



Sport Newfoundland and Labrador Awards 13 Athletic Scholarships at Annual Reception.

St. John's, NL, May 31, 2023 – Sport Newfoundland and Labrador (SportNL) presented the recipients of its Scholarship Awards during their 32nd Annual Scholarship Reception held at Emera Innovation Exchange, Signal Hill Campus Conference Hall in St. John's.

Abby Newhook, a hockey player attending Boston College received this year's Frank T. Butler Memorial Scholarship. Abby received \$1,500 for her athletic achievements during 2022. As one of the top scorers in the NCAA Division 1 East Conference, Abby submitted an application that stood out with an impressive academic year and rookie hockey season at Boston College.

The Frank T. Butler Memorial Scholarship was established and named after Frank T. Butler, a St. John's native, and SportNL Hall of Fame member, who was an enthusiastic volunteer on several Sport Newfoundland and Labrador Committees.

"I am proud to be able to present the scholarship in my late husband Frank's memory because the funds help students who work hard to excel in their sports," said Marie Butler. "Frank enjoyed such success as a basketball player and to be able to support the young athletes in the province through his legacy means so much to me."

SportNL is also pleased to announce the names of 12 other deserving students who are athletes, coaches, and officials that received scholarships in the amount of \$750 for their athletic and academic achievements during 2022.

The other 12 scholarship recipients are:

- Michael MJ Budden, Special Olympics
- Noah Cumby, Swimming
- Matthew Earle, Hockey
- Gleb Evstigneev, Gymnastics
- Kate Hickey, Soccer
- Cori Hicks, Paraspport
- Ciara Molloy, Soccer
- Sarah Pace, Gymnastics
- Jenni Simpson, Ball Hockey
- Alyson Thomas, Ball Hockey
- Lucas Wiseman, Powerlifting
- Nathan Young, Curling

"On behalf of the board of directors of Sport Newfoundland and Labrador, I want to extend my congratulations not only to the thirteen recipients who received scholarships today but to all 2023 applicants," said Chris Schwartz, Board President, Sport NL. "The determination and passion of these athletes, coaches, and officials to excel in their sport and their academic pursuits is encouraging and I look forward to seeing them continue with their success."

The Sport Newfoundland and Labrador Scholarship Program provides financial assistance to qualifying amateur athletes, coaches, and officials enrolled in a post-secondary institution. The scholarships help offset the often-high costs associated with training and competition while completing a post-secondary degree.

“The scholarship program received a significant number of applications again this year,” said Troy Croft, Executive Director, SportNL. “The ability to provide athletic scholarships to an exceptional group of student-athletes of our province is very rewarding because of the positive impact that hopefully gives them further opportunity to do well.”

Post-secondary students from the province who train and compete at all levels of sport are encouraged to apply for a Sport Newfoundland and Labrador Athletic Scholarship when applications open again for 2024.

The Scholarship recipients and their bios are attached as a backgrounder.

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For more information:

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About Sport Newfoundland and Labrador:

Sport Newfoundland and Labrador is the professional organization that is central to supporting the development and delivery of organized sport in Newfoundland and Labrador. Representing 55 member organizations, as well as 70,000 individual members, Sport NL is a volunteer-run organization that promotes amateur sport throughout our province – for everyone.

About Sport Newfoundland and Labrador Scholarship Program:

Sport Newfoundland and Labrador has awarded scholarships every year since 1991, with scholarship funds being distributed to deserving students in the province. Additional information about the scholarship program can be found at www.sportnl.ca/programs-services/scholarship-program/

Backgrounder Biographies of Scholarship Winners

Michael MJ Budden

Special Olympics athlete, Michael MJ Budden from Stephenville is currently attending College of North Atlantic as a first-year student in the Community Leadership Development program. Competing in Athletics, 2022 was an incredible year for him. He was selected to compete at the 2022 Niagara Canada Summer Games as a member of Team NL. Due to his accomplishments locally and at the Canada Games he was named to Special Olympics Team Canada. As part of Team Canada, he is currently training to compete in two disciplines for sprints and shot put at the World Games being held in Germany in 2023.

Noah Cumby

Swimmer Noah Cumby of St. John's had a standout year in swimming participating in several competitions. In 2022, he completed his final year of schooling and competition at Texas Christian University (TCU) by achieving a Big 12 Championship Title, being named to the Big 12 All-Academic 1st Team, along with being named as a NCAA Academic All-American. Currently, he is attending Louisiana State University's Master of Business Administration program and earned the highest overall Grade Point Average on the Men's Swimming & Diving team for his Fall semester.

Matthew Earle

Matthew Earle of Paradise is studying Kinesiology at Memorial University and officiates in the sport of Hockey. In 2022, Matthew was identified to take part in the Hockey Newfoundland and Labrador Officials Program of Excellence and was selected to attend the Atlantic Challenge Cup. His ability to maintain standards of play on the ice during the Atlantic Challenge Cup earned him the opportunity to officiate during the gold medal game.

