



# **GANGWON 2024 - TEAM CANADA ATHLETE BIOS**

**ALPINE SKIING**

**BIATHLON**

**BOBSLEIGH**

**CROSS-COUNTRY SKIING**

**CURLING**

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**SKI CROSS**

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**SNOWBOARD**



## ALPINE SKIING



### THOMAS CARNAHAN

<b>SPORT:</b> Alpine Skiing	<b>HOMETOWN:</b> Ottawa	<b>BIRTHDATE:</b> August 3, 2006
<b>EVENT:</b>	<b>HOME PROVINCE:</b> Ontario	<b>AGE AT GAMES:</b> 17

Thomas is the 2022 U16 slalom national champion. In his first year as an FIS athlete, his final ranking was first in North America and eighth in the world in giant slalom. In December 2023, he won a gold medal in slalom at an FIS event in Val St-Come.

Thomas began skiing at age three because both his parents were avid skiers, and started competing at age six. When he was living in France, he joined the École de Ski Français and had the opportunity to ski in the French Alps all the time. He raced his first giant slalom race in Avoriaz when he was eight years old. Although as a kid, Thomas preferred hockey, the experience of big mountain skiing at such a young age and backcountry skiing in Morzine with family drew him further into skiing. When Thomas and his family moved back to Canada, he decided to focus on ski racing, although he still misses playing hockey. Thomas has shared that having the opportunity to wear a Team Canada ski racing suit would be a huge honour. Thomas's main inspiration and role models in skiing are the Crazy Canucks and Canadian Cowboys and he hopes to be just like them.

**A little more about Thomas:** Has lived in Switzerland, France and Malaysia... Has played hockey in



Malaysia... Tore achilles tendon playing soccer... Also looks up to ski racers Marcel Hirscher and Hermann Maier, as well as friend and coach Julien Cousineau and Doug Williams... Enjoys photography, drawing, guitar, soccer, lacrosse and mountain biking... Volunteers with the Special Olympic Competitive Paddle Program at the Ottawa River Canoe Club...

## ELSA FELICIELLO

<b>SPORT:</b> Alpine Skiing	<b>HOMETOWN:</b> Piedmont	<b>BIRTHDATE:</b> August 14, 2006
<b>EVENT:</b>	<b>HOME PROVINCE:</b> Quebec	<b>AGE AT GAMES:</b> 17

Elsa Feliciello has raced both slalom and giant slalom in numerous Nor-Am Cups and FIS events throughout Canada. In 2023, she earned two fourth-place finishes at FIS events in both Owl's Head, Quebec and Mont Garceau. The season prior, she had a fantastic few days in December of 2022 at the Mont Edouard FIS event where she earned two second-place and two first-place finishes. At Alpine Canada's U16 National Championships in 2023, Elsa won bronze in Giant Slalom and the Skills Combine event.

Elsa has shared that although competing at her first Nor-Am Cup was intimidating to race against World Cup skiers, managing to score the best slalom points she's ever scored and to finish 13th is her most proud sporting achievement to date. Seeing her Team Quebec teammate, Sarah Bennett, make the national team, and understanding that it isn't impossible for her to achieve that, was the moment that sparked Elsa's dream of one day making the national team as well.

**A little more about Elsa:** Began skiing at age two and began competing at age six... Is bilingual... Is inspired by the entire women's national ski team, and says their energy and support at every event is unmatched... Likes to go biking, train-running and lift weights in the off-season... Wants to pursue a career in dentistry.

## AIDA DRAGHIA

<b>SPORT:</b> Alpine Skiing	<b>HOMETOWN:</b> Châteauguay	<b>BIRTHDATE:</b> February 5, 2006
<b>EVENT:</b>	<b>HOME PROVINCE:</b> Quebec	<b>AGE AT GAMES:</b> 17

Aida, who represents the Mont Blanc club in Quebec, is the second-ranked U18 in Canada in slalom FIS points, and first-ranked in giant slalom FIS points. Aida is the niece of Bogdan Mihailescu, a Romanian Olympian who competed at Munich 1972 in water polo.

Aida had to overcome the tragic passing of her coach in September 2022. She has shared that it was very



difficult for her, as her coach had been like family, but she is proud to have stayed the course and to have qualified for the Youth Olympic Games. Aida loves skiing because of the speed but also because of the great life experiences it provides, such as making friends throughout the world. Aida shares that she thinks skiing is the perfect sport for her because she loves having to continuously adapt to the conditions, temperatures, different runs and different mountains.

**A little more about Aida:** Started skiing at age 4 to have fun with her family outside together on weekends... Began ski racing after a suggestion from a family friend... Has two younger sisters... Mother is Canadian and father was a Romanian immigrant... Likes to read, do kitesurfing and waterskiing, and does crochet... Would like to attend veterinary school... Always travels with a snoopy figurine that she crocheted... Likes to collect fridge magnets from her world travels.

## BIATHLON



### JULIA BARTLETT

<b>SPORT:</b> Biathlon	<b>HOMETOWN:</b> Calgary	<b>BIRTHDATE:</b> September 19, 2006
<b>EVENT:</b>	<b>HOME PROVINCE:</b> Alberta	<b>AGE AT GAMES:</b> 17





Julia Bartlett placed second in the sprint and first in the pursuit portions at Biathlon Canada's Youth Olympic Games Trials event in November 2023 in Canmore, qualifying her for Team Canada's Gangwon 2024 biathlon team.

Julia will make her international racing debut at Gangwon 2024. A member of Biathlon Canada's National Youth/Junior Team, Julia competed at the 2023 Canada Winter Games in Prince Edward Island, where she won the gold medal in women's 6km sprint and the silver medal in women's 7.5km pursuit. She also made the final in the women's 10km individual.

**A bit more about Julia:** Has been competing in biathlon for 5 years... Her personal role model is her mother... Competed in track and field before wanting to switch to a winter sport and discovering biathlon.

## FLORA CSONKA

<b>SPORT:</b> Biathlon	<b>HOMETOWN:</b> Calgary	<b>BIRTHDATE:</b> August 8, 2007
<b>EVENT:</b>	<b>HOME PROVINCE:</b> Alberta	<b>AGE AT GAMES:</b> 16

Flora Csonka placed third in both the sprint and pursuit portions at Biathlon Canada's Youth Olympic Games Trials event in November 2023 in Canmore, qualifying her for Team Canada's Gangwon 2024 biathlon team.

A member of Biathlon Canada's National Youth/Junior Team, Flora is the only athlete on the Gangwon 2024 team with previous international racing experience. She competed in the Junior IBU Cup in Haanja, Estonia and Madona, Latvia in February 2023. In March of 2023 at the Canadian & North American Biathlon Championships, Flora finished third in the senior girls pursuit race, and second in the senior girls sprint race, both races in a field of 38 competitors.

**A bit more about Flora:** Began cross-country skiing at 18 months... Older brother Soma also competed in biathlon... Has a part-time job in a restaurant... Is superstitious about having good pre-race music.

## DAWSON FERGUSON

<b>SPORT:</b> Biathlon	<b>HOMETOWN:</b> Camrose	<b>BIRTHDATE:</b> December 21, 2006
<b>EVENT:</b>	<b>HOME PROVINCE:</b> Alberta	<b>AGE AT GAMES:</b> 17

Dawson Fergus placed second in the pursuit and fourth in the sprint portion of Biathlon Canada's Youth Olympic Games Trials event in November 2023 in Canmore, qualifying him for Team Canada's Gangwon 2024 biathlon team. After the Trials, Dawson was selected to attend Biathlon Canada's National Team camp. Dawson won bronze in the senior boys sprint at the 2023 Canadian & North American Biathlon



Championships, placing just below Gangwon 2024 teammate Luke Hulshof, and just above Justin Konoff, another Gangwon 2024 teammate.

Dawson also competed at the 2020 Alberta Winter Games, where he won a gold medal in the mass start, a silver medal in the sprint and a bronze in the individual, all in the Dev 1 boys division. At those Alberta Winter Games, Gangwon 2024 teammates Julia Bartlett and Flora Csonka also won medals.

## LUKE HULSHOF

<b>SPORT:</b> Biathlon	<b>HOMETOWN:</b> Calgary	<b>BIRTHDATE:</b> September 6, 2006
<b>EVENT:</b>	<b>HOME PROVINCE:</b> Alberta	<b>AGE AT GAMES:</b> 17

Luke Hulshof won both the sprint and pursuit portions of Biathlon Canada's Youth Olympic Games Trials event in November 2023 in Canmore, qualifying him as the top-ranked male for Team Canada's Gangwon 2024 biathlon team. At the 2023 Canadian & North American Biathlon Championships, Luke placed second in both the senior boys sprint and pursuit races, and won the senior boys mass start. His combined results earned him the overall aggregate award, which he cites as the sporting achievement he's currently most proud of, aside from qualifying for the Youth Olympic Games. Luke participated in the 2020 Alberta Winter Games, where he won a bronze medal in the Dev 2 boys mass start.

**A little more about Luke:** Began skiing at age four, and started competing in biathlon at age ten... Older sister is Alexandra Hulshof, a member of Biathlon Canada's National Development Team... Enjoys mountain biking with his friends in the off-season... His favourite race-day meal is oatmeal.

## JUSTIN KONOFF

<b>SPORT:</b> Biathlon	<b>HOMETOWN:</b> Calgary	<b>BIRTHDATE:</b> September 15, 2007
<b>EVENT:</b>	<b>HOME PROVINCE:</b> Alberta	<b>AGE AT GAMES:</b> 16

Justin Konoff placed third in the pursuit and seventh in the sprint portion of Biathlon Canada's Youth Olympic Games Trials event in November 2023 in Canmore, qualifying him for Team Canada's Gangwon 2024 biathlon team. At the 2023 Canadian & North American Biathlon Championships in March, Justin won gold in the senior boys pursuit, and teamed up with Gangwon 2024 teammate Flora Csonka to win gold in the senior girls/boys single mixed relay. Gangwon 2024 will mark Justin's international race debut.

**A bit more about Justin:** Started cross-country skiing at age 4 and began competing in biathlon at age 11... Watching the Olympics on tv as a kid sparked his dream... Coaches cross-country skiing... Competes in



middle distance track & field.

## CHEYENNE TIRSCHMANN

<b>SPORT: Biathlon</b>	<b>HOMETOWN: Whitehorse</b>	<b>BIRTHDATE: November 7, 2007</b>
<b>EVENT:</b>	<b>HOME PROVINCE: Yukon</b>	<b>AGE AT GAMES: 16</b>

Cheyenne Tirschmann won the sprint portion and placed second in the pursuit portion at Biathlon Canada's Youth Olympic Games Trials event in November 2023 in Canmore, qualifying her for Team Canada's Gangwon 2024 biathlon team.

