



Welcome to the Q1 2023 edition of Saskatchewan Soccer's Everyone's Game Quarterly Newsletter. Provided below is an overview of events that took place over the first three months of 2023 in Saskatchewan, across the country, and around the world by Saskatchewan participants. If you have items you'd like to see included in a future newsletter, please contact [communications@sasksoccer.com](mailto:communications@sasksoccer.com).

## **Saskatchewanians Abroad**

### **Thomas Hasal – Vancouver Whitecaps FC**

Saskatoon's Thomas Hasal and his Vancouver Whitecaps FC 2023 season is underway. The young goalkeeper played 90 minutes in the second leg of the team's Concacaf Champions League Round of 16 match against Honduran side Real España making key saves as the team advanced to the Quarterfinals against reigning MLS Cup Champions Los Angeles Football Club.



### **Brett Levis – FC Tulsa**

Saskatoon's Brett Levis got his FC Tulsa season underway with second-half substitutions in two of the teams' opening three USL Championship matches before showcasing a standout performance against Pittsburgh. The defender went 90 minutes and made key tackles and passes in the team's 0:0 draw.



### **Chantal Boudreau**

Following appointments to the 2019 FIFA Women's World Cup in France and 2020 Tokyo Olympic Games, Chantal was again named to the list of officials taking part in the 2023 FIFA Women's World Cup Australia New Zealand.



### **Kaylyn Kyle – Apple TV +**

Former Women's National Team player and Olympic Bronze Medalist, Saskatoon's Kaylyn Kyle, followed her 2022 FIFA World Cup broadcast hosting role with BeIN Sport by landing a key role as studio host in Apple TV's MLS broadcast programming.

### **Jackson Kovitch**

From the Saskatchewan EXCEL boys' program, was invited to join the Vancouver Whitecaps full-time U16 program for a week in early February. This invite was earned by impressing VWFC staff in the CANMNT REX Integration Camp in November, the VWFC Fall Tournament between Sask & Alberta programs and in all visits from VWFC staff. Jackson did an incredible job, representing his province, team and self with pride and quality.

### **Kadence Madraga**

From the Saskatchewan EXCEL girls' program, was invited to join the Rest of Canada team in the Super REX Tournament in December of last year. This is a tournament hosted annually between the Quebec Super REX, Ontario Super REX, BC Super REX & then a fourth team made of players from Alberta, Manitoba, Sask & the Atlantic provinces. There were only 20 spots available, and Kadence, a center midfielder in the program for four years, was selected.

### **Morgan Barry**

From the Saskatchewan EXCEL girls' program, Morgan was invited to attend the Sports Ambitions x FTF Showcase, an annual invite-only event in which players from across the country compete in a two-day tournament style competition showcasing their talent in front of top-level college coaches, scouts and agents. Morgan played extremely well through the two-day event, drawing attention from NCAA & USport coaches and being named a Second Team All-Star.



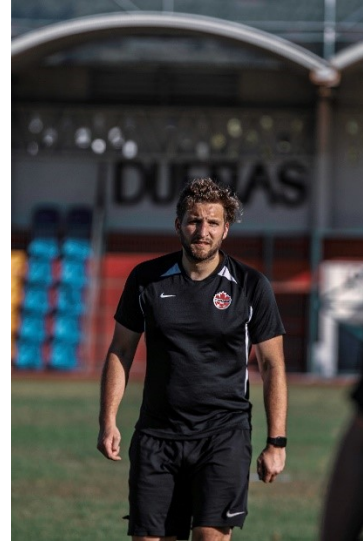
### **Saskatchewan EXCEL Athletes University Commitment**

Three 2005 graduating athletes have all committed to the University of Regina for the 2023 USport season. Sana Karam, a left winger who was with the program for four years, Abby Konanz, a right back with three years in the program, and Ashlyn Paquin, an SK EXCEL centre back for three years have all committed to join Cougars Head Coach Astrid Baecker's squad for the coming season.



### **Canada Soccer's Men's U-17 National Team**

Saskatchewan Soccer's EXCEL Manager, Adam Miller was invited to join CanM17 in both their pre-tournament camp, and also for the Concacaf Under-17 Championships event during the month of February in Guatemala. Miller supported the team's qualification for the 2023 FIFA U-17 World Cup in Peru this November with opposition analysis, field management during practices and warm-ups, game coding, amongst other roles including a Semi-Final Assistant Coach role, being the technical lead from the bench.