Gleb Evstigneev

Gleb Evstigneev, a remarkable trampoline gymnast from Paradise, enjoyed a lot of success in 2022 with his club, Campia Gymnastics. He made his mark in the sport with a historic first place finish for a Newfoundland and Labrador athlete at the Virtual Elite Canada 2022 Trampoline Gymnastics competition. During his second year of a Bachelor of Science at Memorial University, Gleb represented Canada in men's synchronized trampoline at the 2022 Trampoline Gymnastics World Age Group Competition held in Bulgaria in November, his first international competition.

Kate Hickey

Soccer player Kate Hickey of Outer Cove is a first year student in the Master in Community Health program at Memorial University. As a member of the Seahawks Soccer team, she was awarded the USPORT Student-Athlete Community Service Award at the Atlantic University Sport Conference and the National Award for all University Sport. Kate is also a University Sports Academic-All Canadian Athlete and was the top scorer during the Seahawks soccer season. Playing with Provincial Jubilee Trophy Champions, Holy Cross FC, she earned a spot to attend the National Championship and helped her team become the first ever gold medalists from Newfoundland and Labrador at the tournament.

Cori Hicks

Cori Hicks is a para-athlete from Flat Bay who is studying Executive Office Management at College of North Atlantic, Bay St. George Campus. She resumed her competitions in 2022 after the pandemic and qualified to be part of Team Newfoundland and Labrador. Competing at the Niagara 2022 Canada Summer Games, she delivered an outstanding performance in the 400-meter wheelchair female race winning a silver medal. She was also chosen as Team NL's Flagbearer for the closing ceremonies.

Ciara Molloy

Ciara Molloy, a soccer player from Torbay, is a second year Bachelor of Science student studying Geography at Memorial University. In 2022, Ciara had a very successful season on the soccer pitch. As a member of the Provincial Jubilee Trophy Champions, Holy Cross FC, she earned a spot at the National Championship tournament. For her efforts on the backline, she was awarded the Jubilee Trophy League All Star in defending. She helped her Holy Cross team become the first ever gold medalists from Newfoundland and Labrador at the Senior National Championships. She also finished off a stellar 2022 Seahawks season with an AUS semi-final playoff appearance.

Abby Newhook

Abby Newhook of St. John's excelled on the ice in 2022. Playing forward while attending Boston College, she was one of the top scorers in the NCAA Division 1 Hockey East Conference with 32 points leading her team to a fourth place finish. Abby's outstanding performance did not go unnoticed as she was named Boston College Rookie Athlete of the Year, Hockey East Rookie of the Year and was a finalist for the NCAA National Rookie of the Year. In addition to an outstanding NCAA rookie campaign, Abby was invited and attended the Hockey Canada Women's National Team Development Camp.

Sarah Pace

Gymnast Sarah Pace demonstrated her skill within the artistic discipline on vault, uneven bars, beam, and floor with her club Cygnus Gymnastics in 2022. Currently a Memorial University's Bachelor of Kinesiology first year student, she placed first overall in the Sweethearts Classic Invitational, the Dream Big Invitational, and the Snowbowl Invitational. She also competed at the Canadian Gymnastic Championships in Vancouver where she rocked her level 10 finals to bring home silver medals on bars and beam as well as a bronze in the all-around competition.

Jenni Simpson

Jenni Simpson, a ball hockey player from Glovertown, played in three Canadian Ball Hockey Canada Association tournaments, the Women's U20 Nationals with Team Canada, the Girl's U19 Nationals with her NL Selects team, and the Women's A Nationals with her NL United team. Her efforts did not go unnoticed. At the Girl's U19 Nationals she would help her team bring home a gold medal and was named to the all-star team. At the Women's A Nationals she was named Top Scorer for the tournament. Jenni is currently completing a Bachelor of Science degree at Acadia University.

Alyson Thomas

Alyson Thomas is a ball hockey player from L'anse au Clair completing her third year of a Nursing degree at Memorial University's Grenfell Campus. Excelling in the sport, she got the opportunity to play at the International Street and Ball Hockey Federation World Championships in Slovakia with the U20 Canadian Junior Ball Hockey Team, but the competition was cancelled. As co-captain, she competed in the Canadian Ball Hockey Association B Nationals where her team placed second. She also travelled to the A Nationals with the Newfoundland and Labrador Ball Hockey Association's United team, placing fourth.

Lucas Wiseman

Lucas Wiseman of St. John's is a first year Master of Occupational Health and Safety student at Memorial University. Lucas had an outstanding 2022 in the sport of powerlifting by competing on the local, national, and international stage. Internationally, he had the opportunity to represent Canada at the North American Regional Powerlifting Championship in Panama and the Commonwealth Powerlifting Championships in New Zealand. At both competitions he claimed a gold medal in his junior division weight class of 105 kg. Locally, he broke seven Newfoundland and Labrador Powerlifting Records.

Nathan Young

Nathan Young continued to make a name for himself as a curler on the national and international curling scene in 2022. Nathan had a first place finish as a part of Team Gushue at the Pan Continental Curling Championships and first place finishes at the U21 Junior Provincials and Provincial Tankard. His skill, commitment and dedication solidified his opportunity to represent Newfoundland and Labrador to make his first ever appearance at the Tim Hortons Brier. In addition, while being a Business Administration student majoring in Finance and Economics at Memorial University, he had several strong finishes at the national level as a member of Team Young.