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August 18, 2025

Team Alberta Rewrites History in First Week of 2025 Canada Summer Games

Team Alberta Men's Soccer player, Jaxon Marchant, honoured with Pat Lechelt Award

ST. JOHN'S, NFLD. – Team Alberta rewrote the record books during the first week of competition at the 2025 Canada Summer Games in St. John's Newfoundland and Labrador.

Team Alberta celebrated two historic first-ever podium finishes with **Kiira Saarenoja** (Langdon) earning Alberta's first medal in the Women's C-1 500m Canoe Kayak, capturing silver, while Women's Rugby Sevens secured bronze – their first medal in Canada Games history. Team Alberta Men's Basketball stamped their names in history by winning the program's first-ever gold medal, following the Women's team's successful defense of their 2022 title – marking the first time Alberta has earned doubled gold in Basketball at the Canada Summer Games.

Beyond competition, Alberta's athletes embodied the spirit and values of the Games. Team Alberta Men's Soccer player, Jaxon Marchant (Calgary) was awarded the prestigious Pat Lechelt Award, an award near and dear to the hearts of Team Alberta.

"I was so surprised to win this award and just honoured," said Marchant. "It really is special to me because I came into the Games wanting to represent the core values of Alberta – we represent our culture and we treat everyone around us with the utmost respect, so I just came into the Games wanting to embody all those things."

Pat Lechelt was part of Team Alberta's Mission Staff for every Canada Games between 1989 and 2019, serving primarily as Chef de Mission or Assistant Chef de Mission.

In 2020, Alberta and the Canada Games family lost Pat and in honour of her contributions to the Games and the values she embodied, the Canada Games Council awards the Pat Lechelt Award to an athlete each week of the Games that on and off the field of play exemplifies the principles of Go For It, Play Fair, Respect Others, Keep It Fun, Stay Healthy, Include Everyone, and Give Back.

"I have to say that it could have went to anyone on our team, not just me," said Marchant. "Everyone making time to get to know the kids, signing autographs and trading pins with them. People were respectful cleaning up their dishes at the dining hall and I think I just got noticed, maybe cause I'm tall. Everyone was excellent this week and the coaches and mission staff has every right to be proud of Alberta soccer this week."

Throughout his time at the Games, Marchant had shown what leadership looked like. Becoming a role model for his teammates, arriving first, putting others ahead of himself, and building connections with everyone around him. Whether it was taking time after games to engage with young soccer players or building team spirit in the dining hall, he consistently demonstrated the values of respect and inclusivity.

“As a passionate supporter of Team Alberta and the Canada Games, Pat would be thrilled to see Jaxon’s actions and character exemplify the spirit of the Games and make our province proud,” said Cam Berwald, Alberta’s Chef de Mission.

Marchant’s recognition marked the first time an Albertan has received the Pat Lechelt Award.

“Presenting the Pat Lechelt award to Jaxon was such a meaningful moment, Jaxon embodied the values and spirit of the Games as Pat did,” said Michelle Deering, Assistant Chef de Mission for Team Alberta. “To know that this week’s award is coming home to Alberta is special and a reflection of how Pat’s legacy continues to live on in our athletes.”

The news of Marchant’s award provided a positive end to the Alberta Men’s Soccer Team’s week, following a heartbreaking Gold Medal Final, in which the team walked away with silver after 30 minutes of extra time and a penalty kicks.

In total, Team Alberta has accumulated 41 medals, nine gold, 18 silver and 14 bronze and looks to build on that momentum with a new slate of events beginning Monday, August 18, with the Canada Summer Games debut of Women’s Baseball.

Other sports featured in Week 2 of competition include: Artistic Swimming, Athletics, Men’s Box Lacrosse, Cycling - Mountain Biking, Diving, Golf, Women’s Soccer, Men’s Softball, Men’s and Women’s Volleyball and Wrestling.

ABOUT THE 2025 CANADA SUMMER GAMES

From August 8-25, 2025, the Canada Games will bring together over 5,000 athletes, managers, and coaches (over 500 from Alberta), across 19 different sports for the largest multi-sport event in the country. The Canada Games showcase the best of the best in sport and highlight the immense talents of our youth. The Games create a spirit of unity that spans each province and territory. For further information, visit albertasport.ca, or follow Team Alberta on Facebook and Instagram (@goteamab).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION:

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