

2014 - AARON HERNANDEZ



Aaron Hernandez had already been named CIS track Rookie of the Year when he won the triple jump gold medal at the 2014 CIS Track and Field Championship in Edmonton where he competed as a member of the University of Lethbridge Pronghorns track team.

A proud graduate of Coaldale's Kate Andrews Pride, Hernandez made his presence felt on the Canada West indoor track scene as a freshman. In his very first university meet, he won both his events, the triple and long jump at the Golden Bear Open in January. In March, at the CIS Championship triple jump final, Hernandez tied his personal best, his Alberta indoor record, with a jump of 15.03 meters, earning him the gold medal.

A dedicated football and soccer player, Hernandez started jumping for fun only two years ago and his first big meet was the 2012 Alberta Summer Games in Lethbridge, where he managed to win gold in both the triple and long jump. Recognizing Hernandez's talent, his future university track coach Jamie Thomas, convinced Hernandez to enroll at U of L, following high school and join the Pronghorns Track and Field team led by Larry Steinke.

For his efforts this past year, Hernandez also earned CIS 1st team track All-Canadian, Canada West triple jump gold and track Rookie of the Year award, Athletics Alberta Junior Male Athlete of the Year and the Alberta Junior Indoor Triple Jump Record.

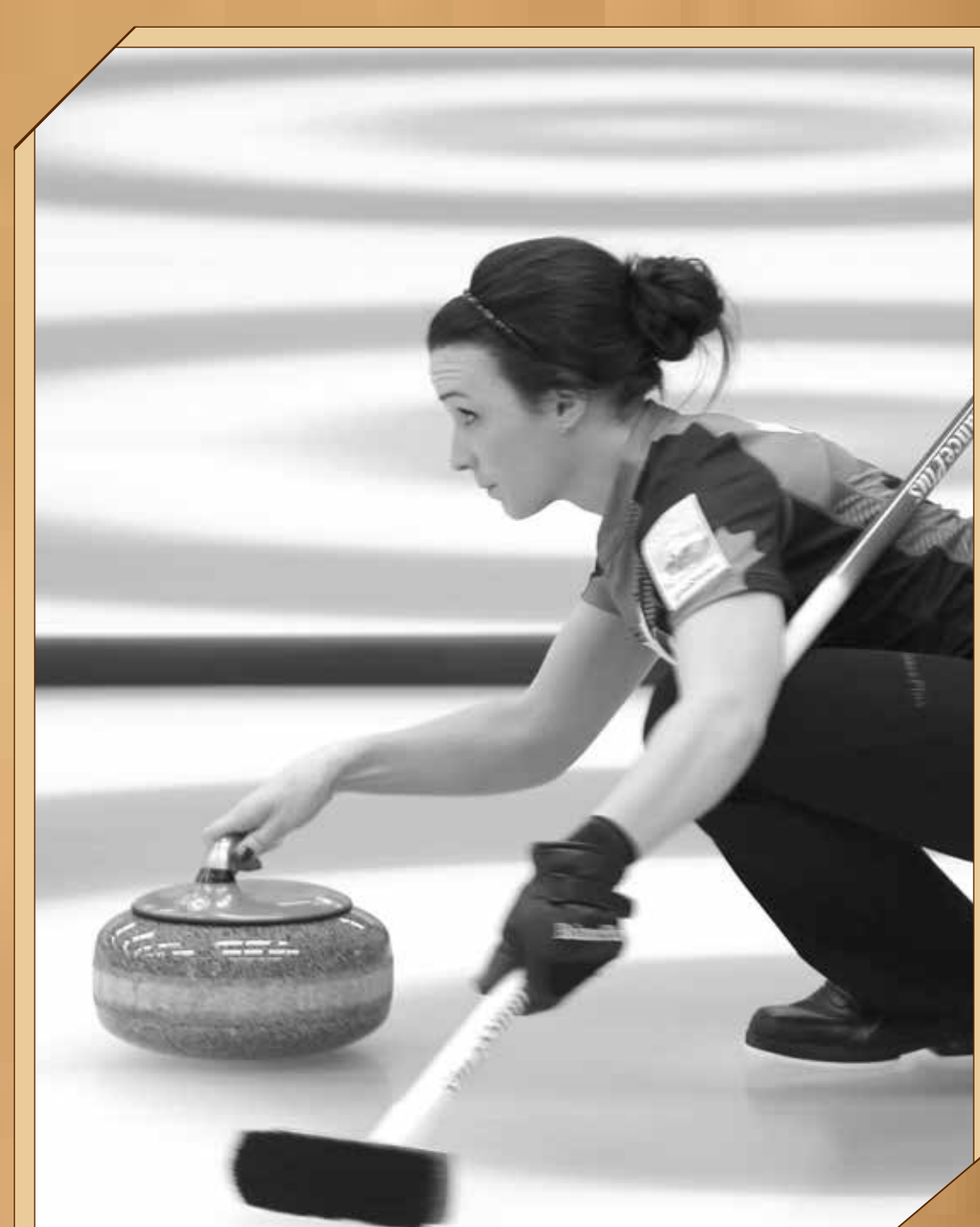
2014 - TAYLOR McDONALD

When Taylor McDonald started curling at age six in the friendly confines of the Lethbridge Curling Club, she may have had dreams, but probably didn't think about what it would feel like being a world champion someday. That all changed when her Team Canada rink beat Korea 6-4 in a thrilling final that won them the gold medals at the 2014 World Junior Women's Curling Championship in Fiml, Switzerland on March 5.

McDonald, who curls second on the Alberta Team Canada rink from Saville Curling Club in Edmonton with skip Kelsey Rocque, third Keely Brown and lead Claire Tully, had earlier won the 2014 Canadian Junior Women's Curling Championship in Nova Scotia on January 25 following their Provincial title in Leduc, December 2013.

