



KINSMEN SPORTS PERSONS OF THE YEAR AWARD

The Kinsmen Club of Lethbridge is pleased to sponsor the Sports Persons of the Year Award. The club has sponsored this award since its inception in 1995.

These awards acknowledge individuals for their outstanding performance or participation in sports while representing Lethbridge and area.

In 2007, these awards were adjusted to include both a female and male recipient.

1996 - GARY BOWIE



Gary Bowie has spent over 30 years working on the sidelines and in the boardrooms for the development of sport in southern Alberta.

Gary graduated from Washington State University in 1962 and began coaching men's and women's basketball at Lethbridge Community College where he guided teams to four Provincial championships and was instrumental in the organization of the ACAC.

Later, Gary moved to the University of Lethbridge where besides teaching, he coached basketball and curling. Gary also served the U of L as athletic director and held board positions with Canada West Athletic Conference and Canada Intrauniversity Sports.

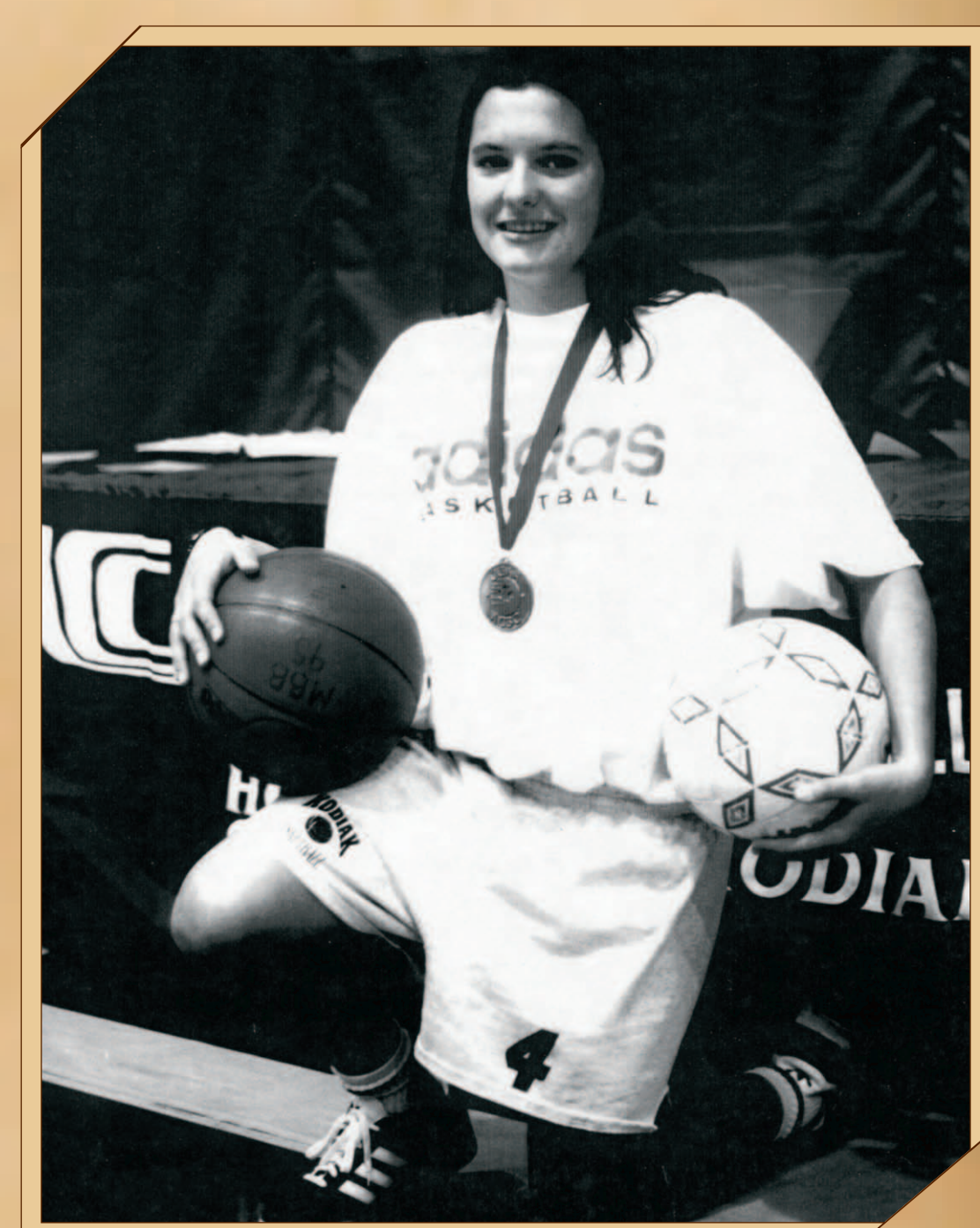
Besides spending countless hours coaching kids in basketball, baseball and football, Gary also found time to serve as Sport Chairman for the 1975 Canada Winter Games and Chair Person for the 1996 Alberta Winter Games, both hosted by Lethbridge.

