

Former T-men player and coach going into lacrosse hall of fame

Kaleb Toth a champion at all levels

GREG SAKAKI
NEWS BULLETIN

A Nanaimo Timberman all-time great is going into the Canadian Lacrosse Hall of Fame.

Kaleb Toth – ‘9er’ to players and coaches who know him – was honoured before a WLA playoff game at Frank Crane Arena last week, coming out for a ceremonial faceoff recognizing his upcoming hall-of-fame induction.

“They’re retiring 9er’s number,” exclaimed a current T-men player, misunderstanding the ceremony and glancing around at his teammates’ jerseys. “No one wears nine, right?”

Nobody wore the number nine quite like Toth.

The hard-shooting forward won a Minto Cup, two Mann Cups, three National Lacrosse League championships and a World Indoor Lacrosse Championship during his playing career. He may be best-known for scoring a championship-winning goal for the Toronto Rock in the last second of the NLL final at Maple Leaf Gardens in 2000, but in Nanaimo he was a face of the senior A Tim-



Kaleb Toth, middle, recently announced as part of the Canadian Lacrosse Hall of Fame’s class of 2022, participates in a ceremonial faceoff with Nanaimo Timberman captain Nate Wade and Coquitlam Adanacs captain Vinny Ricci at a WLA playoff game at Frank Crane Arena on Aug. 8. (Greg Sakaki/News Bulletin)

berman franchise for most of its modern history. Toth was selected by the T-men in the expansion draft and played his final seven WLA seasons in Nanaimo before moving behind the bench to coach the team for another six seasons.

He said he thought his buddies were playing a practical joke on him when he received a call from a Canadian Lacrosse Hall of Fame committee member congratulating him on his induction.

“It was surprising, but it was quite an honour to be selected...” Toth said. “[I’d] never thought about it. I didn’t play the game to make the hall of fame, I played

the game because I loved it. I wanted to win championships.”

He won his Minto Cup with the Burnaby Lakers, Mann Cups with the Victoria Shamrocks and Champion’s Cup titles with the Rock and the Calgary Roughnecks. He scored more than 500 points in the WLA and more than 700 points in the NLL.

As a coach with the Timberman, he led the team to playoff appearances in his last two seasons behind the bench in 2018 and 2019. With three kids all playing lacrosse, it was becoming too much to coach senior A and three minor teams, so he stepped away from the WLA to spend

more time with his family.

The Ladysmith resident still gets to games, though, and has been to the arena to watch senior A, junior A and junior B action this summer.

“I’m a fan of lacrosse and I like to see lacrosse in Nanaimo grow and I like to see it constantly getting better and I like to think that I had a small part in making lacrosse a little bit better in Nanaimo...” Toth said. “It’s great to see lacrosse in Nanaimo build and succeed.”

He’s also seen the game itself evolve. In his playing days, he said, only a handful of younger players worked out and

trained year-round, while veterans tended to use training camp to get into game shape. Now, guys are all “exceptional athletes” and Toth said it’s a better, faster game.

“Back when I played it was a lot rougher, you could use the wood sticks, guys were hacking and chopping,” he said. “The game’s gone away from that. They’re trying to make it more entertaining for the fans and they’ve done a great job.”

The Canadian Lacrosse Hall of Fame class of 2022 was announced in July and the induction ceremony will happen in November.

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Quarterway Elementary tops at school track and field meet

We’re staying on track this week, continuing a review of the Nanaimo District Elementary School Track and Field Championships to acknowledge top performances from the three age groups of boys’ competition. My thanks to coordinator Alana Lavery for passing along results, which included three new district records...

In the tyke (born 2012-13) division, Max Peacock from Randerson Ridge set one of those new records by winning the 1,200m in four minutes, 18.88 seconds. Second and third went to Departure Bay’s Curtis Gross and Rory Wilson of Uplands Park. Top three in the 600m distance were Ben Blightt of Departure Bay, Logan Van Aerde from McGirr and Kailo Grain of Departure Bay. In both the 100m and 200m finals, Departure Bay runner Liam Kosowan took first place, with Ladysmith Intermediate’s Kade Fiddick second. Briggs Lee of Uplands was third in 100m and Rylan Havelaar of Pleasant Valley third in 200m.