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## **Saskatchewan Soccer updates brand, releases Strategic Plan at Annual General Meeting in Weyburn**

At its Annual General Meeting in Weyburn on March 18, Saskatchewan Soccer released its 2023-26 Strategic Plan entitled Everyone's Game, Everyone's Responsibility.

In addition, Saskatchewan Soccer's Awards Banquet honoured the best the game had to offer in 2022. Elections for expiring Board terms were also held resulting in the re-election of Vice President Andrew Kitchen, Directors Kyle Moore, Milton Ramirez, and Dave Mysko to two-year terms, Jakub Rogowski to a one-year term and the election of new Director Glen Schuler to a one-year term. The organization also published its 2022 Annual Report.

The 2023-26 Everyone's Game, Everyone's Responsibility Strategic Plan provides a collection of strategic initiatives across Saskatchewan Soccer's four Strategic Pillars: Participation, Interaction, Capacity, and Excellence supporting four target groups: SSA's operation, MO collaboration, Participant-centred initiatives, and Community development and Sport System collaborations. Two versions of the plan were produced. A one-page overview and a longer form document that are both available at: [www.sasksoccer.com/content/strategic-plan](http://www.sasksoccer.com/content/strategic-plan)

The plan highlighted updated Saskatchewan Soccer brand marks featuring a new wheat sheaf, soccer ball, and word mark combination that will serve the organization for years to come.

## **Soccer Community Events Hosted in Weyburn**

Thanks to everyone who came out for the Walking Soccer event during the AGM weekend in Weyburn. For more information on how to start Walking Soccer in your area please check out our website at [Walking Soccer](#).



We also had a wonderful time running the Skills Session with players from Weyburn United Soccer. Thanks to the Coaches and Volunteers for their support in making it a great afternoon!



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## SSA welcomes four Member Organizations

SSA welcomed three new member associations to membership following the AGM and a fourth transitioned into regular membership. The Allan Youth Soccer, St. Walburg Youth Soccer, and Goodsoil Soccer Association were all confirmed as Regular Member Organizations for 2023. Additionally, Phantom Lake Soccer Club will be transitioning from an Associate Member to a Regular Member.

"We're so excited to bring minor soccer to our community, and look forward to developing a strong, lasting organization for years to come." - Chelsey Vermette, Goodsoil Youth Soccer

"Phantom Lake Soccer is excited to join SSA and grow soccer in the north; for all members of the Flin Flon, Creighton, and Denare Beach communities to have the ability to excel in sport. We aim to be a progressive, inclusive, and safe sport leader within the SSA community." - Heather Jobes, Phantom Lake Soccer Club

"We are eager and excited to join Saskatchewan Soccer Association to bring soccer to the St. Walburg youth. We look forward to enhancing physical fitness, demonstrating competence, and learning new life skills with friends. Staying positive in sports is one of many keys to healthy children and healthy friendships! We want to promote teamwork, sharing, and self-discipline while meeting new people and building relationships." - Jennifer Harges, St. Walburg Youth Soccer

"As a small soccer club, we were struggling to find resources and towns to play games against. Now that we are a part of SSA, we will have the tools and resources to develop our soccer program in our community. We have quite a few soccer players, and giving our coaches the tools to become better coaches will be a huge benefit to joining the Saskatchewan Soccer Association." - Laura Rice, Allan Youth Soccer



## Saskatchewan Winter Games - Recap



For the first time ever, futsal was a part of the Saskatchewan Winter Games with sixteen total district teams participating in 2023. Seven teams competed in the female competition and nine teams in the male competition. All games were played at the new Avana Centre Courts at REAL District in Regina.

Ololade Olaleye from Parkland Valley scored the first-ever goal of the competition and both Male and Female teams from Saskatoon took home gold medals.



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## Saskatchewan EXCEL Program Edmonton trip

From March 10-12, the Saskatchewan EXCEL girls' team travelled to Edmonton to play a friendly against the MacEwan university team and two friendlies against Edmonton Scottish 2007 and 2008 teams. All games were highly competitive and had great developmental aspects. The team also had the opportunity to tour MacEwan University with former players and head coach Dean Corderio.