After McDonald graduated from LCI in 2011, she decided that university and competitive curling could work well together at the University of Alberta with its Panda curling program. Incidentally, the Panda rink is identical to the Team Canada world championship rink, which also include alternate Alison Kotylak and coaches Amanda Dawn Coderre and Garry Coderre.

In addition to McDonald's Provincial, National and World Junior titles, her Panda rink has won silver medals at the CIS Championships the past two years and she was named CIS First Team All-Canadian in 2014. Previously, McDonald curled with rinks winning silver at the 2008 Alberta Winter Games and gold at the 2010 Alberta Winter Games.



2015 - JIM STEACY



Jim Steacy, Canada's most decorated hammer thrower, achieved a career milestone in 2014, winning the gold medal in hammer throw at the Commonwealth Games in Glasgow, Scotland with a throw of 74.16 meters. He finishing second at the same event in 2006 when Melbourne, Australia hosted those games. Steacy previously won Pan American Games gold in 2007 and has 10 Canadian hammer throw titles to his credit dating back to 2004. He currently holds the Canadian record in that event at 79.13 meters.

A University of Lethbridge Pronghorn legend, Steacy was undefeated in the weight throw over five years as a Pronghorn athlete. He won a total of nine CIS medals over that time, including eight golds. Steacy has also represented Canada at two Olympic Games, including finishing 12th in Beijing, China and after several injuries requiring surgeries, he is once again hitting his stride in advance of a third Olympics, the 2016 Games in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

Steacy is more than an on-field giant, he is also a very passionate supporter of youth in Lethbridge and surrounding area. He spends considerable time speaking at local schools about the importance of education and the opportunities available to students through athletics, and is quick to volunteer his time as a coach for the area's youth track and field programs.

