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NOVA SCOTIA SPORT HALL OF FAME ANNOUNCES INDUCTEE CLASS OF 2026

The Nova Scotia Sport Hall of Fame is pleased to announce its 2026 inductee class. Three athletes, two teams and two builders will be celebrated for their outstanding contributions to Nova Scotia sport.

Paralympic excellence, Special Olympics dominance, professional hockey grit, and national championship teams headline this year's class, while two visionary builders who helped shape sport in Nova Scotia will also be honoured.

The athletes who will be enshrined are Paralympic alpine skiing standout Rodney Hersey, Special Olympics figure skating champion Julie Lynn Stanhope, and professional hockey player Dennis Bonvie. The teams include the 2001 Saint Mary's University Men's Football Team and the 2003 Halifax Athens Women's Soccer Team. In the builder category, long-time gymnastics leader Jacqueline Nicholl (posthumous induction) and sport administrator and canoe/kayak pioneer Scott Logan will be inducted.

Induction Night 2026 Presented by Support4Sport will take place on Saturday, November 7 at 7:00pm at the Lighthouse Arts Centre in Halifax. We are grateful to have Support4Sport return as the title sponsor.

For the 27th consecutive year, the ceremony will be hosted by Hall of Fame CEO and CBC broadcaster Bruce Rainnie, and, thanks to a continuing partnership with Eastlink Community TV, the ceremony will once again be broadcast live.

Tickets are available for purchase online through Eventbrite and nsshf.com — $50 for adults, $20 for students, and children 12 and under are free.

Here is a closer look at the Nova Scotia sport heroes who comprise the class of 2026:

Athletes/Teams

Rodney Hersey, Multi-Sport, Halifax:
A trailblazer in Paralympic sport, Rodney Hersey is a 2-time World Championship gold medalist and world record holder in track and field, and a 3-time Paralympic silver medalist and 3-time World silver medalist in alpine skiing. Hersey represented Canada internationally for years, redefining what was possible for visually impaired athletes.

Julie Lynn Stanhope, Figure Skating, Halifax:
One of the most decorated athletes in Special Olympics figure skating, Julie Lynn Stanhope is a 4-time Special Olympics World Games gold medalist, along with silver and bronze medal

performances. A 5-time national champion and 1989 Sport Nova Scotia Female Athlete of the Year, Stanhope's career stands as a model of excellence, resilience, and inspiration.

Dennis Bonvie, Hockey, Antigonish:
A fierce competitor and one of professional hockey's most respected enforcers, Dennis Bonvie enjoyed a 15-year pro career, including 92 NHL games, and remains pro hockey's all-time leader in penalty minutes (4,804). A member of the American Hockey League Hall of Fame, Bonvie is also a three-time Stanley Cup winner and long-time community supporter through the Bonvie-MacDonald "Rinks to Links" charity initiative. He currently serves as Assistant General Manager and Director of Player Personnel for the Boston Bruins.

2001 Saint Mary's University Men's Football Team:
Widely regarded as one of the greatest university football teams in Canadian history, the 2001 Huskies compiled a perfect 11-0 record and captured the Vanier Cup with a dominant 42-16 victory over Manitoba. The team averaged 55 points per game while allowing just six, and featured 19 AUS all-stars and 9 All-Canadians.

Team Members: Sean Ahronson, Mohammed Al-Shaghay, Nick Ancona, Paul Archer, Denis Arruda, Joe Arsenault, Joe Barbati, Domenico Bartolacci, Chris Breckenridge, Trefton Bollers, Joseph Bonaventura, Doug Borden, Stephen Brothers, David Chapman, Jonathan Chaters, Rocco Cicciarella, Sebastian Clovis, Byron Conroy, Jay Currie, Mathieu Demers, Matt Elliott, Ian Ferguson, Paul Fleming, Matt Fox, Joe Fulton, Eric-Olivier Hakim, Julien Hakim, Gabe Harvey, Pierre Paul Huet, Troy Hutt, Dean Jones, Ryan Jones, Ryan Kaehn, Alex Kyriacopulos, Josh Labucki, Alex Lubin, Stephane Lubin, Atnas Maeko, Steven Marques, Nathan McHugh, Michael McPherson, David Metlej, Jeff Moodie, Kyl Morrison, Steve Morley, Leslie Mullings, Norman Nahas, Chuck Najm, Curtis Nash, Bruce Nelson, Marcus Noel, Erik Nowak, Colin Oldrieve, Alex Panagopoulos, Steve Panella, Ryan Pedley, Luis Perez, Matthew Peters, Philippe Roberge, Bill Robinson, John Rozier, John Salmas, Ryan Scanlan, Kris Sembalerus, Cartier Shields, Christian Simmerling, Justin Skinner, Dave Stala, Daniel Steeves, Jean-Michel Sylvain, Elie Tannous, Jason Terris, Patrick Thibeault, Olaf Tomiuk, Travis Tyler, Derek Watson, Jordan West, Colin White, head coach Blake Nill, assistant coaches Scott Annand, Gordon Beattie, Colin Bush, Pierre Lefebvre, Ted MacLean, John McGowan, Dan Palov, Steve Sarty, Larry Stewart, Steve Sumarah, and Andrew Williams, managers John Landry and Paul Mason, hydration specialists Mike Bridges and Sammy Wood, athletic therapist Lisa MacDonald

2003 Halifax Athens Women's Soccer Team:
The 2003 Halifax Athens made history as the first Nova Scotia women's soccer team to win a senior national championship, capturing gold at the Canadian Senior Soccer Championships. Their dramatic victory over Quebec in the final marked a breakthrough moment for women's soccer in the province and inspired generations of players to follow.

Team Members: Melanie Boyd, Belinda Campbell, Melanie Clarke, Amber Coldwell, Elizabeth Cook, Laura Diamond, Michelle (Chouinard) Ferguson, Andrea Foreman (Thompson), Sandra Fraser, Marieke Gardner, Andrea "Andi" Gillepsie, Chrissie Henderson, Claire Martin (Horne), Leanne Huck, Nadia Ibrahim, Sarah Kozey Keadle, Zoë (Dyer) Mitchell, Katie Radchuk, Marie

Rasmussen, coaches Graham H. Chandler and Bob Rumscheidt, manager Angelo Cianfaglione, trainer Mara Chaplin, and president Evangelos Panopalis

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Builders

Jacqueline Nicholl (deceased), Gymnastics, Halifax:
For over 55 years, Jacqueline Nicholl was a cornerstone of gymnastics in Nova Scotia as a coach, educator, and official. She founded the Halifax City Gymnastics Club in 1969 and operated it for more than three decades, while also serving as a respected national-level judge from 1967 to 2022. A recipient of the Gymnastics Nova Scotia Lifetime Achievement Award and a member of its Hall of Fame, Nicholl's legacy is woven into the fabric of the sport across the province.

Scott Logan, Multi-Sport, Waverley:
A visionary leader in Canadian sport, Scott Logan served as CEO of Sport Nova Scotia from 1996 to 2003, where he launched transformative initiatives including the Nova Scotia Amateur Sport Fund and Sport Makes a Difference. A former National Development Coach and High Performance Director with Canoe/Kayak Canada, Logan's influence has been felt at every level of sport, from grassroots participation to Olympic performance.

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