

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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2019 Manitoba Aboriginal Coach Awards

The Manitoba Aboriginal Sports & Recreation Council (MASRC) recognizes Aboriginal coaches for their commitment and development of Aboriginal athletes.

Each year, one male and one female, who are NCCP certified Aboriginal coaches are selected for the Manitoba Aboriginal Coaching Awards.

Over the years, Manitoba coaches from many varied sports, including Archery, Volleyball, Badminton, Baseball, Boxing, Softball and Special Olympics have been selected to receive this high honour.

The Manitoba Aboriginal Sports & Recreation Council is pleased to announce the winners of the

2019 MANITOBA ABORIGINAL COACHING AWARDS:

➤ Aboriginal Coaching Award - Female Danielle Daniels Opaskwayak (Long Plain First Nation)

Danielle Daniels is one busy Math teacher! In addition to her teaching, Danielle is also the Female Junior Varsity and Female Varsity Basketball coach for the Oscar Lathlin Collegiate Wolverines in Opaskwayak Cree Nation (OCN). Her teams attended several tournaments including the "AA" Zone 11 Sr Girls Basketball Championships, The Swan Valley Credit Union Invitational Varsity Girls Basketball Classic and the St. Boniface Diocesan Centurion Classic. Outside of the school Danielle is the Head Coach for The Pas Thunder 16U Female Club team. The Thunder attended the 2019 Manitoba Club Basketball Championship in May in Winnipeg. And to top off her year, Danielle was selected to be the Head Coach for 19U Female Basketball for Team Manitoba that will be heading to the 2020 NAIG in July.

➤ Aboriginal Coaching Award - Male Curtis Nepinak Waterhen (Skownan First Nation)

Curtis Nepinak has been coaching in Manitoba for the past 19 years! In 2019 alone, he coached Jr High and JV Volleyball, Floor Hockey and Basketball at Skownan school and in the community U11 and U9 Baseball and is currently coaching Initiation and Novice Hockey for Winnipegosis!

Coach Nepinak makes it his responsibility, for students to not only succeed on the court/ice but in life as well. He teaches his athletes to be leaders, how to be organized and the importance of time management. He always encourages his students to persevere and to improve by practicing and taking the time to work on specific skills. Coach Nepinak has been an everyday role model, not only to his athletes but to his colleagues as well. Coach Nepinak often goes beyond his coaching responsibilities from buying his athletes dinner and finding hand me down equipment to working one on one with kids who need extra help and showing up to every practice, game and team bonding activity. Many parents have seen the efforts Mr. Nepinak puts in and thank him for loving their children, teaching them, encouraging them to remain positive during harder losses. He is known for being patient and kind, and giving everything, he has to make kids sport better.

For more information on the coaches, please email:

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www.masrc.com