2015 - KIM VELDMAN

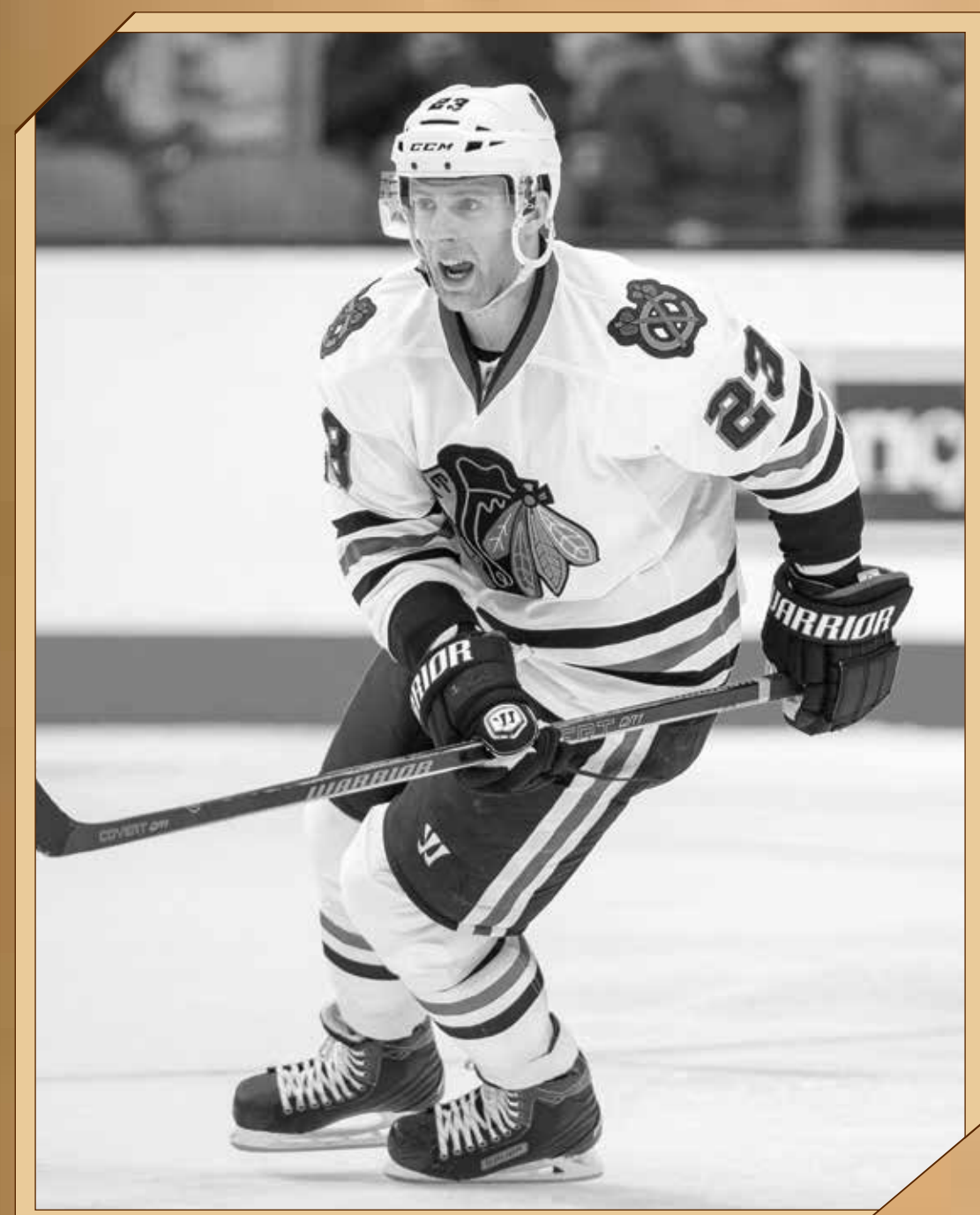
Kim Veldman recently completed her fifth year as a forward with the University of Lethbridge Pronghorn women's basketball team. A leader on and off the floor, she became only the second member of the Pronghorns athletic program to earn a CIS national honour when she was voted winner of the Sylvia Sweeney Award, given to the player who best exemplifies the values of athletics, academics and community involvement.

On the floor, Veldman was the conference's second leading scorer this past season, averaging 18.6 points per game despite facing double teaming and was named a Canada West first team all-star. She will also leave the Pronghorns as the school's all-time leading rebounder and second leading scorer. Veldman grabbed 805 rebounds and scored 1391 points over her five seasons in Lethbridge and closed out her career by being named Pronghorn Female Athlete of the Year for the second consecutive year.

Well-rounded and grounded, Veldman was an Academic All-Canadian in every year of study and graduated with a degree in nursing. She is currently working towards completing her master's degree. Her off-court activities also include work with the Jr. Horns basketball program, time in the Reading Buddies program at local elementary schools, work with the Special Olympics and committed involvement with the Trinity Reformed Church youth group.



2016 - KRIS VERSTEEG



A true hometown hockey hero, Kris Versteeg has two Stanley Cup rings to his credit, both while playing for Chicago Blackhawks. Born and raised in Lethbridge, Versteeg played minor hockey locally and joined the WHL Lethbridge Hurricanes for the 2002-03 season. He spent three years with the Canes and also represented Canada at the 2004 IIHF World U-18 Championship before finishing his WHL career with Kamloops Blazers and Red Deer Rebels.