Although Cheyenne will make her international racing debut at Gangwon 2024, she has competed in three multi-sport Games already. At the 2023 Canada Winter Games in Prince Edward Island, Cheyenne competed in both biathlon and cross-country skiing. She won a bronze medal with partner Cole Germain in the single mixed relay in biathlon, which was the Yukon's first medal of the 2023 Games. Cheyenne also competed at the 2023 Arctic Winter Games in cross-country skiing, and won the silver medal in the women's 5km free and the gold medal in the women's mass start classic. In 2022, a 14-year-old Cheyenne competed at the Canada Summer Games in Niagara, where she raced the women's 1500m, 5000m and the 4x400m in athletics.

**A bit more about Cheyenne:** Looks to American cross-country skier Jessie Diggins as a role model... Is the only Team Canada biathlete at Gangwon 2024 from outside of Alberta... Is one of two Team Canada athletes at Gangwon 2024 from Yukon.



## BOBSLEIGH



### TALIA MELUN

<b>SPORT:</b> Bobsleigh	<b>HOMETOWN:</b> Whistler	<b>BIRTHDATE:</b> April 10, 2008
<b>EVENT:</b> Women's monobob	<b>HOME PROVINCE:</b> British Columbia	<b>AGE AT GAMES:</b> 15

Talia Melun competed in four OMEGA IBSF Youth Race series competitions in order to qualify for the Youth Olympic Games. She competed in two events in PyeongChang, on the same track she will slide on at Gangwon 2024, as well as an event in Lake Placid and an event in Lillehammer. Talia's best result on the series was a fourth-place finish that she earned in PyeongChang on the final event of the series. She began her journey to qualify for Gangwon 2024 as a 14-year-old, and was the youngest of the Canadian contingent who was attempting to qualify.

Talia grew up in Whistler and was introduced to bobsleigh because her father works at the Whistler Sliding Center. She has shared that growing up with the world-class facility in her backyard, the support of her dad and the close community at the Whistler Sliding Center, as well as the support from coach and four-time Olympian Christopher Spring has allowed her to reach this goal. Talia is also grateful for the support of her Gangwon 2024 teammate Isaak Ulmer, and has shared that he is a 'perfect' teammate and has been great to compete alongside.



**A little more about Talia:** Has an older brother, Noah, who also used to compete in bobsleigh... According to Gangwon 2024 teammate Isaak Ulmer, Talia is a very calm driver and doesn't stress 'about anything'.

## ISAAK ULMER

<b>SPORT: Bobsleigh</b>	<b>HOMETOWN: Calgary</b>	<b>BIRTHDATE: June 25, 2006</b>
<b>EVENT: Men's monobob</b>	<b>HOME PROVINCE: Alberta</b>	<b>AGE AT GAMES: 17</b>

Isaak Ulmer competed in four OMEGA IBSF Youth Race series competitions in order to qualify for the Youth Olympic Games. He competed in two events in PyeongChang, on the same track he will slide on at Gangwon 2024, as well as an event in Lake Placid and an event in Lillehammer. Isaak's best finish on the series was a fourth-place at the Lake Placid stop, which he cites as his bobsleigh achievement that he's most proud of to date, outside of qualifying for Gangwon 2024.

Isaak was introduced to bobsleigh in 2021 when he enrolled in a High Performance Athlete Development course at his school and did a learn-to-push session. Isaak did his first run in 2022 during an Alberta Bobsleigh trip, and has shared that it was 'probably the scariest and most confusing moment' of his life. He almost didn't want to do a second run, but he worked up the courage and had so much fun during his second run, that he was hooked on the sport of bobsleigh. What intrigues Isaak most is the speed and how much fun it is. Isaak also likes cold weather, and the community that bobsleigh has created for him.

Isaak has shared that the support that his coach and four-time Olympian Christopher Spring provides him has helped him overcome many challenges. Isaak says that coach Christopher cheers him up and makes sure that he's okay when he's having a rough day, and that he's great at explaining things in different ways. Isaak and coach Christopher were 2023 Petro-Canada FACE program recipients.

**A little more about Isaak:** Isaak's dad, Lyndon, also spent time sliding in Calgary before it closed... Plays soccer in the summer... Loves to spend time fishing in the Bow river and riding his moped around Calgary... Wants to become a heavy duty mechanic when he's older... Likes to collect pins... Listens to four specific songs as he waits to go down the track - songs by Steve Earle, Hank Williams Jr, Van Halen and Pearl Jam.





## CROSS-COUNTRY SKIING



### ARAMINTHA 'MINTY' BRADFORD

<b>SPORT:</b> Cross-Country Skiing	<b>HOMETOWN:</b> Whitehorse	<b>BIRTHDATE:</b> May 20, 2008
<b>EVENT:</b>	<b>HOME PROVINCE:</b> Yukon	<b>AGE AT GAMES:</b> 15

Aramintha 'Minty' Bradford crossed the finish line first in one of the races she competed at during Nordiq Canada's National Youth Olympic Games selection trials in Canmore, in order to qualify for Gangwon 2024 – the U18 girls 7.5km classic. Minty is affiliated with the Whitehorse Cross Country Ski Club, and is coached by Alain Masson.

She competed at the 2023 Canada Winter Games in Prince Edward Island last February as a 14-year old. Minty raced in the final of the women's 7.5km classic and the women's 10km free mass start. She also raced in the women's sprints and the mixed relay. Gangwon 2024 will mark Minty's first international event. She had also qualified for the 2020 Arctic Winter Games which were subsequently cancelled due to the pandemic.

**A little more about Minty:** Has been skiing since the age of 4... Began competing in cross-country skiing since age 6... Looks up to American Olympian Jessie Diggins, as well as fellow Whitehorse resident and Nordiq Canada National Team member Constance Lapointe... Has a younger brother.



## LEANNE GARTNER

<b>SPORT: Cross-Country Skiing</b>	<b>HOMETOWN: Canmore</b>	<b>BIRTHDATE: January 12, 2006</b>
<b>EVENT:</b>	<b>HOME PROVINCE: Alberta</b>	<b>AGE AT GAMES: 18</b>

Leanne Gartner was the top-ranked athlete in the sprint portion and the third-ranked athlete in the distance portion during Nordiq Canada's trials for Gangwon 2024. That combined result qualified her for the team. A member of Nordiq Alberta's provincial team, Leanne has been cross-country ski racing for 10 years, and will compete for the first time overseas at the Youth Olympic Games.

Last season, Leanne struggled with long-term effects of Covid-19, which made it very difficult to train and compete, and is proud of herself for fighting through and recovering to qualify for Gangwon 2024. Leanne looks to Sochi 2014 and PyeongChang 2018 Olympian Jesse Cockney as a role model, and has shared that he inspires her because of his love for not just competing, but also for his love of the sport as a whole. Leanne is coached by Stuart Harden - who competed in biathlon at the Youth Olympic Games and secured Canada's best-ever biathlon result at the YOG, a fourth-place at Innsbruck 2012.

**A little more about Leanne:** Began cross-country skiing at age 3 and started doing local races at age 8... Has one older sister, Alison Gartner, who also is a cross-country ski racer... Leanne also trained biathlon, but prefers cross-country skiing because she is not strong in shooting... In the summer, Leanne races and coaches Enduro mountain biking, which she explains is similar to downhill mountain biking but athletes pedal to the top of the race course before racing back down... Has been accepted into the Nursing program at University of Calgary... Leanne has shared that she strives for high academic achievement, and works hard to find balance between full commitment to school, skiing and her part-time jobs.

## CEDRIC MARTEL

<b>SPORT: Cross-Country Skiing</b>	<b>HOMETOWN: Thunder Bay</b>	<b>BIRTHDATE: March 15, 2006</b>
<b>EVENT:</b>	<b>HOME PROVINCE: Ontario</b>	<b>AGE AT GAMES: 17</b>

Cedric Martel was the third-ranked athlete in both portions of Nordiq Canada's selection trials for Gangwon 2024, which qualified him for the team. Cedric has raced in three FIS events, and Gangwon 2024 will be his first time racing overseas. A member of Ontario's Junior Ski Team, Cedric trains with the Lappe Nordic Ski Club in Thunder Bay, and got to race on home snow at the 2023 Nordiq Canada Cross-Country Ski Nationals. Cedric won the U18 boys sprint at the 2023 Canadian Eastern Championships. In July of 2023, Cedric had the opportunity to attend Nordiq Canada's Prospects East Camp in Mont Ste. Anne, Quebec.



## EAMON WILSON

<b>SPORT:</b> Cross-Country Skiing	<b>HOMETOWN:</b> Burnaby	<b>BIRTHDATE:</b> March 12, 2006
<b>EVENT:</b>	<b>HOME PROVINCE:</b> British Columbia	<b>AGE AT GAMES:</b> 17

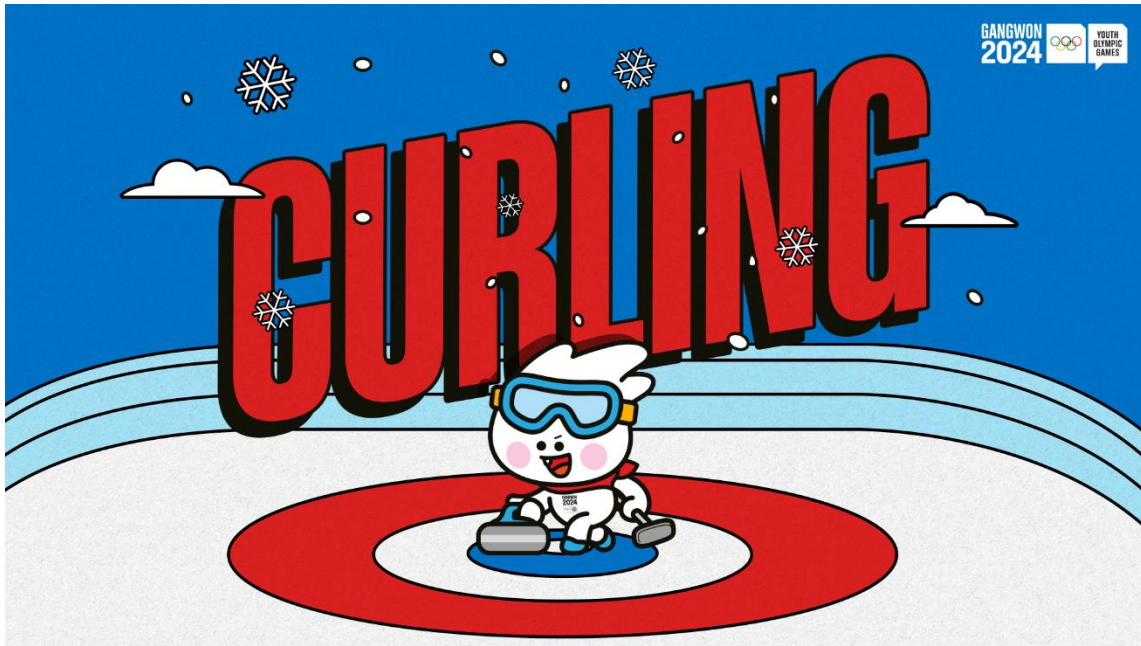
Eamon Wilson was fourth-ranked athlete in the sprint and second-ranked athlete in the distance portion of Nordiq Canada's selection trials for Gangwon 2024, which qualified him for the team. A member of Nordiq Canada's Development National Ski Team, Eamon has gained experience over the past year training with the best up and coming cross-country skiers from across Canada.

