



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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NEWS RELEASE

PNE AWARDS FEBRUARY 2007 MIRACLE MILE BURSARY TO COQUITLAM WATERPOLO ATHLETE

VANCOUVER, B.C. – The Pacific National Exhibition's February 2007 Miracle Mile Athlete Bursary has been awarded to 15-year-old Hayley Wade, a gifted waterpolo athlete from Coquitlam.

Originally a competitive diver, Hayley discovered waterpolo pretty much by accident. After taking part in a beginner game through her aquatic club, Hayley took to the sport like a fish to water – no pun intended. Since that discovery in 2001 Hayley hasn't looked back and continues to add to her long list of achievements in the sport. That list includes being selected as captain of her National Waterpolo Championship team, being the youngest player in the 18 and under National Team Program and being one of only 15 players from around the province to be selected to attend a training camp at Stanford University held last February.

If there was ever a question about Hayley's dedication to her sport, you only have to look at her training schedule to determine just how committed she is. With a combination of dryland and pool training taking up to three hours, five days a week, it is a wonder how school figures into the equation at all. However, Hayley, a grade ten student at Port Moody Secondary School, manages to find balance between sport and academics. Until very recently, Hayley has served on her school's governmental body and has acted as her school's district representative.

"Hayley has really developed into a well rounded, mature athlete," says Jeffrey Lindell, Youth National Team Coach for Water Polo Canada. "Punctuality, determination, goal setting and selflessness are all important skills developed through elite level water polo. At her young age Hayley is really showing great development in all of those skills and her future looks bright."

Goal setting is something that Hayley seems to have down to a fine art. At 15 she already has her sights set on coaching as well as mentoring young water polo players as she advances through the sport.

"We are so pleased to award Hayley Wade the February 2007 Miracle Mile Athlete Bursary," says Michael McDaniel, President and CEO of the Pacific National Exhibition. "She is an outstanding leader in the sports community and a well rounded individual who understands the value of hard work and dedication. She truly is an outstanding role model for all young women in the sports community."

For more information on the PNE's 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 activity 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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