Drafted by the Boston Bruins in 2004, Versteeg started his professional career in 2006, but played his first full NHL season with the Chicago Blackhawks in 2008-09. He finished the season with 22 goals and 53 points and was shortlisted for the Calder Memorial Trophy as NHL rookie of the year. Versteeg spent two full seasons with the Blackhawks winning the Stanley Cup in 2010. After stints with Toronto Maple Leafs, Philadelphia Flyers and Florida Panthers, he played two more seasons with the Blackhawks winning the Stanley Cup again in 2015.

Following the Blackhawks victories in 2010 and 2015, Versteeg shared the Stanley Cup trophy with his many Lethbridge fans on both occasions. His passion for family, friends, community and the Lethbridge Hurricanes has no bounds and Versteeg's generosity is well known as he was honoured with a "Key to the City" by Mayor Chris Spearman in 2015. After starting the 2015-16 season with Carolina Hurricanes, Versteeg joined Los Angeles Kings in February 2016.

2016 - RACHEL NICOL

2015 was a breakthrough year for Rachel Nicol as she won gold medals in the 50m and 100m breaststroke at the Canadian World Championship trials. In July, Nicol represented Canada at the Pan American Games winning a silver medal in the 4x100 medley relay, and a bronze in the 100m breaststroke. From there, she traveled to Kazan, Russia to compete at the World Championships, finishing 10th in the 50m and 11th in the 100m breaststroke.

Nicol was the Canadian flag bearer at the 2010 Summer Youth Olympics in Singapore, where she competed as a 17-year-old, winning a gold and two bronze medals. She then went to Southern Methodist University in Dallas, Texas on a swim scholarship and completed her studies in applied physiology. Nicol received both All-Conference and All-American honours in 2014-15 for her swimming performances in the NCAA.

At the April 2016 Canadian Olympic & Paralympic Trials held in Toronto, Nicol earned her spot on the Canadian Swim Team heading to Rio de Janeiro, Brazil by achieving the necessary Olympic qualifying times in both the 100 and 200m breaststroke. Nicol is currently a member of the Lethbridge Amateur Swim club and is coached by Peter Schott. Recognized for her exemplary work ethics in the pool and gym, Nicol is seen as a down to earth great role model giving freely of her time to many younger athletes.



2017 - ZACK MCALLISTER



At the Rio 2016 Paralympic Games, Lethbridge's Zack McAllister made the finals in both the 100m and 50m freestyle finishing 7th and 8th respectively. He also contributed to a Canadian record in the 4x100m medley relay team event, which finished 7th. At the 2016 Canadian Paralympic Trials, he won the 100m freestyle setting a new Canadian/Americas record.

In 2015, McAllister won three individual and two relay medals at the Toronto Parapan Am Games. He won gold in the 50m freestyle, breaking his own Canadian record setting an Americas record and won silver in the 400m and 100m freestyle events. McAllister was also part of both the 4x100m freestyle and medley relay teams that won silver.

Also in 2015, McAllister swam three individual and two relay events at the 2015 IPC Swimming World Championships in Glasgow, Scotland where he finished 6th in the 100m freestyle. McAllister was a member of the 4x100m medley relay team that set a Canadian record. At the 2015 Speedo Can Am Para-swimming Championships McAllister won the 50m and 100m freestyle and was third in the 400m freestyle.

At his first Paralympic Games in 2012, McAllister competed in four events: the 400m freestyle, the 200m individual medley and the 50m and 100m freestyle. Highlights were a sixth in the 400m and 10th in the 100m freestyle, setting Canadian and Pan Am records in both races.

He was the first University of Lethbridge swimmer to make an Olympic or Paralympic team in the school's now 50-year history.

2017 - ASHLEY PATZER-STEACY

After helping Canada win gold in Women's Rugby Sevens at the 2015 Pan Am Games in Toronto, Lethbridge's Ashley Patzer-Stacey went on to play for Canada at last year's 2016 Rio Olympics despite missing all of the 2015-16 Women's Rugby Sevens World Series season with a torn ACL and MCL. At the Olympic tournament, Stacey and her Canadian team performed really well and managed to win the bronze final against Great Britain and taking home the medal.

Stacey is well decorated when it comes to rugby accolades and began playing rugby in grade 10 before graduating from Lethbridge Collegiate Institute. At university, she was a three-time CIS champion from 2007-2009 with the University of Lethbridge Pronghorns women's rugby team and was also a two-time CIS Player of the Year while earning her undergrad at U of L.