When Lethbridge Sports Hall of Fame was launched in 1985, Gary was one of the founding board members and he was inducted in 1989. Dr. Bowie has most recently been involved with the City of Lethbridge Community Services Advisory Committee and serves as historian for the Alberta Sports Hall of Fame.

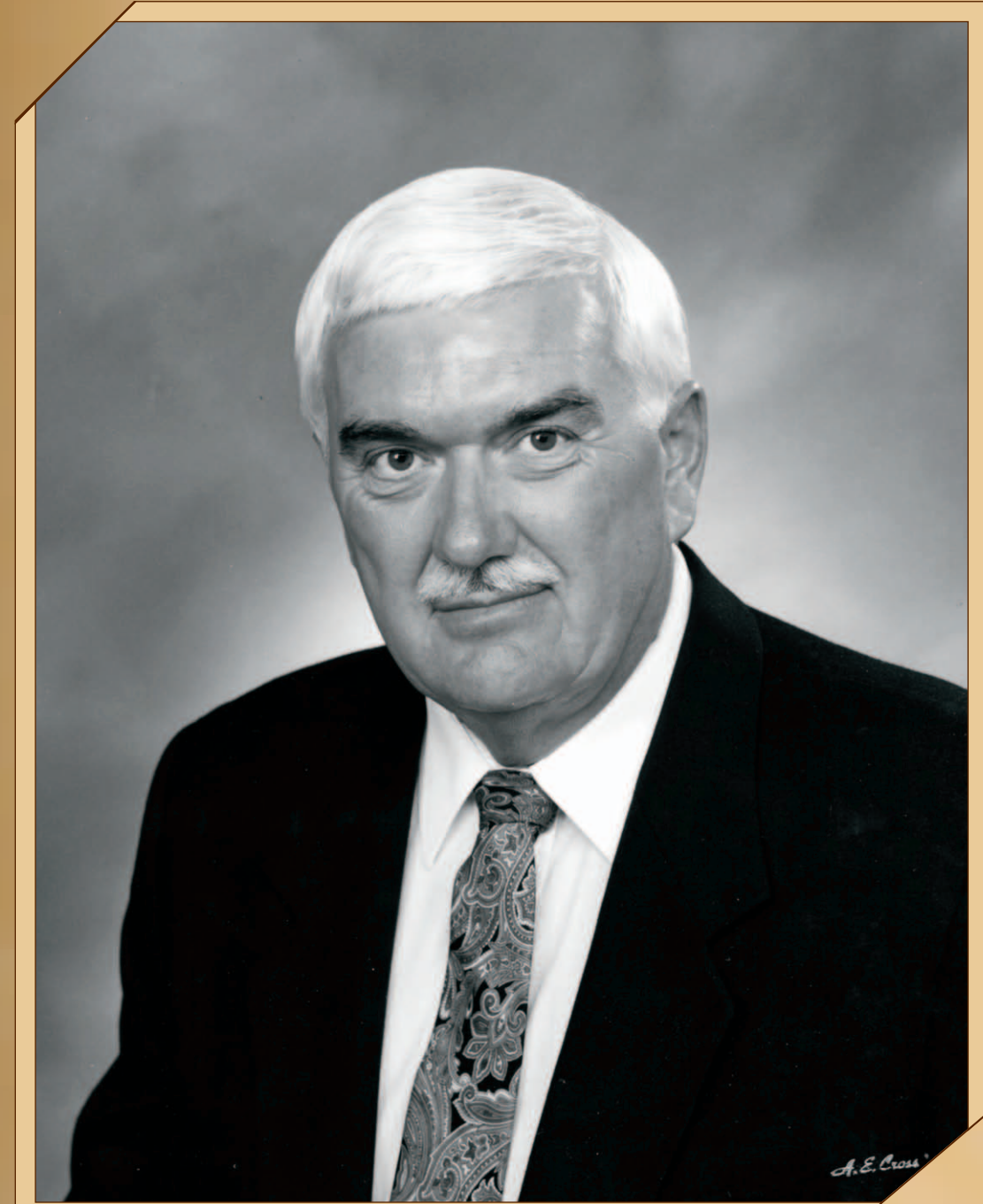
1995 - NICOLE PETERSEN

Nicole was an all round athlete at Lethbridge Community College in basketball and soccer. She was named team MVP and ACAC All-Star in both sports.

Petersen helped guide the LCC Kodiak Women's Soccer Team to the CCAA National title in 1994, their very first year of play in the ACAC. The underdog Kodiaks, after going undefeated throughout the season, won the title with a thrilling 1-0 victory over top ranked Langara College with Nicole scoring on a penalty kick as time was running out in double overtime. Petersen was named tournament All-Star and MVP. She had earlier been selected to the CCAA All-Canadian team.



1998 - DON GATTO



Don Gatto got started playing hockey in the Crownsnest Pass. From there he moved on to intermediate hockey in Bow Island and Foremost. Don later played old-timers hockey in Crossfield until 1987, where he also coached for nine years and served the community as Mayor for thirteen years.

In an administrative capacity, Gatto managed the Carstairs Bruins for one year, served as President of the Central Alberta Minor Hockey Association for two years, and President of the Crossfield Minor Hockey Association for two years. He organized clinics for both coaches and referees in southern Alberta, himself holding Level 3 in coaching from the A.A.H.A. As well, Don refereed hockey for several years.

Don chalked up an impressive service record with Hockey Alberta, representing Crossfield and Central Alberta Minor Hockey at the AGM for 10 years. He served as Hockey Alberta Zone Chair for two years and was elected to the Hockey Alberta Board of Directors, serving as Vice President 1990-91 and President 1992-93. Gatto has been the CHA Minor Council Chair from 1994 until the present.

Maintaining his commitment to hockey, Don is actively engaged with the Lethbridge Hockey Hounds in support of the Lethbridge Hurricanes. As well, Gatto is a big supporter of the Pronghorn men's hockey team at the University of Lethbridge.

