

PEI Soccer Association – Award Winners 2009

Administrator of the Year

Lori Lund

Montague's Lori Lund has been a great volunteer in soccer for many years, balancing a busy job, a young family, and looking after the biggest soccer complex in the province.

It is a testament to Lori's skills that she does an excellent job at all three, and 2009 was an especially busy year with the complex hosting the majority of the men's Canada Games competition.

It was because of Lori's leadership that the complex was in magnificent shape for the games. She selected a great staff who were professional and accommodating throughout, and everybody from off-island, from spectators to players and officials, were delighted with the games in Montague.

In addition, Lori is responsible for one of the largest tournaments in Atlantic Canada, and she manages every year to somehow find enough coaches for a thriving mini, and competitive, youth system.

A well deserving winner who has given to soccer for many years, and is a great supporter of the game.

Alan Godfrey Volunteer of the Year Award

Kirk McAleer

Kirk McAleer of Eliot River has a serious problem – he doesn't know how to say no.

At club or provincial level, Kirk is a rock. An outstanding organizer who always uses sound and good judgement, there is little that Kirk has not done – club president, tournament organizer, coach, referee, volunteer at nationals – Kirk is

always there, and he always helps out with enthusiasm and good grace. No job is ever too small, and his “Kids first” attitude always ensures that the people who matter most – the athletes – have a great experience.

A truly fantastic volunteer, who this year volunteered for the full week at Canada Games, and has taken on the role of Indoor League chair, you will not find a better volunteer in any sport in the province – a worthy winner.

Coach of the Year

Brian Allain and Lincoln Rix

It would appear to most people that Brian and Lincoln are joined at the hip, but together they make an outstanding team that in 2009 saw a PEI team make history.

Coaching the under-14 girls provincial team, Brian and Lincoln oversaw one of the greatest upsets in all-star history when PEI defeated Alberta on penalties in the first game, significant in that for the first time, PEI was then playing in the top pool.

For a provincial team to win at all-stars against one of the big four is a major step in our development, and the girls showed it was not just luck when they went and shocked Quebec the next day by taking the lead. Throughout the tournament they were competitive, and the performance of this team has given our soccer a real boost, and has made the rest of the country take notice.

The pair have been provincial coaches for many years, and they have done a fantastic job in West Prince, where they have developed some outstanding teams and individuals for many years.

Two guys that love the game and are well respected by all that they coach – PEISA Coach of the Year winners, Brian Allain, and Lincoln Rix.

Junior Female Player of the Year

Jill Edwards

Jill Edwards of the Canada Games team and Mount Saint Vincent University is a player it is hard not to miss, for what she lacks in height she makes up for in energy and heart.

A non-stop bundle of energy, Jill's all action style made her a key contributor to the Canada Games program, and she was one of the program's best players throughout their time together.

Always displaying a great work ethic with tremendous determination, it was a sure bet that Jill would take to varsity soccer, and she did just that with the Mount Saint Vincent Mystics, scoring for fun and deservedly winning the ACAA Rookie of the Year Award. She helped the Mystics win an Atlantic title, and it was fitting that it was her goal in the final game that decided the match.

A crowd-pleasing player who plays for the sheer enjoyment of the sport, Jill Edwards is a popular winner for the Junior Female Player of the Year award.

Junior Male Athlete of the Year

Jared Murphy

Game breakers are invaluable in soccer, and there is none better than Junior Male Athlete of the Year finalist Jared Murphy of the Winsloe West Royalty, Canada games, and UPEI soccer clubs.

Those who have seen Jared through the years know what an exciting player he is. He has the capability to win a game on his own, and to carry a team, and this was never more obvious than at the Under-18 Club nationals when he scored eight times in 5 games, including both against Nova Scotia and four against New Brunswick. In addition he set up the other goals, and when he needed, he dropped back to help preserve the leads. Of course it is a team game, but the eventual bronze medal belonged more to Jared Murphy than anybody else.

Jared was outstanding at Canada Games, and has settled in well in his rookie season at UPEI. One game against Mount A saw him break his scoring duck in style, and he eventually scored a hat-trick.

A great player, an outstanding student, and a fantastic sportsman – no praise is too high for Junior Male Player winner, Jared Murphy.

Junior Official of the Year

Josh Bowman

For a first-year referee, Stratford's Josh Bowman impressed a lot of people in the summer of 2009.

A good player himself, as well as a high-level hockey referee and player, Josh is not afraid of making the big decisions, and he quickly developed a fine reputation at the under-12 and under-14 challenge level. He was not intimidated by belligerent coaches, and was more than happy to send them on their way if they became too vocal in their criticism of his performance.

Such actions show that Josh has confidence – the one thing a good referee needs – and soccer will continue to improve if we can attract young officials of Josh's calibre in future years.

Lowell Stewart Memorial Award

Emma Kelly

Winsloe's Emma Kelly has shown that you can be a top-quality athlete, and still be able to give back to your community.

