

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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NEWS RELEASE

PNE AWARDS MIRACLE MILE BURSARY WINNER FEBRUARY 2006

VANCOUVER, B.C. - Abbotsford track athlete **Joel Primus** has been awarded the February 2006 Pacific National Exhibition's (PNE) **Miracle Mile Athlete Bursary**.

Joel was selected because he is an outstanding athlete and an ambassador for his sport, his community and Canada. He has been training with Abbotsford's Valley Royals Track and Field Club for the past 6 years.

Joel's accomplishments as an athlete are significant. He has won eight club provincial championships, his most recent the BC Junior (under 20) cross-country title. In High school, Joel was the first athlete in 35 years to win the 1500m and 3000m double two years in a row. He has been to the World Youth Championships (17 and under) where he represented Canada in the 1500m. Since that time he has maintained a position as one of the top 3-5 Canadians in his age category. A highlight of his 2005 summer track season was defending his 1500m provincial track title and at the age of 19, making the finals of the Canada Summer Games (23 and under) in the 1500m.



"We are very pleased to be able to support an athlete that has shown this kind of dedication to his sport, his community and his country," says Michael McDaniel, President and CEO of the Pacific National Exhibition.

Although Joel maintains a very busy training schedule, he still finds time to give back to the sport that has offered him so many opportunities both on and off the track. Joel sits on the Board of Directors and is athlete representative/liason for Pacific Sport. He works to bring new facilities and funds to communities and athletes in the lower mainland. Joel volunteers over 100 hours a year to his local club, Abbotsford's Valley Royals.

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He also spent close to a year and a half on the Vancouver 2010 winter Olympic committee as a youth ambassador for the games. He is extremely proud of his country and plans to continue to be involved in the games in the years to come. Joel's long-term goals include representing Canada at the 2012 Olympics in London, being a Pan Am and Commonwealth Games medalist in the 5000m and placing in the top 10 at a World Cross Country Championship.

For more information on the PNE Miracle Mile Bursary visit www.pne.ca or call 604-251-7708.

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Owned by the City of Vancouver, the Pacific National Exhibition (PNE) is a healthy and vibrant non-profit charity organization dedicated to providing over 3 million visitors a year with first-class cultural, sporting and family entertainment events. Founded in 1910, the PNE operates from a 114-acre site at Hastings Park, a multi-facility venue in Vancouver where the organization operates four business streams: an annual 17-day Fair, Playland Amusement Park, maintenance and care of the Hasting Park site and management of the site's year-round facilities. These facilities are utilized to celebrate a variety of hockey, amateur sporting, music, community, social, cultural and commercial events throughout the year.

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