No stranger to the podium, he came away with a gold in the mixed relay and silver in the men's 15km free mass start race at the 2023 Canada Winter Games in Prince Edward Island. Eamon also placed fifth in the 10km classic, and sixth in the men's sprint. At the 2023 Nordiq Canada Cross-Country Ski Nationals, Eamon earned three podium finishes. He is the only member of Canada's Gangwon 2024 cross-country ski team who has raced internationally outside of Canada. In 2022, Eamon raced two stops of the US Super Tour series, and in 2023, he raced a junior event in Boden, Sweden, placing as high as 12th in the 15km free pursuit. At the 2022 Nordiq Canada Nationals, Eamon placed first in the U16 10km classic race.

**A little more about Eamon:** His personal role model is three-time Olympian Alex Harvey... Has been cross-country skiing for 10 years... Is a member of the Hollyburn Cross Country Ski Club.



## CURLING



### CHLOE FEDIUK

<b>SPORT:</b> Curling	<b>HOMETOWN:</b> Edmonton	<b>BIRTHDATE:</b> May 19, 2006
<b>EVENT:</b> Mixed Team	<b>HOME PROVINCE:</b> Alberta	<b>AGE AT GAMES:</b> 17

Chloe Fediuk recently won a silver medal with teammate Allie Iskiw, at the 2023 World Junior-B Curling Championships, qualifying Team Canada for the 2024 World Junior Curling Championships in Finland in February 2024. Chloe, who plays second on her junior women's team (Team Plett/Team Alberta), also won a silver medal at the 2023 Canada Winter Games in Prince Edward Island, and made history by being the first team to win gold at the Canadian Under-21 and Under-18 championships in the same season.

Chloe's most proud sporting achievement to date was winning those Under-21 Canadian Championships, which earned her team the right to represent Canada at the World Junior Championships. The 2023 World Junior-B Curling Championships were Chloe's first time competing internationally.

**A little more about Chloe:** Began curling at age 10, and didn't like it at first... Enjoys golfing, swimming and camping in the off-season... Wants to become an elementary school teacher when she's older... Has a superstition of listening to a specific song before each match... Mom is her personal role model... Favorite quote is, "It's nice to be important, but it's more important to be nice".



## OWAIN FISHER

<b>SPORT:</b> Curling	<b>HOMETOWN:</b> North River	<b>BIRTHDATE:</b> December 9, 2006
<b>EVENT:</b> Mixed Team	<b>HOME PROVINCE:</b> Nova Scotia	<b>AGE AT GAMES:</b> 17

Owain Fisher, playing second for his junior men's team, won gold for Team Nova Scotia at the 2023 Canada Winter Games in Prince Edward Island. His Gangwon 2024 teammate, Nathan Gray, was also part of the team. Fisher also played for Nova Scotia at Curling Canada's Under-21 and Under-18 Canadian Championships, winning a bronze at the U-18 event.

Owain, who looks at Olympic champion Brad Gushue as a role model, has shared that his sporting achievement that he's most proud of to date was winning gold at the 2023 Canada Winter Games. Owain has dreamt of competing for Team Canada and reaching the highest level possible since he started competing at age ten.

**A little more about Owain:** Began practicing curling at age eight... Was introduced to the sport through the junior program at the Truro Curling Club... At his first U20 provincial competition, Owain still had to wear a helmet on the ice... Enjoys biking, golfing and going to the beach in the off-season...

## NATHAN GRAY

<b>SPORT:</b> Curling	<b>HOMETOWN:</b> Dartmouth	<b>BIRTHDATE:</b> April 27, 2006
<b>EVENT:</b> Mixed Team	<b>HOME PROVINCE:</b> Nova Scotia	<b>AGE AT GAMES:</b> 17

Nathan Gray, playing third for his junior men's team, won gold for Team Nova Scotia at the 2023 Canada Winter Games in Prince Edward Island. His Gangwon 2024 teammate, Owain Fisher, was also part of the team. Gray also played for Nova Scotia at Curling Canada's Under-21 and Under-18 Canadian Championships, winning a bronze at the U-18 event.

Nathan has shared that being able to watch his role model John Morris and Team Canada win the bronze medal at the 2015 World Men's Curling Championships in his hometown was the moment that sparked his dream. Nathan later met Olympic champion John Morris at a tournament in Nova Scotia and appreciated how caring he was with the fans. Nathan was further inspired by John's instagram workouts that he would post during the pandemic, and Nathan continues to do the workouts to this day.

**A little more about Nathan:** Is related to Mary Fay who was part of Team Canada's curling team who won gold at the Lillehammer 2016 Winter Youth Olympic Games... Brother Justin also played competitively for years... Played in his first tournament in 2014... In grade 2, Nathan begged his teacher to let his class





watch the Sochi 2014 Olympic gold medal game. Eventually the teacher gave in and the class was able to watch... Races mountain bike and road bikes during the off-season... Collects pins from the places he travels to.

## ALLIE ISKIW

<b>SPORT: Curling</b>	<b>HOMETOWN: Edmonton</b>	<b>BIRTHDATE: November 24, 2006</b>
<b>EVENT: Mixed Team</b>	<b>HOME PROVINCE: Alberta</b>	<b>AGE AT GAMES: 17</b>

Allie Iskiw recently won a silver medal with teammate Chloe Fediuk, at the 2023 World Junior-B Curling Championships, qualifying Team Canada for the 2024 World Junior Curling Championships in Finland in February 2024. Allie, who plays lead on her junior women's team (Team Plett/Team Alberta), also won a silver medal at the 2023 Canada Winter Games in Prince Edward Island, and made history by being the first team to win gold at the Canadian Under-21 and Under-18 championships in the same season.

Daughter of Beth Iskiw, who as part of Team Nedohin won the 2012 Scotties Tournament of Hearts and competed as Team Canada at the 2012 World Curling Championships. Allie has shared that watching her mom compete at the Scotties and at Worlds sparked her dream. Her family ran the junior curling program at her local club, and she loved being able to be with her aunts, uncles and cousins while she curled, where they all support and cheer each other on. Allie loves curling because of the close bond she forms with her teams that she plays with. She has shared that she loves the social aspect of the sport, and the fact that she can continue to play it all her life.

**A little more about Allie:** Began curling in 2013 when she was seven years old, and started competing in 2017 with one of her best friends... Role model is Olympic champion Kaitlyn Lawes... Won a bronze medal at the Alberta Winter Games... Always wears a gold butterfly necklace when she's curling, and holds the necklace when she has to make an important shot.

## CAILEY LOCKE

<b>SPORT: Curling</b>	<b>HOMETOWN: Conception Bay South</b>	<b>BIRTHDATE: March 7, 2007</b>
<b>EVENT: Mixed Doubles</b>	<b>HOME PROVINCE: Newfoundland</b>	<b>AGE AT GAMES: 16</b>

Cailey Locke, who plays skip with her women's junior team, won the gold medal at both the 2020 and 2022 Newfoundland and Labrador Under-18 provincial tournaments, and competed at both the 2022 and 2023 Canadian Under-18 Championships as Team Newfoundland. Cailey also skipped Team Newfoundland at the 2023 Canada Winter Games in Prince Edward Island.



To qualify for the Gangwon 2024 Winter Youth Olympic Games, Cailey and partner Simon Perry had to fight their way back from being down 3-1 out of a best-of-seven series tournament which acted as the Curling Canada's trials for the Games. Cailey, who plays with daughter of two-time Olympic medallist Brad Gushue on her junior women's team in Newfoundland, shared that she's most excited about seeing her name above the Maple Leaf, and that it may be an emotional moment for her. Gangwon 2024 will mark Cailey's international curling debut.

**A little more about Cailey:** Got involved in curling through her older brother... Has curled since she was five years old... Looks to Brad Gushue as a role model, as well as Nathan Young, who won the gold medal at the Lausanne 2020 Winter Youth Olympic Games in the Mixed NOC Team.

## SIMON PERRY

<b>SPORT:</b> Curling	<b>HOMETOWN:</b> Portugal Cove	<b>BIRTHDATE:</b> May 8, 2006
<b>EVENT:</b> Mixed Doubles	<b>HOME PROVINCE:</b> Newfoundland	<b>AGE AT GAMES:</b> 17

Simon Perry, who plays skip with his junior men's team in Newfoundland and Labrador, competed at the 2023 Canadian U21 Men's Curling Championship, as a much younger athlete than many of his competitors. Simon also skipped Team Newfoundland at the 2023 Canadian U18 Men's Curling Championship, where he made it to the quarter-finals.

To qualify for the Gangwon 2024 Winter Youth Olympic Games, Simon and partner Cailey Locke had to fight their way back from being down 3-1 out of a best-of-seven series tournament which acted as the Curling Canada's trials for the Games. Simon has shared that when Nathan Young, a fellow curler from his club, was selected to compete and later won gold at the Lausanne 2020 Winter Youth Olympic Games, his dream was sparked and he too wanted to compete for Team Canada. A fellow Newfoundlander, Simon looks to two-time Olympic medallist Brad Gushue as inspiration.

**A little more about Simon:** Began curling at six years old... Curled in his first local tournament at age ten... Formed his first team in a school library over lunch hour with three of his classmates, never thinking it would lead to competing at national and international events... Loves the multidimensional aspect of curling, where you need to play a strong mental and strategic game as well as have strong physical stamina and ability... Plays piano, cello, guitar and bass guitar, as well as golf and soccer... Works as a part-time barista at the Newfoundland Chocolate Company.



## FIGURE SKATING



### ANNIKA BEHNKE

<b>SPORT:</b> Figure Skating	<b>HOMETOWN:</b> Peace River	<b>BIRTHDATE:</b> April 9, 2009
<b>EVENT:</b> Pairs	<b>HOME PROVINCE:</b> Alberta	<b>AGE AT GAMES:</b> 14

Annika Behnke and partner Kole Sauve placed seventh in junior pairs at the 2024 Skate Canada National Skating Championships, after winning bronze in novice pairs at the 2023 National Skating Championships. The pair also won bronze in junior pairs at the 2023 Skate Canada challenge. The pair team is part of Skate Canada's 2023-2024 NextGen team, and competed at their first ISU international competition at the 2023 Trophée Metropole in Nice, France where they placed seventh in the junior pair event.

Annika competed at the 2023 Canada Winter Games in Prince Edward Island, where she placed fourth in the women's pre-novice singles event. In 2022, Behnke and partner Sauve won the gold medal in novice pairs at the Alberta Sectional Championship.

**A little more about Annika:** Started skating at 18-months old because her mom coached figure skating and she loved to watch and be on the ice... Moved from small hometown of Peace River to Sherwood Park in order to train more competitively... Is the youngest member of Team Canada's Gangwon 2024 figure skating



team.