With field events for tyke boys, Departure Bay’s Kailo Grain was the top long jumper, outleaping Pleasant Valley’s Rylan Havelaar and Mason Walsh from Randerson Ridge. Walsh took second place in softball throw, where Cilaire’s Bryce Aske was first and Will MacGregor from Pleasant Valley was third.

Turning to peewee (born 2010-11) boys’ track action, Quarterway’s Julien Slobodan was fastest in 100m. Baraka Gibson from Cinnabar Valley placed second and was also third in 200m. A double winner in 200m and 600m was David Wu from Randerson Ridge. Reid Benjamin of North Oyster placed second in 200m. Second and third in 600m were Ryan Cam from McGirr and Frank J. Ney’s Bodin Olsen. The 1,200m title went to Mountain View’s Nolan Penner, who finished ahead of Quarterway teammates Caden Sugiyama and Lucas Ross.

Julien Slobodan from Quarterway was the top peewee boys’ long jumper, out-leaping Cohen Saretsky from Coal Tyee and Ryan Cam of McGirr. Top three triple jumpers were Carson Quitley of Coal Tyee, Pleasant Valley’s Jaden Havelaar and Eric Zhang from McGirr. Pauline Haarer athlete Will Lindsay won the

discus event and placed second in shot put. Hammond Bay’s Kevin Wilson was runner-up in discus, with James Boulding from Pauline Haarer third. Tyler Couchman of Park Avenue was tops in shot put and Malone Mann-O’Brien claimed third place. Best in the softball throw were Mountain View’s Eli Fisher, Malcolm Wells from Quarterway and Pleasant Valley’s Lucas Krampl.

Track events for the bantam (born 2009) boys were highlighted by two new district records. Both were set by Jaxon Clark from Pleasant Valley, who broke with 600m record with a time of 1.41.59 and set a new 1,200m record with a finish in 3.49.16. Second and third in 600m were Will Cram from North Oyster and Donnie Denholm of Chase River, while second and third in 1,200m were McGirr’s Tye Vanden Elsen and Nico Perez from Uplands Park. In the shorter track distances, Hayden Louwers from Coal Tyee was fastest in both 100m and 200m. Second and third in 100m were Mason Miller from

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Forest Park and John Yan of McGirr. In 200m, Quarterway’s Fletcher Geddes was runner-up and Levi Larsen of Chase River third.

In bantam field events, top three long jumpers were Ben Tomasson

from Mountain View, Trey Zollinger of Randerson Ridge and Chase River’s Nova Tropea. McGirr’s John Yan was best at triple jump, with Joe Linder from Frank J. Ney second and Cilaire’s Archer Irving third. First in shot put went to Rylan Maughan representing Chase River and the longest discus throw was that of Cinnabar Valley’s Cameron Patterson. Second and third in shot put were Mason Miller of Forest Park and Kadin Briegel of Frank J. Ney. Randerson’s Jack Broekhuizen was runner-up in discus and Quarterway’s Josh Hamilton took third place.

Total points accumulated during the district meet for all events resulted in an overall school title for Quarterway, with McGirr second, Departure Bay third and Hammond Bay fourth. Congratulations to all participants and to the large team of volunteer helpers.

Whatever your sport, a reminder in closing to play your hardest, play fair, and show good sportsmanship.

Nanose Bay golfer wins U.S. senior women’s amateur crown

STAFF WRITER
BLACK PRESS MEDIA

Nanose Bay golfer Shelly Stouffer became the first British Columbian and only the fourth Canadian to win the 60th United States Senior Women’s Amateur Championship.

The 52-year-old was in dominating form in securing the win as in all of

her six match-play rounds at the Anchorage Golf Course in Alaska July 30-Aug. 4, Stouffer won each one of them by the 16th hole and did not have to play 17th or 18th holes. Stouffer beat Australian Sue Wooster 4-3 in the final.

She said it’s her biggest senior golfing achievement to date since joining the

senior ranks.

“Pretty amazing, probably the highest win of my career,” Stouffer told the USGA.

What made the milestone even sweeter for the Stouffer was her 15-year-old son Brett, who caddied for her and also served as a calming presence during tense moments.

“He knows my game be-

cause we play a lot together,” Stouffer related to the USGA. “He was helping with reading the greens. He knows my clubs. He was awesome. He kept me calm.”

Stouffer will compete in the U.S. Senior Women’s Open that will take place in Kettering, Ohio, Aug. 25-28.

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