Emma is an outstanding goalkeeper who was part of the Canada Games team, and she has been a regular at the Atlantic Training Centre. She has been at nationals at both club and all-star, and she will no doubt make a name for herself in university soccer when the time comes.

Despite training at a high level, Emma still finds the time to contribute, most notably in coaching, where this year she was co-coach of the Winsloe Under-12 girls, working especially with the goalkeepers to whom she is an inspiration and role model.

She assists at the province's goalkeeping clinics, and with the club she also volunteers at the annual tournament and with the club registrations, as well as refereeing. In addition she volunteers with the QEH, the Walk for Memories for the Alzheimer's Society, and the Cornwall Give Back Program.

In short – she is a great athlete, and a great role model for young players – Lowell Stewart Memorial Award winner, Emma Kelly.

Senior Female Player of the Year Award

Tessa Roche

Our next finalist is, without question, one of the finest female players produced in this province – Tessa Roche, of the UPEI panthers, and the Sherwood Parkdale Rangers.

In her time at UPEI Tessa has been the scourge of AUS defences, and this past year she became UPEI's leading all-time scorer, an incredible 38 strikes in just four seasons. In 2009 she led the AUS, and was second in the country, with 13 goals.

In recognition of her outstanding season, Tessa was recognized with AUS 1st team all-star, AUS MVP, and 1st team all-Canadian honours. She would have been very close to winning the CIS MVP award.

No individual ever makes a team, but Tessa is the heart and soul of the Panthers, and she has made them a team to be feared. She is quick, fearless, intelligent, and she has an outstanding predator's instinct in front of the goal.

Without doubt a truly fantastic player.

Senior Male Player of the Year

Mozesh Gyorio

Stratford's Mosesh Gyorio has done something no Islander has ever done – played in national competition for Canada.

That happened just this past season when Mozesh was selected for the national under-20 team to play at the Francophone Games in September, in the Lebanon, where he helped the team finish in 4th place. Mozesh started in three out of the four Canada games.

An outstanding technical player with a firm shot and a scorer of highlight reel goals, Mozesh made his debut two years ago against Argentina, and has been involved in the program since. He was an outstanding junior in the PEI club system, appearing at all-stars and national club competition, and he came to the attention of the national team scouts at an early age.

Since then Mozesh has been playing mostly in Europe, but last year he had an exceptional year for San Jacinto College in Texas, where he helped his team reach the nationals after winning both the district and regional titles. Mozesh had a return of 10 goals on the season, and made the National Junior College all-American team.

One of PEI's finest soccer products, national team player, and winner for Senior Male Player of the Year – Mozesh Gyorio.

Senior Referee of the Year

Doug Smith

It is in our younger officials that we hope to see improvement, so when we see our more experienced officials strive to improve their game, it is very welcome.

Senior Official of the Year finalist Doug Smith has improved his game so much within the last couple of years that he is now without doubt one of the province's top referees.

Always willing to listen, Doug rarely refuses an assignment, and is equally at home at the senior or junior levels. No game is ever beneath Doug, and he gives the same amount of effort, and shows the same enthusiasm, whether he is in charge of the under-12s or senior men.

An outstanding assistant who all the referees in the province enjoy working with, Doug never tries to be the star of the show. He does his job with the minimum of fuss, but his knowledge of the Laws, and more importantly his understanding of the game, is exemplary.

He is a great example to all of our experienced referees that it is possible to continue to improve, and he is a very deserving winner for the 2009 PEISA Official of the Year Award.

Team of the Year

The Eliot River Avondale Islanders

For an Island team to win a national medal is an amazing achievement, to go and win one for a second straight year is unheard of, but this is what John Diamond's Avondale Islanders did in 2009.

The year did not start well – arguably their best player, Paul Craig, had left the province, while the Nova Scotia Soccer League, where the team had enjoyed some intense competition the past two years, shut its door on them.

Undeterred, the team played in the Maritime League with the best of New Brunswick and the Canada Games, and enjoyed a good season, but one with a few growing pains as the team looked to gel.

By nationals though they were ready – the addition of Ryan Anstey gave them an edge up front, while a back-line and midfield of seasoned veterans such as Jon Vos, Rob Aiken and various UPEI Panthers gave them a solid look.

And so it proved on the first day, when they took their frustration out on Nova Scotia by destroying them 4-1, courtesy of Ryan Anstey scoring all four goals.

However, poor weather and the move indoors did not really help the team, and it struggled to score, tying 0-0 with Newfoundland before losing 2-0 to Quebec.

This set up a bronze medal match with one of the toughest teams at the competition, 2 time champion Calgary Callies. The Islanders were not intimidated, and after a 0-0 tie, the Islanders won 4-3 on penalties securing their second national medal. In addition, there was another first – a John Diamond coached team also won the Fair Play Award for the championship.