## MICHAEL BOUTSAN

<b>SPORT:</b> Figure Skating	<b>HOMETOWN:</b> Thornhill	<b>BIRTHDATE:</b> March 30, 2009
<b>EVENT:</b> Ice Dance	<b>HOME PROVINCE:</b> Ontario	<b>AGE AT GAMES:</b> 14

Michael Boutsan and partner Audra Gans placed 10th at the 2024 Skate Canada National Skating Championships, and 10th at the 2023 Skate Canada Challenge in the junior ice dance event. This season is their first season competing together as a team. Audra and Micheal teamed up in June 2023 and train at the renowned Ice Academy of Montreal, with coaches Benjamin Brisebois, Ariane Emard-Lauzon and Julien Lalonde.

Audra and Michael made their ISU Junior Grand Prix debut at the Solidarity Cup in Gdansk, Poland in September 2023. This season, Audra and Michael are using music composed by 3x Olympic medallist Eric Radford for their freedance.

**A little more about Michael:** Competed in men's singles before switching to ice dance... Lived and competed in the US in 2021 and 2022, with former ice dance partner Julia Gibson

## AUDRA GANS

<b>SPORT:</b> Figure Skating	<b>HOMETOWN:</b> Prévost	<b>BIRTHDATE:</b> June 6, 2008
<b>EVENT:</b> Ice Dance	<b>HOME PROVINCE:</b> Quebec	<b>AGE AT GAMES:</b> 15

Audra Gans and partner Michael Boutsan placed 10th at the 2024 Skate Canada National Skating Championships, and 10th at the 2023 Skate Canada Challenge in the junior dance event. This season is their first season competing together as a team. Audra and Michael teamed up in June 2023 and train at the renowned Ice Academy of Montreal, with coaches Benjamin Brisebois, Ariane Emard-Lauzon and Julien Lalonde.

Audra and Michael made their ISU Junior Grand Prix debut at the Solidarity Cup in Gdansk, Poland in September 2023. This season, Audra and Michael are using music composed by 3x Olympic medallist Eric Radford for their freedance.

**A little more about Audra:** Enjoys drawing, playing the flute and hip hop music... Started skating at 3 years old, wanting to follow her sister... Continues to look up to her older sister, who has inspired Audra to pursue ice dance and to live her best skating life... Competed with previous ice dance partner Cooper



Cornwell where they placed fourth in pre-novice ice dance at the 2023 Novice/Pre-Novice Skate Canada Challenge... Would like to work in environmental science in the future.

## CAROLINE KRAVETS

<b>SPORT: Figure Skating</b>	<b>HOMETOWN: Kitchener</b>	<b>BIRTHDATE: September 14, 2007</b>
<b>EVENT: Ice Dance</b>	<b>HOME PROVINCE: Ontario</b>	<b>AGE AT GAMES: 16</b>

Caroline Kravets and partner Jacob Stark placed 12<sup>th</sup> at the 2024 Skate Canada National Skating Championships in the junior ice dance event, after having placed sixth in novice ice dance in 2023. At their first Skate Canada Challenge at the junior level, they placed 13th. In September 2023, Caroline and Jacob made their ISU Junior Grand Prix debut at the ISU Junior Grand Prix Budapest, where they placed 12th.

Caroline and Jacob train at the Kitchener-Waterloo Skating Club, a club where Olympians Tessa Virtue and Scott Moir, Kirsten Moore-Towers and Dylan Moscovitch and Kaitlyn Weaver and Andrew Poje once trained. The team is coached by Paul MacIntosh and Tyler Morris.

**A little more about Caroline:** Enjoys going to the gym, hiking and baking... Is originally from Petersburg, Ontario... Began skating with partner Jacob about six years ago.

## DAVID LI

<b>SPORT: Figure Skating</b>	<b>HOMETOWN: Richmond</b>	<b>BIRTHDATE: April 10, 2007</b>
<b>EVENT: Men's Singles</b>	<b>HOME PROVINCE: British Columbia</b>	<b>AGE AT GAMES: 16</b>

David Li won the silver medal at the 2024 Skate Canada National Skating Championships in the junior men's event, after having placed fifth in 2023. At the 2023 Skate Canada Challenge, David placed seventh in junior men. David competed at two ISU Junior Grand Prix events this season, placing seventh in Armenia and eighth in Austria, and also won the silver medal in junior men at the 2023 Cranberry Cup in Boston. In 2022, David won the gold medal in novice men's at the Egna Spring Trophy in Italy.

David trains at the Connaught Skating Club in Richmond, B.C. with coaches Eileen and Keegan Murphy. He competed at the 2019 Canada Winter Games in Red Deer, Alberta at age 11, where he won the bronze medal in pre-novice men's singles. A recipient of the Canadian Olympic Foundation's Toller Cranston Award in 2022, David's ultimate dream is to represent Canada internationally and to compete at the Olympic Winter Games.





**A little more about David:** Enjoys mountain biking... Wanted to play hockey before finding his niche in figure skating, and is a fan of the Vancouver Canucks.

## KAIYA RUITER

<b>SPORT: Figure Skating</b>	<b>HOMETOWN: Calgary</b>	<b>BIRTHDATE: May 13, 2006</b>
<b>EVENT: Women's Singles</b>	<b>HOME PROVINCE: Alberta</b>	<b>AGE AT GAMES: 17</b>

Kaiya Ruitter is competing this week at the 2024 Skate Canada National Skating Championships in women's singles, after having won silver in 2023. Kaiya competed at the ISU Junior World Figure Skating Championships in her hometown of Calgary last season where she placed 10th and received multiple standing ovations. In September 2023, Kaiya won the silver medal at the 2023 Autumn Classic International - an ISU Challenger's Series event - and stood on the podium alongside reigning world champion Kaori Sakamoto - who Kaiya has said she looks up to as a role model.

Kaiya is a member of Skate Canada's 2023-2024 National Team and competed at Skate Canada International earlier this season. In 2021, Kaiya won two medals on the ISU Junior Grand Prix circuit. Kaiya was the 2020 Junior National Champion and the 2019 Novice National Champion. Kaiya also competed at the 2019 Canada Winter Games in Red Deer where she won the gold medal in Novice Women's Singles. Kaiya is coached by Lillehammer 1994 Olympian, Scott Davis.

**A little more about Kaiya:** Learned to skate on Ottawa's Rideau Canal with her two sisters when she was four years old, where her family would have races, make up routines and stay out there for hours... Loves figure skating for its "powerful combination of athleticism and artistry"... Endured a major injury in 2021 when her skate blade cut through her calf muscles, causing nerve damage... Is now grateful everyday that she has recovered and gets to do her passion... Has dreamt of wearing the Maple Leaf for as long as she can remember, and feels immense pride when she represents Canada... Looks up to Olympic medallist Kaetlyn Osmond... Outside of skating, she enjoys walking her dog, reading and supporting the Edmonton Oilers.

## KOLE SAUVE

<b>SPORT: Figure Skating</b>	<b>HOMETOWN: Edmonton</b>	<b>BIRTHDATE: October 7, 2007</b>
<b>EVENT: Pairs</b>	<b>HOME PROVINCE: Alberta</b>	<b>AGE AT GAMES: 16</b>

Kole Sauve and partner Annika Behnke placed seventh in junior pairs at the 2024 Skate Canada National Skating Championships, after winning bronze in novice pairs at the 2023 National Skating Championships. The pair also won bronze in junior pairs at the 2023 Skate Canada challenge. The pair team is part of Skate



Canada's 2023-2024 NextGen team, and competed at their first ISU international competition at the 2023 Trophée Metropole in Nice, France where they placed seventh in the junior pair event.

In 2022, Annika and Kole won the gold medal in novice pairs at the Alberta Sectional Championship. Kole also competed in the men's event at the 2023 Novice Nationals, where he placed sixth. Kole started competing in juvenile pairs when he was 11 years old.

**A little more about Kole:** Was born in Grand Prairie, Alberta... Started skating at age 3 because his mom and sister were on the ice and he wanted to join them... His mother coached him when he was younger... Used to do both hockey and figure skating, sometimes on the same day... Likes to snowboard and play video games... Wants to become a Realtor when he is older.

## JACOB STARK

<b>SPORT:</b> Figure Skating	<b>HOMETOWN:</b> Waterloo	<b>BIRTHDATE:</b> January 17, 2006
<b>EVENT:</b> Ice Dance	<b>HOME PROVINCE:</b> Ontario	<b>AGE AT GAMES:</b> 18

Jacob Stark and partner Caroline Kravets placed 12<sup>th</sup> at the 2024 Skate Canada National Skating Championships in the junior ice dance event, after having placed sixth in novice ice dance in 2023. At their first Skate Canada Challenge at the junior level, they placed 13th. In September 2023, Caroline and Jacob made their ISU Junior Grand Prix debut at the ISU Junior Grand Prix Budapest, where they placed 12th.

Caroline and Jacob train at the Kitchener-Waterloo Skating Club, a club where Olympians Tessa Virtue and Scott Moir, Kirsten Moore-Towers and Dylan Moscovitch and Kaitlyn Weaver and Andrew Poje once trained. The team is coached by Paul MacIntosh and Tyler Morris. Jacob continues to look up to Virtue and Moir and Weaver and Poje, who his coach Paul MacIntosh coached at the beginning of their careers. Jacob also looks to coach Tyler Morris as inspiration, and has shared that Tyler makes him believe that he has the ability to accomplish anything he sets his mind to, and motivates him and Caroline to do their best.

**A little more about Jacob:** Started skating at 3 years old, and wanted to play hockey at first... Continued to play hockey in addition to figure skating until he was 13... Has three siblings.



## FREESTYLE SKIING



### QUINCY BARR

<b>SPORT:</b> Freestyle Skiing	<b>HOMETOWN:</b> Calgary	<b>BIRTHDATE:</b> December 19, 2006
<b>EVENT:</b> Men's Halfpipe	<b>HOME PROVINCE:</b> Alberta	<b>AGE AT GAMES:</b> 17

Quincy Barr loves the creative aspect of freestyle skiing, and is intrigued by the fact that athletes can have their own style. Qualifying for the Youth Olympic Games is a career highlight for him so far, as it had been a goal of his for a long time. Quincy has competed at the Nor-Am Cup level in halfpipe as well as slopestyle and big air. At the Freestyle Canada's 2023 National Championship, Quincy won the silver medal in halfpipe, placed fourth in big air, and 10th in slopestyle – all in the men's Under-18 division. In 2022, Quincy placed third in the men's Under-16 halfpipe at Freestyle Canada's Junior Nationals.

**A little more about Quincy:** Was 11 years old when he first stepped on skis... Got into freestyle skiing by watching a video on youtube and knew that's what he wanted to do... Loves training at CSI Calgary.

### CHARLIE BEATTY

<b>SPORT:</b> Freestyle Skiing	<b>HOMETOWN:</b> Horseshoe Valley	<b>BIRTHDATE:</b> June 22, 2007
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<b>EVENT: Men's Slopestyle / Big Air</b>	<b>HOME PROVINCE: Ontario</b>	<b>AGE AT GAMES: 16</b>
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Charlie is the 2023 junior world champion in slopestyle, an event that he won by nearly five points, and was the youngest athlete on the podium. He also won gold at the Copper Mountain Nor-Am Cup in 2023. He was selected for Freestyle Canada's NextGen program when he was just 14 years old, making him one of the youngest athletes to ever be selected. Now at 16 years old, Charlie has been competing on the senior World Cup circuit and has Olympic aspirations.

