



Media Release

For Immediate Release

Three graduating athletes pick up major awards to cap off the 2022/2023 RDP Athletics season

Red Deer, April 5, 2023 – One hundred seventy-five student-athletes. Forty-two coaches. Ten student-trainers. One night to cap off an incredible 2022/2023 athletics season at Red Deer Polytechnic where five championship banners were hung up in the rafters in the Fas Gas – *On the Run* Gymnasium inside the Gary W. Harris Canada Games Centre.

Tonight, Red Deer Polytechnic held its annual Athletics Banquet which showcased the student-athletes, coaches, student-trainers, supporting staff, sponsors and donors that made the 2022/2023 season possible. Multiple awards were given out which included the Team Awards (Coaches, Most Improved, Most Valuable and Rookie of the Year), Allan Ferchuk Leadership Award and the Red Deer Bottling Male and Female Athletes of the Year.

Randy Stewart, manager of Athletics and Student Life, explained that an event like this one is a yearly reminder of what makes coming to the office every day so rewarding.

“It’s one of the most enjoyable evenings of the year as we celebrate all of the hard work, sacrifice and dedication of so many people. This event not only provides an opportunity to celebrate the accomplishments of our student-athletes and coaches, but we get to recognize our donors, sponsors, medical network, minor officials, volunteers and so many more that make RDP Athletics the incredible success that it is.”

This year, the Allan Ferchuk Leadership Award was given out to Queens Soccer forward Alisha Coules, a student-athlete who captained her team to the program’s first-ever championship gold medal.

Coules is proud to call herself a Queen and is more than willing to offer her time to mold young student-athletes into becoming ambassadors of the program. For example, she encouraged her teammates to join her and donate blood during the Bleed Green campaign. She also volunteered her time outside the Polytechnic, which included helping out with soccer teams across the Red Deer and at animal shelters.

Head Coach Mahziar Peyrow explained that having a captain like Coules is one of the best gifts a coach could ask for.

“She puts in countless hours to ensure her team is held to the highest of standards. Alisha knows the importance of being involved in the community as an athlete of RDP. She preaches and demonstrates to raise awareness among athletes, not only for her team but for other teams at the Polytechnic as well.”

Coules scored nine goals and provided 12 assists to give her 30 points on the season which was a career high. She was named an Alberta Colleges Athletic Conference (ACAC) South Division All-Star as a striker and was an ACAC Championship Tournament selection.

When the all-star striker looked back on this past season, she said it was the most rewarding of them all.

“The past five years of developing not only tactical skills relevant to the sport but also leadership skills, has all paid off. It was wonderful to work with and be a part of a team, that was able to achieve a monumental moment for Queens Soccer in my final year.”

On top of this, she also performed well academically and will graduate from the Bachelor of Science in Nursing program in June. In the 2022 Fall Term, Coules achieved a perfect, 4.0-grade point average (GPA) and will return to the Queens Soccer program next year as part of the coaching staff.

The Red Deer Bottling Female Athlete of the Year was another student-athlete from the Queens Soccer program, but she also participated in Cross Country Running and Indoor Track. Jenica Swartz’s final year at Red Deer Polytechnic was outstanding for a number of reasons.



Not only did she perform with excellence, finishing in the top five at both the ACAC Championship and Canadian College Athletic Association (CCAA) National Championship in cross country this season, but she also played an important role in a historic year for the Queens Soccer program. This included scoring one of the two Queens' goals at nationals hosted in Saint-Lambert, Quebec.

Her accomplishments did not stop there as she shifted her focus to Indoor Track and helped another team to an ACAC Championship banner after taking home three individual gold medals in the 300 m, 600 m and 1000 m. Swartz also led the Queens relay team to two first place finishes in both the 4 x 200 m and 4 x 400 m relays.

Douglas Spicer, RDP Cross Country Running and Indoor Track Head Coach, stated that Swartz is a very deserving candidate for the Red Deer Bottling Female Athlete of the Year award.

"Jen is an outstanding athlete and an amazing teammate. She leads by example in her training and competing in both cross-country and indoor track, along with being an integral part of the Queens Soccer program. It was a great pleasure working with Jen this year, watching her dominate the competition in her quiet, humble way."

Swartz is a student in the Bachelor of Science program with a focus on Pre-Medicine where she excelled as she earned a 3.82 GPA while taking on a full-course load of five classes.

She explained having a season-ending event like the awards banquet is important for the student-athletes.

"It allows an opportunity to recall the events of the season and recognize the accomplishments of teams and individuals throughout the season. It also provides a chance to meet up with teammates at an event other than a practice, which is important since this may be the last time I see some of my teammates as I prepare to move on with the next stage of my life."

Lastly, the Red Deer Bottling Male Athlete of the Year is an athlete through and through. He is someone who is quite familiar with this award as he now has won it for two consecutive years. Maddux Greves, Kings Volleyball setter and team captain, led by example every day with his tremendous work ethic and desire to be his best. He brought out the best in those around him while helping his team to a 17-2 record during the regular season and an ACAC silver medal.

Head Coach Aaron Schulha said Greves faced adversity throughout the season with an injury but managed to continue battling through it because that is just who Maddux is.

"Maddux had an ongoing back injury that limited him throughout the season, but he battled through it on a daily basis to try and be a positive impact on his team. Beyond his on-court contributions, he is an outstanding teammate, leader and has a tremendous mind for the game."

