



News and information for
members of the Alberta Schools'
Athletic Association

June 2005

ASAA NEWS

The Spirit of the Game

A tribute to Leeanne Reid of La Crete Public School

I have coached Junior "A" girl's basketball for the last six years at Fairview High School in Fairview Alberta. I have two daughters that I have coached through to the senior high level.

On March 5, 2005 I was watching the Fairview senior girls play in the zone playoffs in Valleyview. Fairview's last game was against La Crete. During the game I was told that one of the girls on the La Crete team was undergoing chemotherapy for cancer. I was amazed to watch how this player played the game with so much determination. After the game I thought about her and what she was going through. I decided that it would be important to recognize her for the spirit that she demonstrated. I write



this article in order to celebrate the spirit of Leeanne Reid from La Crete. While I watched Leeanne on the court I could not help but admire her tenacity. She was giving everything she had for her team and her school. It is important that we the basketball community come together through this article in order to celebrate her spirit.

Robin Webster, who coached the Fairview High School Junior "A" girls basketball team before I came along said to me, "you are going to find out that the game of basketball is about everything but the game of basketball." I wasn't sure what Robin meant at the time but because of the experience that I had at that game I now understand what Robin was getting at. Here was a player who had risen above her own situation in order to support her team. In my mind this is what the spirit of the game is all about. As individuals and as a team we find the strength to rise above the most desperate of situations.



Every year I always tell people that when I coach my goal is to always leave the girls a little bit better off than when I got them. I always find that by the end of the year that the girls have left me much better off than when they got me. Coaching and playing basketball has been a lifetime of learning for me. I have very strong feelings for the game and the people who play.

By watching and feeling Leeanne's struggle to overcome her cancer I can very clearly state that she has left us all much better off than we were before. Thanks for showing us how to rise to the occasion both in your battle with cancer and in your indelible spirit for the game of basketball.

Tim Vinge
Junior "A" Girls Coach
Fairview High School

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Thanks for another great year!

As we come off our last two provincial championships for the year: badminton and track & field, I want to take the opportunity to thank the host of not only these, but all ASAA events over the past year. We have an amazing group of teachers, school sport administrators and others who volunteer their time to coordinate ASAA provincials; we are very fortunate.

As we head into our 50th year as an organization in 2005/2006, we are planning some celebratory events and I trust that our member schools are keen to be involved. One thing we have already done is to celebrate our past by bringing back to our 2005 4A provincial basketball championship, the members of the teams that played in the first ASAA final in 1956. It was a wonderful experience to meet those gentlemen who played in that first game and to hear how important school sport has been in

their lives. I hope that as we celebrate this milestone as an association, you consider looking back through your historical records and consider inviting back some of your early teams to a school sport celebration at your school.

Finally, I want to congratulate all student athletes and their coaches for their efforts this year. While it is great to see so many at provincials, it is important to also recognize those who work so hard at school sports yet do not experience the same level of success as others, and do not make it to the big show. It is that perseverance, regardless of success, that helps set the tone for character development in our youth, and those coaches who work with these students are to be commended. Best wishes to you all for a safe and healthy summer.

John Paton
Executive Director

ASAA Provincial Championships Wrap Up in Style

Another year of ASAA provincial championships has come to an end. High Prairie did an outstanding job of hosting this year's badminton provincials. Over 200 athletes participated in the event that produced a number of first time winners, many repeat winners and even a couple of ties for first place. Thanks to Darcy Youngmans and his volunteer committee for all the work that went into preparing for the championship.

Thanks also go to Norma Smith, Scott Sinclair, Don Zabloski and their very large committee of students, teachers, principals and others who helped host this year's track and field provincial championship at Foote Field in Edmonton. It was another great year for track and field and fans were treated to excellent performances in all events--with a couple of record-breaking performances thrown in. Congratulations to all athletes who participated this year and to the schools that earned the team banners.



ASAA moves to e-newsletters

The ASAA is excited to announce that starting in September, 2005 we will be using e-newsletters to communicate regularly with our members.

The new e-newsletter will be sent once a month, allowing us to provide more timely information than currently possible with our traditional newsletter. In addition to providing ASAA news, we want the new e-newsletter to be a preferred source of information of interest for athletic directors, coaches and athletes. Tell us what you'd like to read about and we'll do our best to link you to it!

By moving to an e-newsletter, we are keeping up with the times as email becomes the preferred form of communication. We will also be realizing significant cost savings over our printed newsletters. For those who prefer to read hard copy, all e-newsletters will be available in a printer-friendly version as well. We're excited about this new direction and are confident you'll embrace it too.