In 2014, an 11-year-old Charlie received a last minute spot to the Junior National Championships and won gold in both slopestyle and halfpipe in the Under-14 division. In 2019, Charlie became the Junior National Champion in both slopestyle and halfpipe. Charlie looks to his coach, Geoff Lovelace, as a role model. The two have worked together since Charlie was seven, and has taught Charlie, "not to practice until he gets it right, but to practice until he can't get it wrong."

**A little more about Charlie:** Began skiing at age two and competing at age five... At age eight, suffered a torn ACL which kept him off skis for six months... Family began a 'Shred Cancer" ski and snowboard event, raising over \$25,000 for their local hospital... Likes to emcee at ski competitions and does public speaking engagements to local schools and daycares to encourage the younger generation to get excited about the sport he loves... Is a Sarah Burke Scholarship Award winner... In 2020 was named Ontario's Junior Skier of the Year.

## CITRINE BOYCHUK

<b>SPORT: Freestyle Skiing</b>	<b>HOMETOWN: Sherwood Park</b>	<b>BIRTHDATE: February 21, 2008</b>
<b>EVENT: Women's Dual Moguls</b>	<b>HOME PROVINCE: Alberta</b>	<b>AGE AT GAMES: 15</b>

Citrine Boychuk represented Canada at the FIS Junior World Ski Championships in March of 2023, where she placed 10th in dual moguls and 16th in moguls. Weeks before, she competed at the 2023 Canada Winter Games, where she competed in three moguls events (female moguls, female dual moguls and mixed team dual moguls), as well as aerials. She's also represented Canada at various Nor-Am Cups throughout the USA and Canada, as well as a FIS event in Idre Fjall, Sweden in November. In 2022, she became Canada's junior national women's moguls champion. Citrine was also one of two athletes selected by Freestyle Canada to attend the Mogul Development Camp put on by the International Olympic Committee and FIS in Valmalenco, Italy. Citrine is excited to compete in dual moguls in Gangwon before the event makes its Olympic Winter Games debut at Milano-Cortina 2026.

**A little more about Citrine:** Started skiing at age 4 and started competing at age 7... Looks at her sister Jada, who also is a competitive moguls skier who has competed at Nor-Am Cups and FIS events as a role



model... Enjoys wakesurfing and water skiing in the off-season... Collects magnets and pins from places she's travelled to.

## GABRIELLE 'GABI' DINN

<b>SPORT:</b> Freestyle Skiing	<b>HOMETOWN:</b> Kamloops	<b>BIRTHDATE:</b> November 11, 2007
<b>EVENT:</b> Women's Slopestyle / Big Air	<b>HOME PROVINCE:</b> British Columbia	<b>AGE AT GAMES:</b> 16

Gabi Dinn won her first Canada Cup in slopestyle in Sun Peaks, B.C in January of 2023, and followed it up with another win at the Canada Cup in both slopestyle and big air in Horseshoe Valley, Ontario the very next week, which she cites as the sporting achievement that she's currently most proud of. At Freestyle Canada's 2023 Junior Nationals, Gabi placed fourth in slopestyle and eighth in halfpipe in the women's Under-16 division.

**A little more about Gabi:** Began freestyle skiing in 2021 when she was 14 years old after having grown up ski racing... Loves the adrenaline rush of freestyle skiing as well as the community and learning new tricks... Learned to slide rails with her best friend in the backyard the night before her second competition... Executed her first 720 in competition when she was only trying to do a 540... Has shared that her biggest obstacle has been overcoming the fear of other people's judgement of her skiing... Canadian Olympian Olivia Asselin is her role model, mostly because of her style... Loves cooking and would love to be a chef when she's older.

## ELLA GARROD

<b>SPORT:</b> Freestyle Skiing	<b>HOMETOWN:</b> Vernon	<b>BIRTHDATE:</b> September 16, 2006
<b>EVENT:</b> Women's Slopestyle / Big Air	<b>HOME PROVINCE:</b> British Columbia	<b>AGE AT GAMES:</b> 17

Ella Garrod is Freestyle Canada's 2023 junior national slopestyle and big air champion in the U18 division. Her brother Tate, who is on Freestyle Canada's NextGen team, has had a great influence on Ella, always supporting her and working hard on his own skiing. Ella has shared that she doesn't think she would be where she is today without having her brother as a role model.

Ella has to manage her type-one diabetes, but learning how to do so as well as compete and train at a high level, has been a complicated yet rewarding challenge for her. Ella has shared that encouraging those around her and inspiring other girls to have fun and keep skiing has always been a goal of hers, and that





having younger girls approach her or ask for trick advice really inspires her. Outside of her training, Ella also coaches skiing and trampolines, and loves helping younger kids with tricks and seeing them progress.

**A little more about Ella:** Began skiing at age four... Her father, who is a ski coach, and her brother Tate inspired her to stick with the sport... Enjoys camping, hiking, biking, cliff jumping and reading in the off-season.

## BRADLEY KOEHLER

<b>SPORT: Freestyle Skiing</b>	<b>HOMETOWN: Quebec</b>	<b>BIRTHDATE: November 19, 2008</b>
<b>EVENT: Men's Dual Moguls</b>	<b>HOME PROVINCE: Quebec</b>	<b>AGE AT GAMES: 15</b>

Bradley Koehler placed seventh at Freestyle Canada's 2023 Junior Nationals in the men's Under-16 division, and later competed at Freestyle Canada's 2023 Senior Nationals, where he had the opportunity to compete against Olympic champion Mikael Kingsbury. Bradley placed 16th out of 41 athletes at his first senior nationals. Bradley has two older sisters, Kaylee and Ashley Koehler who are on Freestyle Canada's NextGen Moguls team.

## FLAVIE LAMONTAGNE

<b>SPORT: Freestyle Skiing</b>	<b>HOMETOWN: Quebec</b>	<b>BIRTHDATE: May 10, 2006</b>
<b>EVENT: Women's Dual Moguls</b>	<b>HOME PROVINCE: Quebec</b>	<b>AGE AT GAMES: 17</b>

In 2022, Flavie Lamontagne won the bronze medal in women's dual moguls at the senior level of Freestyle Canada's National Championships, which she cites as her most proud sporting achievement to date. She placed fifth in dual moguls at the 2023 National Championships, and 12th in individual moguls. She has also competed at multiple Nor-Am Cup events in both the USA and Canada.

The Quebec native, who began skiing at 18-months, looks up to the Dufour-Lapointe sisters who would often train at the same place Flavie would train at, and would do camps for girls that Flavie would attend. She looks at the sisters and Mikael Kingsbury as important role models in her freestyle skiing career. For as long as she can remember, she has wanted to be part of the Canadian Freestyle Ski team.

**A little more about Flavie:** Has one younger sister... Although she has been skiing since she was 18 months, she didn't start competing in freestyle skiing until she was 8 years old... Skiing is a passion of her whole family... Cites that not being able to train or compete in 2021 due to the pandemic has been her biggest obstacle in her career so far... Is interested in pursuing physiotherapy when she's older... Is coached by Edward Lortie, Kerrian Chunland, and Olympian Audrey Robichaud.



## MATTHEW LEPINE

<b>SPORT:</b> Freestyle Skiing	<b>HOMETOWN:</b> Ottawa	<b>BIRTHDATE:</b> February 21, 2008
<b>EVENT:</b> Men's Slopestyle / Big Air	<b>HOME PROVINCE:</b> Ontario	<b>AGE AT GAMES:</b> 15

At 15 years old, Matthew Lepine won the silver medal in the big air event at the 2023 FIS Junior World Ski Championships in Cardrona, New Zealand. He also placed 12th in slopestyle at the championships. He accomplished that feat in September 2023, about six months after he placed fifth in big air and ninth in slopestyle at the 2023 Canada Winter Games in Prince Edward Island.

Matthew loves the sense of community in freestyle skiing. He appreciates that the sport constantly evolves and that he has to push his limits. He has shared that being on the edge of the next trick and the overwhelming sense of accomplishment landing something exciting always thrills him. Matthew has had the opportunity to train with National Team athletes, and has shared that when he does, he always feels welcomed and inspired.

**A little more about Matthew:** Began freestyle skiing at age 8 and started competing in provincial level competitions at age 10... Both of his older brothers did freestyle skiing and young Matthew just wanted to be with them and tag along... His personal role model is Norwegian Olympian Ferdinand Dahl as well as his brother Nicholas who competed at the national level and eventually became a coach with his local club... Loves skateboarding... Tries to follow what other top Canadian skiers are doing throughout the season and cheer them on... Has attended a summer camp, Camp Smitty, at his local Boys and Girls Club in Ottawa since he was seven, and hopes to be a camp counselor when he has down-time during the summer... Favourite quote is "started from the bottom, now we're here" from Drake.

## TRENT MOROZUMI

<b>SPORT:</b> Freestyle Skiing	<b>HOMETOWN:</b> Calgary	<b>BIRTHDATE:</b> January 13, 2008
<b>EVENT:</b> Men's Halfpipe	<b>HOME PROVINCE:</b> Alberta	<b>AGE AT GAMES:</b> 16

Trent Morozumi competed in four different Nor-Am events in 2023, cracking the top-10 in halfpipe at the Winsport event in January. He was an alternate for Team Alberta at the 2023 Canada Winter Games. Coming from a family of competitive skiers, his sister Emma Morozumi is on Freestyle Canada's NextGen halfpipe team.



## JEREMY SAUVAGEAU

<b>SPORT:</b> Freestyle Skiing	<b>HOMETOWN:</b> Montreal	<b>BIRTHDATE:</b> July 6, 2006
<b>EVENT:</b> Men's Dual Moguls	<b>HOME PROVINCE:</b> Quebec	<b>AGE AT GAMES:</b> 17

Jeremy made his international debut in November 2022, when he represented Canada in Idre Fjall, Sweden. After competing at a handful of FIS events and Nor-Am Cups throughout Canada and the USA, Jeremy competed at his first FIS Junior World Ski Championship in March 2023 in Chiesa in Valmalenco, Italy, in both moguls and dual moguls.

Jeremy was the Quebec provincial champion at the U-14, U-16 and U-18 level from 2020 - 2023, and he won the silver medal in men's moguls at Freestyle Canada's 2022 Junior Nationals in the U-16 category. Jeremy was also one of two athletes selected by Freestyle Canada to attend the Mogul Development Camp put on by the International Olympic Committee and FIS in Valmalenco, Italy. Jeremy attended with Gangwon 2024 teammate Citrine Boychuk, as well as Olympian Philippe Marquis, and has shared that everything he learned at that camp was one of his most proud sporting achievements. Jeremy has shared that watching Alexandre Bilodeau win Olympic gold at Vancouver 2010 when Jeremy was only five years old was what sparked his dream. He still watches the gold medal run to motivate himself.

