) Technical Course** at St. Thomas University (Fredericton) March 11-13, 2005. The course fee is \$125.



Courses will be offered in English only. Registration Deadline is Saturday, March 2, 2005.

For more information and/or to register for these courses, please contact Chris or Jill for Level 1 and Christine Powers for Level 2 at vnb@nb.aibn.com or 451-1346.

RANKINGS / SCOREBOARD

For the latest updates and weekly **Results, Standings, Schedule**, please visit the CCAA website (<http://www.ccaa.ca/english.htm>) and click **Scoreboard** under the appropriate sport.

For the latest updates and weekly **Rankings**, please visit the CCAA website (<http://www.ccaa.ca/english.htm>) and click on the **direct link** under the appropriate sport.

MARKETING

CCAA Welcomes New Corporate Partner SIRC Sport Research

The CCAA (Canadian College Athletic Association) is pleased to announce today the signing of a three-year partnership with SIRC Sport Research (SIRC), which names them the "Title Sponsor" of the SIRC-CCAA Academic All-Canadian Award.



The SIRC-CCAA Academic All-Canadian Award is the CCAA's most prestigious student-athlete award, epitomizing the CCAA's mandate of recognizing excellence in academics and athletics. To achieve this honour, a student-athlete must achieve 80% and/or honours standings, and be named to a conference All-Star Team in a CCAA Sport.

Debra Gassewitz, President and CEO of SIRC, expressed her enthusiasm about being involved with the CCAA. "To achieve excellence in both sport and academics requires tremendous skill, dedication and perseverance. SIRC is honoured to recognize those outstanding college athletes who are also passionate about excelling in their education".

SIRC is a leading source for academic and medical sport research, providing educational resources and information tools to students, teachers, coaches, athletes, sports medicine professionals and sporting organizations worldwide.

CCAA Vice-President of Marketing, Mark Kosak is equally delighted about this new partnership. "The CCAA is pleased to be entering into this partnership with SIRC with whom we jointly share the core objective of enhancing knowledge through and about sport. It is fittingly that SIRC will be involved in a CCAA program that honours the highest academic achievers amongst our CCAA student-athletes".

The CCAA is proud to welcome our new corporate partner SIRC Sport Research.

CCAA Official Website - Make sure to visit the CCAA's **NEW** and **IMPROVED** Official Website to get the latest news, results and developments within the 2005 CCAA National Championships - now available both in English and French.

OTHER NEWS

New identity for SAIT

In September, Management Council, with the support and guidance of SAIT's Board of Governors, approved updates to the Institute's vision statement, with the most significant change to replace the phrase "institute of advanced technology" with the word **polytechnic**.



Meaning "many arts and skills", **polytechnic** is understood nationally and internationally to refer to prestigious post-secondary institutions offering high-quality, experience-oriented training. This change was made to highlight the range of hands-on education offered at SAIT, from apprenticeship and skilled technologies training to applied degrees.

While they are now describing themselves as a polytechnic, this is not a name change for them. They will continue to be known around the world as SAIT and to grow their outstanding reputation for excellence in training and education. The goal is to build awareness of SAIT as a polytechnic within the SAIT community and the public at large, and as such, they have added the word polytechnic to the SAIT logo.

Submitted by Lori Nielson, Marketing and Media Relations – SAIT

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