The ASAA e-newsletter -- coming to your inbox in September 2005.



ASAA Board Approves Rugby

At the 2005 Annual General Meeting, the ASAA Board of Governors approved adding Rugby on a trial basis to the list of ASAA sports. An ASAA rugby policy will be developed at the ASAA Annual Planning Meeting scheduled for November 4-5, 2005 in Red Deer.

If you have any suggestions or comments that you'd like considered at planning session, please send them to lynda@asaa.ca or your zone secretary prior to November 1.

Attention Athletic Directors

Is someone new taking over the athletic director role in your school for 2005/06? If so, please take a few minutes to prepare some tips for the new person so they are not in the dark about ASAA policies and deadlines come September. And even if you're not leaving, here's a list of things that are good to do in the new school year.



1. Make a note of your ExNet username and password and keep it handy or leave it for your replacement.
2. Update the school information section in ExNet, particularly the email address section, to ensure ASAA reminders reach your school.
3. Watch for the September mailing. It will have the new handbook, accommodation guide and calendar.
4. Post the ASAA calendar and refer to it often. All registration deadlines are clearly marked so your school can avoid late registration fees.
5. Print and refer to the ExNet help guide for registration problems.
6. Familiarize yourself with the ASAA transfer policy.
7. Know who your zone secretary is and don't be shy--ask them about zone policies.
8. Attend your zone meetings whenever possible.
9. Watch for the new ASAA e-newsletter.
10. Call or email the ASAA office anytime you need help!



Marwayne Coach and Two Student Athletes Enjoy Leadership Camp

The ASAA had the opportunity through grant funding to send a coach and two athletes to a coach/captain leadership retreat in North Carolina in April. The retreat, hosted by the North Carolina High School Athletic Association (NCHSAA), was a two-day event aimed at defining leadership skills of captains; identifying key issues affecting student athletes; understanding that team captains can influence others within the school; and learning to communicate effectively with peers and adults. The goal of the retreat was for each school group to develop an action plan to bring student leadership initiatives into the schools.

Eileen Hines, the girls basketball coach at Marwayne Jubilee and last year's ASAA Most Sportsmanlike Coach award recipient, was asked to attend the retreat along with two of her grade eleven student athletes and Lynda Bourak, a member of the ASAA staff. Eileen chose to bring Jill Wheat and Ashley Cote to the retreat and the girls had a great time. Being the only Canadians in the crowd, Jill and Ashley were affectionately known as "Canada" and were welcomed to participate in all activities by their North Carolina peers. Though the issues and perspectives of the American student athletes were sometimes different

from ones faced by students in Alberta, the discussions around developing leadership skills and taking a stand on issues in the schools were appropriate for everyone.

The ASAA is now planning to develop and host a leadership retreat of its own sometime in the future. The ideas that were shared and the methods learned at the retreat will help the ASAA in the development process.

We look forward to working on this initiative in the coming months and making the opportunity available to more of our member schools.

2005 Notices of Motion

The 2005 ASAA AGM was held on April 29-30 in Edmonton. At this meeting, provincial hosts were determined for the coming year and some for 2006/07. Notices of Motion as posted in March on the ASAA website were discussed and voted on. The results are provided in the following table. To read the actual notices, please go to www.asaa.ca and look under forms and publications.

Notice	Result	Notice	Result
1	Carried	24	Carried as amended
2	Carried	25	Carried
3	Carried	26	Carried as amended
4	Carried	27	Carried
5	Carried	28	Carried
6	Carried	29	Carried
7	Carried	30	Carried
8	Withdrawn	31	Carried
9	Carried	32	Carried
10	Carried	33	Carried
11	Carried	34	Carried
12	Carried	35	Tabled
13	Withdrawn	36	Carried
14	Carried	37	Carried
15	Carried	38	Carried
16	Carried	39	Carried
17	Carried	40	Carried
18	Carried as amended	41	Carried
19	Carried	42	Carried
20	Carried	43	Carried
21	Carried	44	Defeated
22	Carried	45	Withdrawn
23	Withdrawn		

2005 Award Winners

At the Routledge Award Banquet, this year's award recipients were announced and presented with a plaque as a keepsake. Congratulations to the following winners:

Routledge Award

Marg McCuaig-Boyd, Fairview

Most Sportsmanlike Coach

Garth VanGalen, Foremost

Media Recognition

Lauren MacGillivray, Calgary Herald

Sponsor Recognition Award

Driving Force