**A little more about Jeremy:** Began freestyle skiing in 2014 at age 8, and competed in his first competition at age 9... Looks to Alexandre Bilodeau as his role model because of his extraordinary journey and his intense desire to win, but above all Jeremy admires Alexandre because of his ability to combine his athletic career with academic success... Wants to work in finance when he's older... Volunteers with the 'Jeunesse au Soleil' group as part of their annual Christmas basket distribution.



## HOCKEY



### MATEO BEITES

<b>SPORT:</b> Ice Hockey	<b>HOMETOWN:</b> Sudbury	<b>BIRTHDATE:</b> March 2, 2008
<b>EVENT:</b> Men's 5X5	<b>HOME PROVINCE:</b> Ontario	<b>AGE AT GAMES:</b> 15

Mateo Beites plays goaltender for the Barrie Colts in the Ontario Minor Hockey Association at the U16 level. He previously played for the Sudbury Nickel Capitals U16 AAA, and the Nickel City Sons U14 AAA. Mateo thinks of himself as a calm and quick goalie with a strong ability to read plays.

This past summer, Mateo lost his father, Miguel, after a three-year battle with cancer. Following the devastating loss, Mateo wore No. 71 on his jersey in net for the Barrie Colts, which is a tribute to his father. Mateo has shared that his father's support throughout the pandemic, which he found very challenging, was key to him committing to pursuing hockey at an elite level. Throughout the difficult months, his father would help find ice for Mateo, as well as encourage him to continue to train during the lockdowns. Throughout the past year, Mateo has spoken about the emphasis of mental training and its growing importance in his game, and a key component to his development as an elite goaltender. Mateo is looking forward to experiencing the Youth Olympic Games, and has shared that he thinks it will help him develop as a goaltender and as a person.



**A little more about Mateo:** Grade 10 student at ESC Nouvelle-Alliance in Barrie... Has two younger brothers, both of whom are also very athletic.

## CAMERON CHARTRAND

<b>SPORT:</b> Ice Hockey	<b>HOMETOWN:</b> Saint-Lazare	<b>BIRTHDATE:</b> March 3 2008
<b>EVENT:</b> Men's 5X5	<b>HOME PROVINCE:</b> Quebec	<b>AGE AT GAMES:</b> 15

Cameron plays defence for the Bishop Kearney Selects in the United States High School hockey league. The 6'0 defenceman previously played for the Lac St-Louis Arsenal.

## CALLUM CROSKERY

<b>SPORT:</b> Ice Hockey	<b>HOMETOWN:</b> Oakville	<b>BIRTHDATE:</b> January 29, 2008
<b>EVENT:</b> Men's 5X5	<b>HOME PROVINCE:</b> Ontario	<b>AGE AT GAMES:</b> 15

Callum Croskery plays defence for the Oakville Rangers in the Ontario Minor Hockey Association at the U16 level. He has had a great 2023 season so far, logging nine goals and 26 assists for a total of 35 points, contributing to his team's record of 18-0-2 throughout the fall.

The tenth grader in Oakville Trafalgar High School's French immersion program has shared that his dream is to become a professional hockey player. If that doesn't work out, he'd like to be a lawyer or a player agent. Callum's favourite quote is, "once you know what failure feels like, determination chases success." He likes this Kobe Bryant quote because he understands that sometimes failure is necessary in life to achieve greater things.

**A little more about Callum:** Has three younger siblings... When he travels, he likes to bring back something food-related for his brother who loves to cook... Plays for his school's volleyball and basketball teams... Enjoys golfing, wake surfing and wakeboarding during the off season, as well as continuing to work out and train for the next season... Likes to eat the same meal before each game – three scrambled eggs and two pieces of peanut butter toast.

## ALESSANDRO DI IORIO

<b>SPORT:</b> Ice Hockey	<b>HOMETOWN:</b> Vaughan	<b>BIRTHDATE:</b> March 17, 2008
<b>EVENT:</b> Men's 5X5	<b>HOME PROVINCE:</b> Ontario	<b>AGE AT GAMES:</b> 15





Alessandro Di Iorio plays forward for the Vaughan Kings in the Greater Toronto Hockey League at the U16 level. In the 2022 season, Alessandro and his U14 Vaughan Kings team won the inaugural U14 OHL Cup, where he scored 11 points, tying two of his teammates as runners-up for scoring leaders.

## BECKHAM EDWARDS

<b>SPORT:</b> Ice Hockey	<b>HOMETOWN:</b> London	<b>BIRTHDATE:</b> January 6, 2008
<b>EVENT:</b> Men's 5X5	<b>HOME PROVINCE:</b> Ontario	<b>AGE AT GAMES:</b> 16

Beckham Edwards plays forward for the Detroit Little Caesars in the US15U. He previously played for the Elgin Middlesex Canucks. In late December, Beckham signed with the Youngstown Phantoms in the USHL for the 2024-25 season. The 6'1 left-handed forward has scored 61 points (39 goals and 22 assists) in 37 games played before the new year with his Little Caesars team.

At the end of the 2022-2023 hockey season, Beckham became the first recipient of the Elgin Middlesex Canucks' 'Travis Konecny Award'. He was selected for the award by being an enthusiastic team leader who inspires by example, making those around him better, as well as being exceptionally motivated toward team success. Beckham describes this as one of his most proud sporting achievements to date. Beckham loves watching the Olympic Games and the World Juniors, and is looking forward to having the opportunity to represent Canada and wear the maple leaf on the world stage in Gangwon.

**A little more about Beckham:** Began skating at five years old on an outdoor skating track at Storybook Gardens... He started playing hockey in kindergarten with the West London Minor Hockey Association... Wanted to be a goalie at first... Likes to fish and golf in the off-season... Favourite subject in school is math.

## COLIN ELLSWORTH

<b>SPORT:</b> Ice Hockey	<b>HOMETOWN:</b> Aurora	<b>BIRTHDATE:</b> December 3, 2008
<b>EVENT:</b> Men's 5X5	<b>HOME PROVINCE:</b> Ontario	<b>AGE AT GAMES:</b> 15

Colin Ellsworth plays goaltender with the York Simcoe Express in the Ontario Minor Hockey Association at the U18 level.

## CARTER ESLER

<b>SPORT:</b> Ice Hockey	<b>HOMETOWN:</b> Okotoks	<b>BIRTHDATE:</b> November 28, 2008
<b>EVENT:</b> Men's 5X5	<b>HOME PROVINCE:</b> Alberta	<b>AGE AT GAMES:</b> 15



Carter Esler plays goaltender for the Okotoks Bow Mark Oilers in the Alberta Elite Hockey League. When speaking about Gangwon 2024, he shared that he is excited for the new experience, excited to wear the maple leaf and to do his country proud. Carter was the Spokane Chiefs' first round pick and 22nd overall pick in the 2023 Western Hockey League Bantam draft with a WHL Scholarship and Development agreement. He has represented Team Alberta at the WHL Cup. Carter is also an Alberta Cup champion.

Carter is the second-generation goalie in his family, following in his father's footsteps who was an accomplished goalie who played Junior A hockey with Saskatchewan. The 15-year old, in his first season at the U18 AAA level, posted a .913 save percentage and eight wins with the Okotoks Bow Mark Oilers.

## TYNAN LAWRENCE

<b>SPORT: Ice Hockey</b>	<b>HOMETOWN: Fredericton</b>	<b>BIRTHDATE: August 3, 2008</b>
<b>EVENT: Men's 5X5</b>	<b>HOME PROVINCE: New Brunswick</b>	<b>AGE AT GAMES: 15</b>

Tynan Lawrence plays forward for Shattuck-St. Mary's in the USHS at the U16 level. In the 2022-2023 season, Tynan played for the club at the U14 level, who were the #1 ranked U14 team in the United States, and he finished the season with the second most points on the team. Before being selected to the Gangwon 2024 team, Tynan shared that playing in the Youth Olympic Games would be his most proud sporting achievement to date, if he were successful in making the team.

Growing up, Tynan had an outdoor ice rink in his backyard and would skate on it each winter. In the summer, the outdoor ice rink would switch to synthetic ice so he could continue practicing shooting and skating throughout the warmer months. Throughout those winters, Tynan and his family would watch the World Juniors each holiday season, which sparked Tynan's dream of playing for Team Canada. After Tynan is finished with his playing career, he would like to pursue coaching.

**A little more about Tynan:** Started playing hockey at age 4... Got into hockey because of his older brother... Older brother Josh won the Memorial Cup with the Saint John Sea Dogs in 2022... Looks at his brother as a role model... Loves the team-aspect of hockey, and enjoys road trips for games and tournaments... Likes to play golf and go boating in the off-season.

## RYAN LIN

<b>SPORT: Ice Hockey</b>	<b>HOMETOWN: Richmond</b>	<b>BIRTHDATE: April 18, 2008</b>
<b>EVENT: Men's 5X5</b>	<b>HOME PROVINCE: British Columbia</b>	<b>AGE AT GAMES: 15</b>



Ryan Lin plays defence for the Delta Hockey Academy in the Canadian Sport School Hockey League in the U18 division, and is also a Vancouver Giants prospect, after being the sixth overall selection by the Giants in the 2023 Western Hockey League Prospects Draft. Throughout the fall, Ryan had been leading his Delta Hockey Academy team in scoring with 25 points in 19 games. He played for Team British Columbia in the WHL Cup in October, who placed third in the tournament.

## ZACH NYMAN

<b>SPORT: Ice Hockey</b>	<b>HOMETOWN: Toronto</b>	<b>BIRTHDATE: February 12, 2008</b>
<b>EVENT: Men's 5X5</b>	<b>HOME PROVINCE: Ontario</b>	<b>AGE AT GAMES: 15</b>

Zach Nyman plays defence for the Vaughan Kings in the Greater Toronto Hockey League in the U16 division. Throughout the fall, Zach logged 6 points in 8 games.

## AIDEN O'DONNELL

<b>SPORT: Ice Hockey</b>	<b>HOMETOWN: Cole Harbour</b>	<b>BIRTHDATE: January 3, 2008</b>
<b>EVENT: Men's 5X5</b>	<b>HOME PROVINCE: Nova Scotia</b>	<b>AGE AT GAMES: 16</b>

Aiden O'Donnell plays forward for Dartmouth Steele Subaru in the Nova Scotia U18 Major Hockey League. Throughout the fall, Aiden led the Nova Scotia U18 league in scoring with 36 points (17 goals and 19 assist) in 23 games. Some of Aiden's favourite childhood memories were going to the Halifax Moosehead games with his family, in which he loved the atmosphere. Aiden is a self-described playmaker who loves to move the puck. He tries to model his style of play after two-time Olympic champion, Sidney Crosby, who is from the maritime town that Aiden calls home. Aiden admires Crosby not only for his game, but also because of Crosby's leadership. Aiden's dream is to make the NHL and once there, to make an impact and win a Stanley Cup.