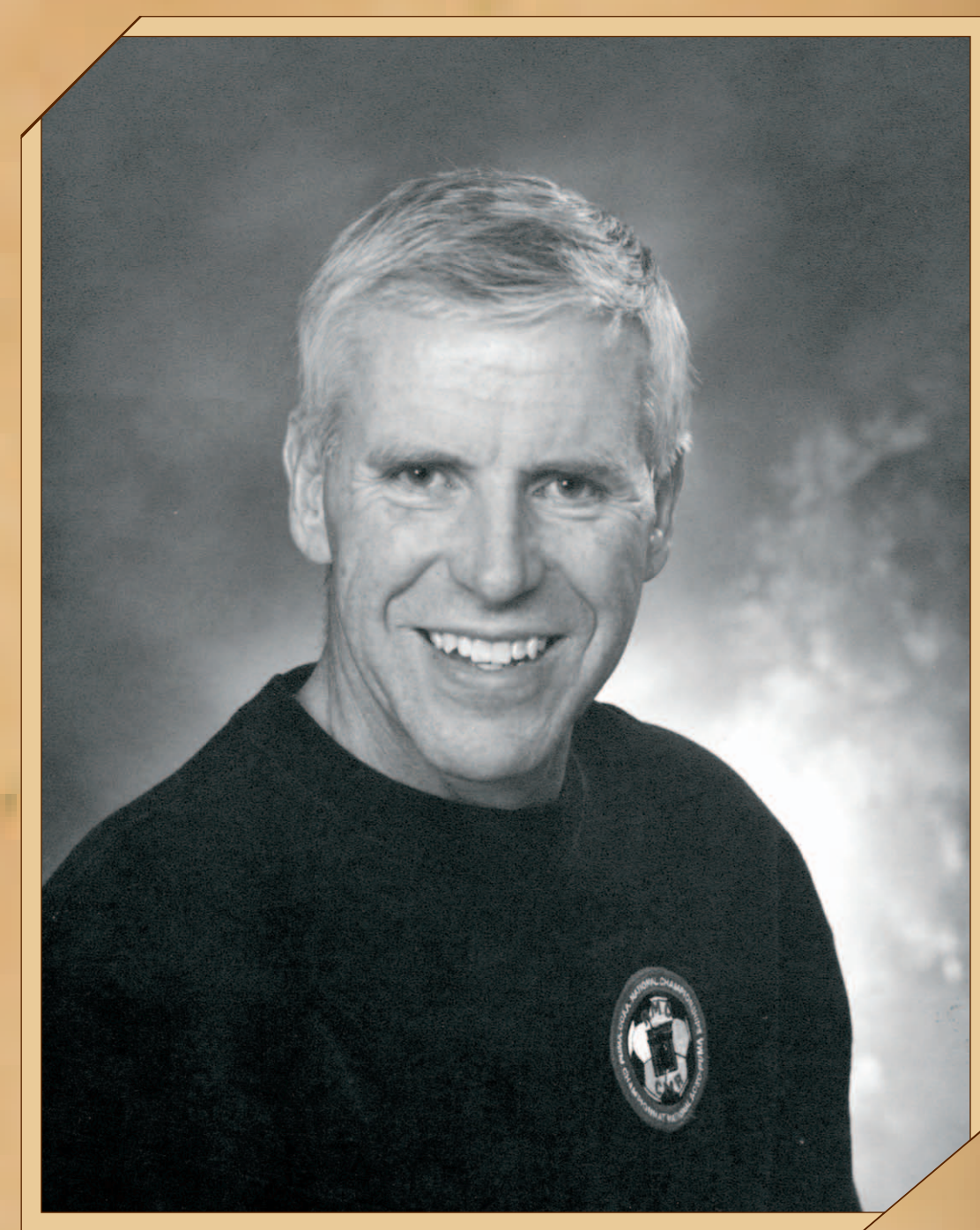
1997 - KNUD PETERSEN

Knud Petersen has always loved competition. As a youth, in his native Denmark, he played sport at every opportunity, but upon immigrating to Canada in 1965, Petersen entered into a hiatus from sport which would continue until 1981, when his daughters started participating.

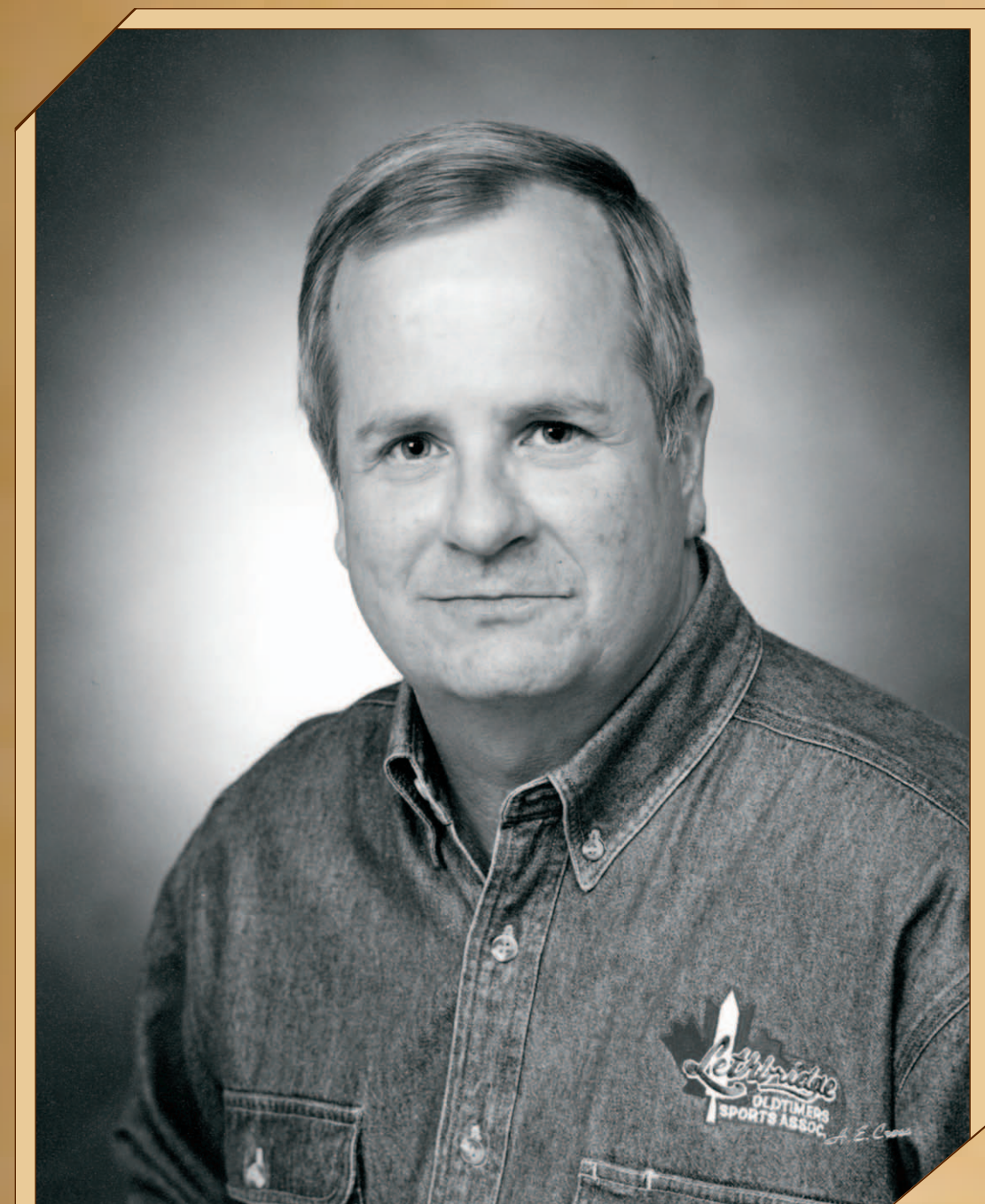
At this time, Knud took up coaching with a vengeance - everything from floor hockey to mini-basketball to soccer. He continues to coach and referee soccer in southern Alberta and is a big supporter of Southern Alberta Summer Games. Petersen was Chief Referee for soccer in Lethbridge from 1985-89 and at the same time served on the Coaldale Minor Hockey Board.