At the same time, the Saskatchewan EXCEL boys completed two games against Edmonton Scottish 2007 and 2008 with good results. They also had a friendly versus BTB Academy game that was very competitive and great for the team's development.





## 2022 Annual Recognition Award Winners

SSA's 2022 Recognition Award winners, chosen by the Saskatchewan Soccer Association Technical Committee and the Board of Directors, were announced at the Annual Meeting in Weyburn in March. The Awards Banquet was hosted by local Weyburn Soccer youth player emcees Brennan Roy and Mason Sidlowski.



**Kadence Madraga**  
FEMALE YOUTH PLAYER OF THE YEAR

SSA  
*Recognition*  
Awards



**Malik Darbi**  
MALE YOUTH PLAYER OF THE YEAR

SSA  
*Recognition*  
Awards







**Jamie Hembroff**  
MALE ADULT PLAYER OF THE YEAR

SSA  
*Recognition*  
Awards



**Taylor Bubnick**  
FEMALE ADULT PLAYER OF THE YEAR

SSA  
*Recognition*  
Awards



**Maren Smith**  
Futsal Player of the Year

SSA  
*Recognition*  
Awards



**Shukwia Tajik**  
Referee of the Year

SSA  
*Recognition*  
Awards



**Joseph Laslo**  
Community Referee of the Year

SSA  
*Recognition*  
Awards





**Richard Exner**

Adult Coach of the Year

SSA

Recognition Awards



**Rob McCaffrey**

Youth Coach of the Year

SSA

Recognition Awards



**Jason Roy**

Volunteer of the Year

SSA

Recognition Awards



**YXE FC**

Adult Team of the Year

SSA

Recognition Awards



**Team Sask - Male  
Canada Summer Games  
Youth Team of the Year**

SSA

Recognition Awards





**Mark Lord**  
Coaching Dedication Award

SSA  
*Recognition*  
Awards



**Jose Ochoa**  
Coaching Dedication Award

SSA  
*Recognition*  
Awards



**Len Chelack**  
David Newsham Award

SSA  
*Recognition*  
Awards



Saskatoon Soccer Legacy Project  
Dave Taylor, Mark Millard, Jodi Blackwell  
Presidents Award

SSA  
*Recognition*  
Awards



Battleford Youth Soccer Inc.  
Member Organization of the Year

SSA  
*Recognition*  
Awards



Presented as part of the Annual General Meeting, please click below to watch Saskatchewan Soccer's Annual Year in Review video for 2022.



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## **SaskTel S4L Indoor Youth Provincials**

On behalf of the Saskatchewan Soccer Association, we want to take this opportunity to say THANK YOU to our participating member organizations, teams, match officials, coaches, participants, and spectators for a well-played 2023 SaskTel Soccer for Life Youth Provincial Championships and Adult Futsal Championships. We were pleased to have 64 registered teams with over 1100 participating athletes and team personnel.

Results from the 2023 SaskTel Soccer for Life 6-Aside Indoor Youth Provincial Championships, 9-Aside Indoor Youth Provincial Championships and Adult Futsal Championships are as follows:

# 9-ASIDE YOUTH PROVINCIAL CHAMPIONS

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6-Aside **Under 15 Girls** Gold: Yorkton United FC / Silver: Prince Albert Celtics Green. Tournament MVP: Emma Leland (PA Celtics Green). Fair Play Award: PA Celtics Green

6-Aside **Under 15 Boys** Gold: Yorkton United FC / Silver: Swift Current United. Tournament MVP: Taityn Rees (FCR Arsenal). Fair Play Award: Yorkton United

6-Aside **Under 17 Girls** Gold: FC Regina Labbe / Silver: Prince Albert Celtics. Tournament MVP: Ila Wasyluk (PA Celtics). Fair Play Award: PA Celtics

6-Aside **Under 17 Boys** Gold: Humboldt Hurricanes / Silver: FC Regina Allstars. Tournament MVP: Dawson Peeaychew (Battlefords United). Fair Play Award: Humboldt Hurricanes