## MATHIS PRESTON

<b>SPORT: Ice Hockey</b>	<b>HOMETOWN: Penticton</b>	<b>BIRTHDATE: July 21, 2008</b>
<b>EVENT: Men's 5X5</b>	<b>HOME PROVINCE: British Columbia</b>	<b>AGE AT GAMES: 15</b>

Mathis Preston plays forward for the Okanagan Hockey Academy in the Canadian Sport School Hockey League in the U18 division. Throughout the fall, Mathis has logged 26 points (17 goals and 9 assists) in 13 games played. This past June, Mathis was the third overall pick in the 2023 Western Hockey League prospects draft where he was selected by the Spokane Chiefs, which was a long-time dream of his. Last season, playing with the U15 team, Mathis logged 81 points in 26 games. One of those goals came in



overtime during the league quarter-final, which Mathis looks at as one of the highlights of his career thus far. He was also named Most Valuable Player of the U15 division of the CSSHL last year.

**A little more about Mathis:** Started playing hockey at age 3... Older brother is a hockey goalie... Also played lacrosse, basketball and did triathlons growing up before he turned his focus solely to hockey... Two of Mathis' best friends and Okanagan Hockey Academy teammates, twins Liam and Markus Ruck, will also be his teammates at Gangwon 2024... Favourite team is the Edmonton Oilers and Connor McDavid is his favourite player.

## LIAM RUCK

<b>SPORT: Ice Hockey</b>	<b>HOMETOWN: Osoyoos</b>	<b>BIRTHDATE: February 21, 2008</b>
<b>EVENT: Men's 5X5</b>	<b>HOME PROVINCE: British Columbia</b>	<b>AGE AT GAMES: 15</b>

Liam Ruck plays forward for the Okanagan Hockey Academy in the Canadian Sport School Hockey League in the U18 division. His twin brother Markus, also his teammate with the Okanagan Hockey Academy, will be his teammate again at Gangwon 2024. Liam was selected by the Medicine Hat Tigers as the ninth overall pick in the Western Hockey League prospects draft. Last season, Liam led the CSSHL U18 with 90 points and 53 goals in 27 games for Okanagan. In November, Liam scored his first goal in his first-ever Western Hockey League game for the Medicine Hat Tigers. Both brothers also played for Team BC in the WHL Cup in 2023.

The two brothers have been playing hockey together nearly their entire lives, and have an innate ability to find each other on the ice to make plays. Liam and Markus' dad took the brothers public skating as kids, and they loved it ever since. The brothers have been playing hockey since they were four years old.

## MARKUS RUCK

<b>SPORT: Ice Hockey</b>	<b>HOMETOWN: Osoyoos</b>	<b>BIRTHDATE: February 21, 2008</b>
<b>EVENT: Men's 5X5</b>	<b>HOME PROVINCE: British Columbia</b>	<b>AGE AT GAMES: 15</b>

Markus Ruck plays forward for the Okanagan Hockey Academy in the Canadian Sport School Hockey League in the U18 division. His twin brother Liam, also his teammate with the Okanagan Hockey Academy, will be his teammate again at Gangwon 2024. Markus was selected by the Medicine Hat Tigers as the 21st pick in the Western Hockey League prospects draft. Last season, Markus had 87 points and 22 goals in 27 games, second to only his brother Liam in league points. Both brothers also played for Team BC in the WHL Cup in 2023.

The two brothers have been playing hockey together nearly their entire lives, and have an innate ability to



find each other on the ice to make plays. Markus and Liam's dad took the brothers public skating as kids, and they loved it ever since. The brothers have been playing hockey since they were four years old.

## DAXON RUDOLPH

<b>SPORT: Ice Hockey</b>	<b>HOMETOWN: Lacombe</b>	<b>BIRTHDATE: March 6, 2008</b>
<b>EVENT: Men's 5X5</b>	<b>HOME PROVINCE: Alberta</b>	<b>AGE AT GAMES: 15</b>

Daxon Rudolph plays defence for Northern Alberta in the Canadian Sport School Hockey League in the U18 division. He previously played for the Red Deer Rebels in the AEHL. Daxon was the first overall pick in the WHL prospect's draft, being selected by the Prince Albert Raiders. Last season, he logged 50 points (17 goals and 33 assists) in 30 games and helped his team to the division championship. He was also awarded the Canadian Sport School Hockey League U15 Defenseman of the Year. Daxon considers himself to be an offensive defenceman who moves the puck well and has a great hockey mind. He tries to model his game after two-time Olympic champion Drew Doughty.

## ADAM VALENTINI

<b>SPORT: Ice Hockey</b>	<b>HOMETOWN: Toronto</b>	<b>BIRTHDATE: April 11, 2008</b>
<b>EVENT: Men's 5X5</b>	<b>HOME PROVINCE: Ontario</b>	<b>AGE AT GAMES: 15</b>

Adam Valentini plays forward for the Toronto Marlboros in the Greater Toronto Hockey League in the U16 division. He previously played for the Mississauga Senators. Adam, whose dream is to play in the NHL, loves hockey because of its speed and the team effort it takes. He also loves the smell of the ice. Adam began playing hockey as a four-year-old and won the season championship. From then on, he loved it and wanted to dedicate his life to hockey.

The fifteen-year-old has shared that his career highlight thus far was playing in the Ontario Hockey League Cup as an 11-year-old under-ager as a top contender and top point leader for his team. Adam has always wanted to represent Canada and to bring home a gold medal. He loves watching Team Canada on tv, and has said to his parents from an early age that one day, he would be there. Adam has shared that he loves how the sport brings people together from all nations and backgrounds. Adam attends the Toronto French School, Canada's only full continuum international baccalaureate world school.





## KEATON VERHOEFF

<b>SPORT: Ice Hockey</b>	<b>HOMETOWN: Fort Saskatchewan</b>	<b>BIRTHDATE: June 19, 2008</b>
<b>EVENT: Men's 5X5</b>	<b>HOME PROVINCE: Alberta</b>	<b>AGE AT GAMES: 15</b>

Keaton Verhoeff plays defence for the RHA Kelowna in the Canadian Sport School Hockey League in the U18 division. At his home academy, he is coached by two-time Olympic champion, Jarome Iginla, who has provided invaluable mentorship and guidance to Keaton's developing hockey career. Keaton previously played for the Fort Saskatchewan Raiders.

In December, the 6'3 fifteen-year-old made his Western Hockey League debut with the Victoria Royals, after being selected fourth overall in the 2023 WHL prospects draft. That month, he played all five of the regular-season games that 15-year-olds are permitted to play in the WHL. He received the call-up while he was in science class, and his teacher almost didn't allow him to answer the call. Keaton, who was the Victoria Royals second highest pick in franchise history, was his Kelowna team's lead-scoring defenceman last year.

**A little more about Keaton:** Keaton's Uncle Lee Sorochan played for Team Canada's gold medal winning World Juniors team in 1995... Kirby Dach of the Chicago Blackhawks and Colton Dach are Keaton's cousins, and Keaton wants to continue the family legacy of playing for Team Canada... Attended the Vancouver 2010 Olympic Winter Games, although he was too young to remember it... Began skating at 18 months old and started playing hockey at four years old... Played goalie until he was 10 years old... Role model is two-time Olympic champion Drew Doughty.

## BRAIDY WASSILYN

<b>SPORT: Ice Hockey</b>	<b>HOMETOWN: Puslinch</b>	<b>BIRTHDATE: May 28, 2008</b>
<b>EVENT: Men's 5X5</b>	<b>HOME PROVINCE: Ontario</b>	<b>AGE AT GAMES: 15</b>

Braidy Wassilyn plays forward for the Markham Majors in the Greater Toronto Hockey League in the U16 division. He previously played for the Toronto Marlboros. He cites his most proud sporting achievement thus far as being named to the first all-star team at the Draft Day Prospects tournament.

Braidy played in the World Youth Championships in Philadelphia in May of 2023, where he finished among the top five in points, and is considered a favourite to be among the top picks in the upcoming OHL draft. He has shared that he loves everything about hockey, from showing up at the rink and seeing the ice to learning and practicing new plays. The moment that sparked Braidy's dream was Sidney Crosby scoring the golden goal at the Vancouver 2010 Olympic Winter Games. He can remember the feeling of that moment. To this day, Sidney Crosby is Braidy's role model, and his favourite part of Crosby's game is his edges and skating



skills.

**A little more about Braidy:** Began playing hockey at 2 years old... Brother Joey was drafted to the OHL, and dad played minor-pro hockey... Loves snowmobiling, snowboarding and skating on outdoor rinks with his family... Plays lacrosse in the summer... Attends King Heights Academy in Thornhill, Ontario which is a school with many student-athletes.

## LUGE



### AVA LUCIA HUERTA

<b>SPORT:</b> Luge	<b>HOMETOWN:</b> Calgary	<b>BIRTHDATE:</b> April 25, 2009
<b>EVENT:</b> Women's Singles	<b>HOME PROVINCE:</b> Alberta	<b>AGE AT GAMES:</b> 14

Ava Lucia Huerta, the youngest athlete on Team Canada's Gangwon 2024 team, won the gold medal in the Youth B event of Luge Canada's 2023 Canadian Youth Championships. She made her international debut in 2023 when she competed at the FIL Youth A World Cup / Continental Cup events - two in Winterberg, Germany, and two in Oberhof, Germany. In 2022, Ava Lucia won the bronze medal in women's Youth B at Luge Canada's Youth National Championships.



## BASTIAN VAN WOUW

<b>SPORT:</b> Luge	<b>HOMETOWN:</b> Red Deer	<b>BIRTHDATE:</b> March 20, 2006
<b>EVENT:</b> Men's Singles	<b>HOME PROVINCE:</b> Alberta	<b>AGE AT GAMES:</b> 17

Bastian van Wouw, a member of Luge Canada's Junior National Team, competed at the 2022 FIL Junior World Championships as well as two Junior World Cups in the 2022/23 season. In January 2023, he also picked up two bronze medals on the Youth A Continental Cup circuit at events in Park City and Whistler. In February, he competed in four Youth A World Cup events - two in Winterberg, Germany and two in Oberhof, Germany, which qualified him for Gangwon 2024. In March 2023, Bastian was the silver medallist at the Canadian Championships.

Bastian began luge in 2018 after seeing an advertisement to try the sport and "become the next Olympian". At 14 years old, Bastian joined Luge Canada's NextGen Junior National Team. After his first season training, the Calgary sliding track shut down, which forced him to travel to Whistler, B.C. for sliding training. Bastian was supposed to make his international debut in 2021, but was forced to wait till 2022 due to pandemic restrictions.

**A little more about Bastian:** Loves the speed and thrill that comes with sliding down the track... As a former hockey goalie, Bastian continues to coach young goalies... Collects stickers from different countries he's travelled to.

## MAYA YUEN

<b>SPORT:</b> Luge	<b>HOMETOWN:</b> Calgary	<b>BIRTHDATE:</b> July 20, 2007
<b>EVENT:</b> Women's Singles	<b>HOME PROVINCE:</b> Alberta	<b>AGE AT GAMES:</b> 16

Maya Yuen, a member of Luge Canada's Junior Development Team, placed second at Luge Canada's 2023 Canadian Youth Championships. The 16-year-old cites winning a bronze medal at the Youth A Continental Cup in Whistler in January 2023 as her career highlight to date. Maya competed in four Youth A World Cups - two in Winterberg, Germany and two in Oberhof, Germany - in order to qualify for Gangwon 2024. At the Winterberg event on February 2, 2023, Maya placed fifth, kick-starting her campaign to qualify for Gangwon.