In his final ACAC season, Greves earned multiple awards which include a spot on the ACAC All-Conference and CCAA All-Canadian team. He also was named the ACAC South Division Male Volleyball Player of the Year after finishing the season second in the conference with 9.45 assists per set. Schulha added that Maddux could have easily led the league if it wasn't for his unselfish decision to encourage the coaching staff to start another setter in his place and come off the bench for a match in the second half.

Greves explained the awards banquet is a nice way to get together with the other teams and celebrate each and every accomplishment.

"Conclusion is a nice way to put it. We are involved with our team, but it is nice to have a formal event that concludes the season and get together with different teams to congratulate each other on their own individual awards as well as their seasons. There were some great teams this year that outdid themselves and did a good job, so it is nice to give them the recognition that they deserve."

The Business Administration student's volleyball career is not over just yet as he will be continuing his journey playing professionally overseas in the coming years.



Team Awards

Kings Basketball

Coach's Award – Payton Baltzer

Most Improved Player – Cole Wicker

Most Valuable Player – Eduardo Crespo

Rookie of the Year – Jose Mauro

Queens Basketball

Coach's Award – Sophie Melin

Most Improved Player – Janai Hubert

Most Valuable Player – Sandra Garcia-Bernal

Rookie of the Year – Peighton Melton

Cross-Country

Coach's Award – Ethan Duret

Most Improved Player – Benjamin Higham

Most Valuable Player – Jenica Swartz

Rookie of the Year – Benjamin House

Curling

Coach's Award – Jaycee Bourke

Most Improved Player – Jared Reay

Most Valuable Player – Kaylee Raniseth

Rookie of the Year – Jaden Morlock

Kings Hockey

Coach's Award – Jacob Wozney

Most Improved Player – Ryland McNinch

Most Valuable Player – Chance Longjohn

Rookie of the Year – Nolan Doell

Queens Hockey

Coach's Award – Jordyn McLaughlin

Most Improved Player – Julie Wagner

Most Valuable Player – Madison Sansom

Rookie of the Year – Kaedence Mollin

Kings Soccer

Coach's Award – Jared St. Thomas

Most Improved Player – Ashton Chipman



Most Valuable Player – Ajdin Sarcevic

Rookie of the Year – Eduardo Crespo

Queens Soccer

Coach's Award – Alisha Coules

Most Improved Player – Grace Smith

Most Valuable Player – Sofia Quinteros

Rookie of the Year – Sein Furuyama

Kings Volleyball

Coach's Award – Jonathan (JJ) Graham

Most Improved Player – Evan Ockerman

Most Valuable Player – Maddux Greves

Rookie of the Year – Jaxon Wasylowich

Queens Volleyball

Coach's Award – Kira Weddell

Most Improved Player – Autumn Roos

Most Valuable Player – Sydney Rix

Rookie of the Year – Lauren Junck

Team Service Awards

Kings Basketball – Kevin Szymanek

Queens Basketball – Jessica Hennelly

Cross-Country - Esther Stuart

Curling – Andrew Jones

Kings Hockey – Shawn Germain

Queens Hockey – Crista Abbott

Kings Soccer – Steve Fullerton

Queens Soccer – Alex Leaist

Kings Volleyball – Dillon Gauci

Queens Volleyball – Alex Donaghy

Minor Officials Award

Kayla Parker-Harvey

Student Trainer Recognition

Walsh Memorial Kings Volleyball Student-Trainer Scholarship – Jillyn Haldorson

Red Deer Bottling Kings Pit Crew Award – Josiah Raju

Red Deer Bottling Queens Pit Crew Award – Karlee Abt



STRIDE Student-Trainer Scholarship – Megan Hillman

Tim Hamilton Student-Trainer Queen Award – Kayci Diamond

Tim Hamilton Queens Hockey Student Trainer – Janelle Agot

Red Deer Bottling Student Trainer Award – Halle Reid

Red Deer Bottling Student Trainer Award – Karlee Kenschuh

Red Deer Bottling/Truant Family Student Trainer Award – Ethan West

The 2023/2024 ACAC season will kick off at the beginning of September with soccer and cross-country so stay tuned to the RDP Athletics [website](#) for information about the schedule and other athletics news.

-30-

About Red Deer Polytechnic Athletics: Red Deer Polytechnic has a historic athletics tradition. The Polytechnic Athletic teams and individual student-athletes have won 25 Canadian Collegiate Athletic Association (CCAA) National gold medals, 182 Alberta Colleges Athletic Conference (ACAC) team, and individual titles. The student-athletes and coaches have received numerous individual honours, both for academic and sporting achievement. This year, Red Deer Polytechnic has more than 170 student-athletes competing in seven sports on 15 teams.

For more information on RDP Athletics, please visit: rdpolytechathletics.ca | [twitter](#) | [facebook](#) | [instagram](#)

About Red Deer Polytechnic: Focused on advancing the economic and social priorities of Alberta, Red Deer Polytechnic (RDP) provides more than 80 industry-relevant programs within a breadth of credentials to approximately 6,300 credit and apprenticeship students and 3,400+ learners with Extended Education programming. With modern teaching and learning spaces, and state-of-the-art research and innovation centres in advanced manufacturing and energy innovation, the Polytechnic provides applied research opportunities, leadership in the social, economic and cultural development of Alberta, and myriad lifelong learning opportunities.

Red Deer Polytechnic's main campus is located on Treaty 7, Treaty 6 and Métis ancestral lands. This is where we will strive to honour and transform our relationships with one another.

For more information, please visit: rdpolytech.ca | [twitter](#) | [facebook](#) | [instagram](#)

For media inquiries, contact:

[Seth Slomp](#)

Communications Strategist – Athletics
Red Deer Polytechnic