6-Aside **Under 19 Boys** Gold: Prince Albert Celtics / Silver: Excelsior FC. Tournament MVP: Razak Mugarwa (Excelsior FC). Fair Play Award: Yorkton United FC

6-Aside **Under 19 Girls** Gold: Yorkton United FC

## 6-ASIDE YOUTH PROVINCIAL CHAMPIONS

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9-Aside **Under 15 Girls** Gold: FCR Inter Silver: QC United Tournament MVP: Mila Stonechild (PA Celtics W) Fair Play Award: QC United Top Players of the Gold Medal Match: Kahra Chaykoski (FCR Inter) and Neko Michell (QC United)

9-Aside **Under 15 Boys** Gold: FCR Boca Jrs. Silver: ASTRA Tournament MVP: Luke Mrazek (FCR Boca Jrs) Fair Play Award: FCR Boca Jrs. Top Players of the Gold Medal Match: Omario White (FCR Boca Jrs) and Bayo Balogun (ASTRA)

9-Aside **Under 17 Girls** Gold: FCR BlueStars Silver: QC United U17G Tournament MVP: Peyton Magnuson (QC United U17G) Fair Play Award: QC United U17G Top Players of the Gold Medal Match: Teslynn Gramchuk (FCR BlueStars) and Avery Kuzyk (QC United U17G)

9-Aside **Under 17 Boys** Gold: Saskatoon Alliance U17B Silver: FCR United Tournament MVP: Zak Ahokas (FCR United) Fair Play Award: Forge FC U17B Top Players of the Gold Medal Match: Namvinh Nguyen (Saskatoon Alliance U17B) and Henry West (FCR United)

9-Aside **Under 19 Girls** Gold: QC United Silver: Eastside Celtics Tournament MVP: Anna Coughlan (Eastside Celtics) Fair Play Award: Eastside Celtics Top Players of the Gold Medal Match: Jaycee Berggren (QC United) and Hazel Turnbull (Eastside Celtics)

9-Aside **Under 19 Boys** Gold: ASTRA UPP Boys U19 Silver: FCR BlueStars Tournament MVP: Evan Van Kessel (ASTRA UPP Boys U19) Fair Play Award: PA Celtics Top Players of the Gold Medal Match: Adrian Arias (ASTRA UPP Boys U19) and Stefan Vrska (FCR BlueStars)

**Adult Futsal** - Women Gold: Saskatoon G&W Silver: Pride Tournament MVP: Nikki Klassen (Pride) Fair Play Award: Thorns Top Players of the Gold Medal Match: Nadia Kalyar (Saskatoon G&W) and Nikki Klassen (Pride)



## Power Chair Soccer Try-It Event

On March 12, SSA hosted our first ever Power Chair Soccer event. If your soccer club is interested in hosting an Power Chair Soccer event please contact [e.senger@sasksoccer.com](mailto:e.senger@sasksoccer.com)



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## Soft Skills of Coaching Workshop

Coaches in Regina and Saskatoon took part in our Coach Development Workshop with Matt Young from FSQ. Workshops were held in Saskatoon on March 25 and in Regina on the March 26 with the focus on the soft skills of coaching. Saskatchewan Soccer continues to provide access leading experts from across the sporting world as part of its member-driven focus, also enshrined in the newly-released Strategic Plan.

[Click here to find coach resources and workshops!](#)

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## Referee Education

Thirty-eight referees in the SK SERP, Candidates Program came together to participate in three education sessions last quarter in preparation for the 2023 Provincial Soccer League as well as Canada Soccer appointments.

### **Theo Diederichsen and Matthias Diederichsen**

Both Theo and Matthias have been appointed to 2023 CPL pre-season matches.

### **Daniel Boudreau**

Daniel is in preparation for the 2023 Canadian Premier League season.

### **Shukwia Tajik**

Shukwia was named as part of the 2023 Canada Soccer Women's Referee Program.

### **Theo Diederichsen and Ian Adams**

Both Theo and Ian were named to the 2023 Canada Soccer NextGen Referee List.

[Click here to find referee resources and workshops!](#)

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## SSA Calendar of Events & Deadlines

To view and subscribe to our full [Calendar of Events](#) visit our website!



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IT'S MORE  
THAN A  
GAME™**

**Canada**

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**Saskatchewan Soccer Association**  
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