In 2007, Stacey received her first cap with both Canada's Women's Sevens and Fifteens Teams. Since then, she has performed on some of the biggest stages in rugby. In 2009, she was named to Canada's team for the Women's Rugby World Cup Sevens and in 2010, she was with the fifteens team participating in the Women's Rugby World Cup.

Stacey won a silver medal playing in her second Women's Rugby World Cup Sevens in 2013 and after coming back from shoulder surgery in 2014, Stacey made the 2014-15 World Rugby Women's Sevens World Series Dream Team and was named Rugby Canada's Women's Sevens Player of the Year for 2014.

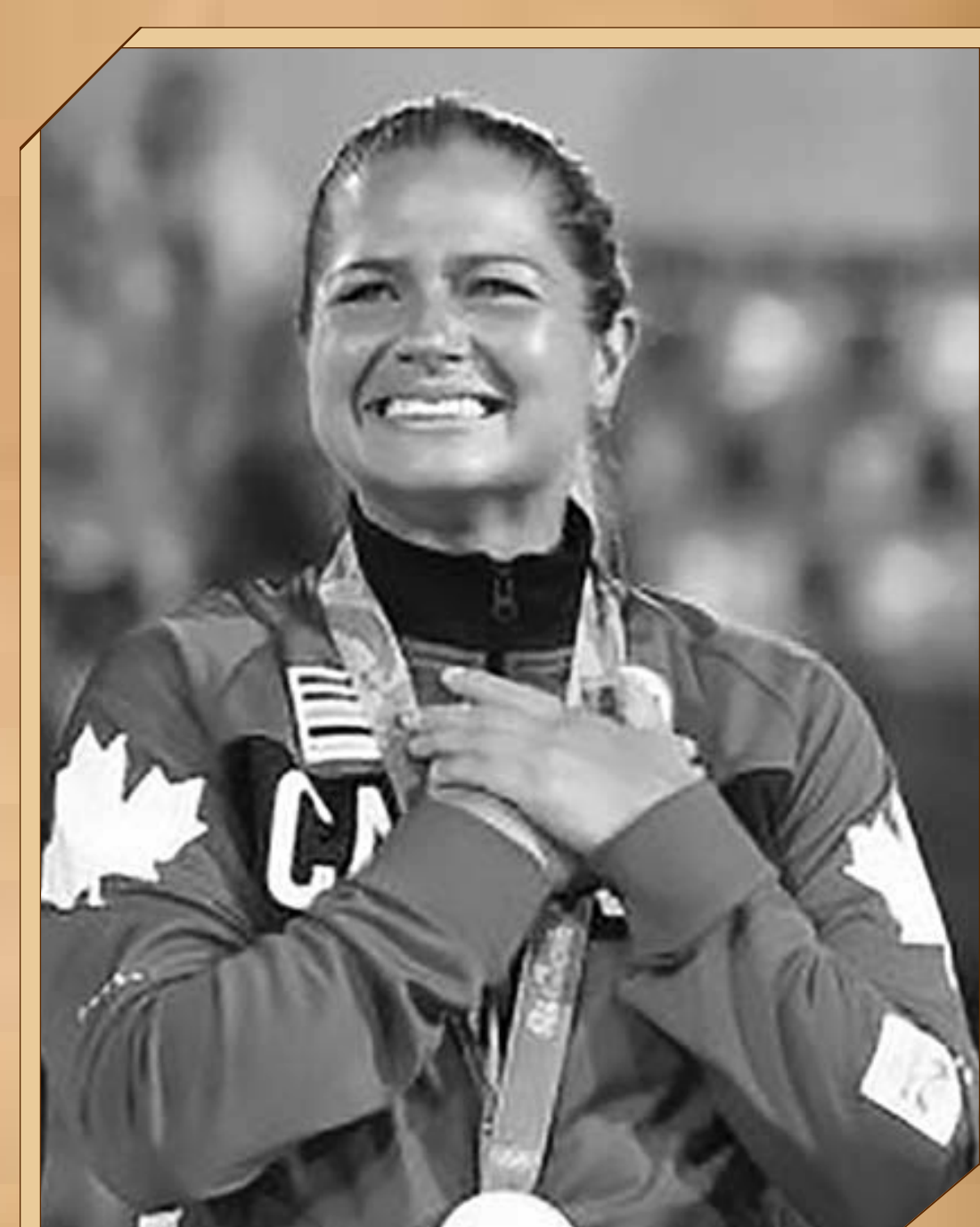


Photo Courtesy of The Galt Museum & Archives

Provincial Champion Archers
September 1961