

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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2019 Manitoba Aboriginal Athlete Awards

The Manitoba Aboriginal Sports & Recreation Council (MASRC) recognizes Aboriginal athletes for their personal commitment to development and achievement in sport.

Each year, one Aboriginal male and one Aboriginal female athlete are selected to receive the Manitoba Aboriginal Athlete Awards. They are selected from nominations detailing: their positive role in sports and the community; their personal commitment to athletic development; achievements in sport; and their concern for holistic development.

Over the years, athletes from many different sports, including archery, football, softball, athletics, boxing, basketball, ice hockey, water polo and golf, have been selected to receive this high honour.

This year's winners of the ***2019 MANITOBA ABORIGINAL ATHLETE of the YEAR AWARDS*** are:

➤ **Aboriginal Athlete Award - Female** **Heaven Moneyas** **Lake St. Martin First Nation**

In 2019, Heaven played for Team Manitoba at the 2019 National Aboriginal Hockey Championships. Heaven also played for the AA Titans and was named MVP for the AA Titans at the end of their season.

In the fall of 2019 Heaven moved to Pilot Mound where she now plays for the Buffaloes. She has taken a whopping 536 shots so far this year and has saved most of them! Heaven is described by her friends as a funny and very dedicated student athlete. Through her hard work and commitment, Heaven has done a great job representing herself, her family, as well as the program on and off the ice. Heaven made the transition to her new school, to follow her dream as a hockey player as well as to excel in academics. Not only is she a hockey player, but she is a MB provincial level boxer, and is tackling the sport of wrestling as well. She was named to represent Manitoba at the 2020 NAIG games in the sport of Wrestling.

Congratulations Heaven!

➤ **Aboriginal Athlete Award - Male** **Conner Roulette** **Misipawistik Cree Nation**

After competing in Hockey for 12 years, Conner played his first WHL game with the Seattle Thunderbirds in January 2019, a huge accomplishment for a 16-year-old. He represented Manitoba at the Canada Winter Games in Red Deer in February 2019 and was awarded Impact Player of the Year at the annual Winnipeg AAA Hockey League Awards Night in April 2019. In May 2019, Conner played on Team Manitoba at the National Aboriginal Hockey Championships in Whitehorse, his team won the Gold Medal and he was named the Top Forward at the Championship. At the 2019 U16 World Junior Ball Hockey championships in the Czech Republic, Conner was named team captain and they won the GOLD medal. Conner was named Top Forward at Worlds. He was selected by Hockey Canada to participate at the National under-17 Development camp. The Canadian Ball Hockey Association awarded Conner with the Logan Schatz Memorial Award (top Jr Ball Hockey player). And to end things off, Conner was chosen to play with Team Canada at the 2019 World Under 17 Hockey Challenge Tournament.

Congratulations Conner!

For more information on the athletes, please email:

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