During the nineties, Knud became involved with the Lethbridge Chargers girls' teams. He also helped develop a successful women's soccer team at Lethbridge College, which became the Canadian Champions in their very first year, 1994. It was during this time that Petersen entered into fundraising to help keep the College Kodiaks and the University Pronghorns alive and well.

Knud was one of the founding members of the Coulee Kickers Soccer Association in 1983, which now has over 1000 players, and his most recent dream of establishing a recreational soccer organization in Lethbridge and area, has also been realized, with the formation of S.O.F.A. in 1995.



2000 - BRUCE DREWRY



In keeping with the year of the "official", it is fitting to award an individual who has spent countless volunteer hours running and overseeing the operation of a large sports organization.

Bruce Drewry has done it all for the 300 member Lethbridge Oldtimers Sports Association during his many years of involvement with the group. Besides being president for two years he spent five years co-ordinating its annual 48-team hockey tournament, an event which covers three days and utilizes many of the city's ice arenas. In addition, Bruce has found time to help the association maintain both a day and a night hockey league.

Greatly honoured by this award, Bruce feels that not only athletes, but all individuals involved with sports, should be honoured appropriately. From those who spend countless hours organizing, officiating, coaching, training, fund raising and transporting players, we all do our best to keep sports alive.

1999 - SARAH JOLY

Sarah has been an enthusiastic participant in the numerous sports in which she has excelled in over the years - but her passion has been for soccer.

Born and raised in Lethbridge, Sarah put on her first pair of soccer cleats at a very young age and never looked back. She became a member of the Provincial team, while playing with the 77 Chargers. Then, while studying Rehab Medicine at University of Alberta and playing for the Pandas, Sarah became captain of the Canadian U-20 National Team and a member of the Canadian National Senior Women's Soccer Team.

While attending University, Sarah was 1995-96 CIAU Academic All-Canadian and CWUAA Rookie of the Year, 1996-97 CIAU Championship Tournament All-Star and team co-captain and 1997-98 CWUAA Most Valuable Player. She was also a two-time recipient of the prestigious Kathlene Yetman Award.

In the words of her University coach, "Sarah is one of the best all-around athletes this program has ever seen. Her exemplary conduct and work ethic help set the standard on our team." As her University Dean stated, Sarah is "the archetypal All-Canadian."



Photo Courtesy of The Galt Museum & Archives

1975 Boxing Event at the Canada Winter Games