Yuen's interest in luge began while watching the PyeongChang 2018 Olympic Winter Games on television. A Calgary resident, after the Calgary sliding track shut down, Maya had to travel to Whistler to train.

**A bit more about Maya:** Plays fastpitch in the summer... Participates in Girl Guides and volunteers as a junior leader... Enjoys baking, painting and crafts.



## SHORT TRACK SPEED SKATING



### COURTNEY CHARLONG

<b>SPORT:</b> Short Track Speed Skating	<b>HOMETOWN:</b> Campbellton	<b>BIRTHDATE:</b> October 17, 2006
<b>EVENT:</b>	<b>HOME PROVINCE:</b> New Brunswick	<b>AGE AT GAMES:</b> 17

Courtney Charlong had her first taste of international competition when she had the opportunity to compete at the inaugural ISU Junior World Cup Short Track series in Leeuwarden, Netherlands earlier this season, where her top result was 13th in the women's 500m. Courtney also competed at the 2023 Canada Winter Games in Prince Edward Island, where she won bronze in the women's 500m and the women's team relay after leading Team New Brunswick as Opening Ceremony co-flag bearer.

In 2022, Courtney set two provincial records and placed first in the cumulative standings of the Canada Cup Junior Championships. She broke a provincial record in the 500m that was previously held by National Team member Rikki Doak, who she looks up to as a personal role model. Courtney has dreams of being part of the senior national team and to compete at World Cups and the Olympic Winter Games, and has shared that Charles Hamelin is one of her speed skating idols.

**A bit more about Courtney:** Began short track speed skating in grade one after seeing someone at her

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daycare in a speed skating skinsuit and wanted to try it... Moved to Quebec City for two years, before moving again to Montreal to train at the National Training Center... Loves going fast!

## VICTOR CHARTRAND

<b>SPORT:</b> Short Track Speed Skating	<b>HOMETOWN:</b> Laval	<b>BIRTHDATE:</b> January 20, 2007
<b>EVENT:</b>	<b>HOME PROVINCE:</b> Quebec	<b>AGE AT GAMES:</b> 17

Victor Chartrand, who will celebrate his 17th birthday on the first day of competition at Gangwon 2024, recently competed at the inaugural ISU Junior Short Track World Cup in Leeuwarden, Netherlands. Victor helped Canada earn Junior World Cup bronze medals in the 3000m men's relay and the 2000m mixed team relay, while earning a pair of 14th place results in his individual distances.

In November, Victor placed third overall at the Canadian Junior Short Track Championships while amassing 15,400 points. Chartrand is in the running to compete at the ISU Junior World Short Track Championships in Poland this February.

**A little more about Victor:** Started skating at age six, following in the footsteps of his brother... Was inspired by Dutch and South Korean skaters when he was younger... Dreams of one day competing at an Olympic Winter Games.

## ALEXIS DUBUC-BILODEAU

<b>SPORT:</b> Short Track Speed Skating	<b>HOMETOWN:</b> Trois-Rivières	<b>BIRTHDATE:</b> December 18, 2007
<b>EVENT:</b>	<b>HOME PROVINCE:</b> Quebec	<b>AGE AT GAMES:</b> 16

Alexis will make his international debut at Gangwon 2024. Alexis recently became the youngest male skater to reach the podium at this season's Canadian Junior Short Track Championships when he earned bronze in the 1500m. Alexis dreams of one day competing at the Olympic Winter Games, and understands that competing at Gangwon 2024 is an important first step, and is excited to be able to wear the maple leaf on his suit.

Starting to compete in short track when he was in sixth grade, as a 13-year-old, Alexis was crowned champion of Eastern Canada in his age group. He then won the Canadian title among 14-15 year olds in the 500m. Alexis trains at his local speed skating club in Trois-Rivières. Four-time Olympic medallist Éric Bédard, who is related to Alexis, suggested he try speed skating after skating together on a lake at a chalet.





**A little more about Alexis:** Practiced hockey and figure skating when he was younger... Enjoys downhill skiing, baseball and skateboarding in his spare time... Participated in the sport-studies program at the Académie Sport-Études du Cap-de-la-Madeleine... Likes to analyze the techniques of sports he practices.

## OCÉANE GUÉRARD

<b>SPORT:</b> Short Track Speed Skating	<b>HOMETOWN:</b> Quebec City	<b>BIRTHDATE:</b> July 27, 2006
<b>EVENT:</b>	<b>HOME PROVINCE:</b> Quebec	<b>AGE AT GAMES:</b> 17

Océane Guérard, a member of Speed Skating Canada's NextGen team, will make her international debut at Gangwon 2024. Ranked sixth overall at the 2023 Short Track Canadian Junior Championships, she earned a second-place finish in the A final of the 1500m, and moved up more than ten spots from her 17th-place overall ranking at the 2022 Short Track Canadian Junior Championships.

After having to overcome ulcerative colitis, an inflammatory bowel disease, and having lost eight kilos while she was ill before being diagnosed, Océane is very proud to have learned how to manage the chronic illness, recovered and have fought to qualify for the Youth Olympic Games. Océane must manage her energy during training and receive monthly treatments, but is happy to have returned to competition.

**A bit more about Océane:** Moved to Montreal at age 15 to train at the National Training Center... In 2022, was nominated in the category of 'découverte féminine' in the annual Quebec Athlete Gala.



## SKI CROSS



### WILLIAM 'KAEL' JOHNSTON

<b>SPORT:</b> Ski Cross	<b>HOMETOWN:</b> Calgary	<b>BIRTHDATE:</b> March 24, 2007
<b>EVENT:</b>	<b>HOME PROVINCE:</b> Alberta	<b>AGE AT GAMES:</b> 16

Gangwon 2024 will mark Kael's first overseas international competition in ski cross. In December 2023, Kael raced in alpine skiing FIS events in Panorama Resort, B.C as well as Norquay, Alberta in both slalom and giant slalom.

Kael also does competitive sprint kayak and competed at the 2022 Canadian Sprint Canoe Kayak Championships in the U16 Men's K-4 500m and 1000m, the U16 Men's K-2 1000m as well as the U16 Mixed and Men's C15 500m events. He has shared that he hasn't been able to pick between his two favourite sports (skiing and kayak), so he is competing at the national level in both, for the time being. To date, qualifying for Gangwon 2024 is a career highlight for Kael, and he is very proud of the improvements he has made over the last season in both alpine and ski cross. Kael looks to Olympic champion Brady Leman as a role model, who grew up skiing at the same hill that Kael currently trains at.

**A little more about William 'Kael':** Was born in Oman where his dad was working at the time, and moved to Canada as he was a year old... Started skiing at age 2 and joined his first ski club at age 4... Both



parents grew up ski racing... In addition to skiing and kayaking, Kael also loves climbing, mountain biking and computer programming... His uncle competed at the Olympic level as a swimmer.

## ANNE-MARIE JONCAS

<b>SPORT: Ski Cross</b>	<b>HOMETOWN: Whistler</b>	<b>BIRTHDATE: September 29, 2006</b>
<b>EVENT:</b>	<b>HOME PROVINCE: British Columbia</b>	<b>AGE AT GAMES: 17</b>

Anne-Marie Joncas was born in the Laurentians in Quebec, but has lived in Whistler, British Columbia since 2015. In 2023, Anne-Marie competed at five FIS events and two Nor-Am Cup events, winning a silver and a bronze medal at the FIS event in Nakiska in December.

Anne-Marie has shared that she loves the atmosphere of ski cross races and likes using the technicality of alpine racing when she races ski cross. Last February, Anne-Marie had a season-ending injury, but persevered to recover and still qualify for the Youth Olympic Games. Proud of her francophone roots, Anne-Marie is bilingual and attends a french immersion school.

**A little more about Anne-Marie:** Started skiing at two years old and started competing in alpine skiing at 10 years old... Parents taught skiing their whole lives and always encouraged Anne-Marie to get up the hill as much as possible... Enjoys playing rugby and volleyball... Naomi Osaka is Anne-Marie's role model, whose bravery to spread awareness about racism and other global issues, as well as how she prioritizes her mental health inspires her... Also looks up to Marielle Thompson, a fellow Whistlerite... Would like to become a doctor or physio, or would like to work for the UN or other charities when she gets older.

## COLE MERRETT

<b>SPORT: Ski Cross</b>	<b>HOMETOWN: Calgary</b>	<b>BIRTHDATE: December 6, 2007</b>
<b>EVENT:</b>	<b>HOME PROVINCE: Alberta</b>	<b>AGE AT GAMES: 16</b>

Cole Merrett competed in ski cross as well as three alpine events at the 2023 Canada Winter Games, which he cites as his sporting achievement that he is currently most proud of, aside from qualifying for the Youth Olympic Games. Cole was disappointed to not have qualified for nationals in 2022, but it fuelled him to work even harder to reach his goals, and he ended up qualifying for the Canada Winter Games.

Cole loves the speed and adrenaline of ski racing, and says that there is no other sport like it. During Cole's first day of ski lessons, his dad had to drag him off the hill because he didn't want to leave, and he has loved skiing ever since. Cole has shared that watching the Olympic Games on television sparked his dream of one day competing there.



**A little more about Cole:** Competed at the Alberta 2020 Winter Games as well as the Alberta 2018 Summer Games... Was introduced to skiing when he was four years old and started competing at age six... Received the Alberta Alpine Cary Mullen award in 2019 and again in 2022... Has a part-time job as a cafe barista.

## KAEL OBERLANDER

<b>SPORT:</b> Ski Cross	<b>HOMETOWN:</b> Big White	<b>BIRTHDATE:</b> December 14, 2007
<b>EVENT:</b>	<b>HOME PROVINCE:</b> British Columbia	<b>AGE AT GAMES:</b> 16

In 2023, Kael raced in both slalom and giant slalom at an FIS event in Panorama Resort, British Columbia. In December, she won both races in Nakiska that would determine the athletes who would represent Team Canada at the Youth Olympic Games. Gangwon 2024 will mark Kael's first international competition overseas. In March 2022, Kael won double gold at the Big White U16 ski cross event.

**A little more about Kael:** Began skiing at three years old... Her family moved to Big White when she was in grade 2 and she began training with the Big White Ski Club.



## SKI JUMPING



### TARIK VANWIEREN

<b>SPORT:</b> Ski Jumping	<b>HOMETOWN:</b> Calgary	<b>BIRTHDATE:</b> March 9, 2007
<b>EVENT:</b> Men's Individual	<b>HOME PROVINCE:</b> Alberta	<b>AGE AT GAMES:</b> 16

After qualifying Canada the quota spot at the 2023 FIS Nordic Junior World Ski Championships on home snow in Whistler, B.C, Tarik was then selected to represent Team Canada at Gangwon 2024 after having been ranked the top Canadian at the Notodden FIS Cup in Norway from December 15-16. In October, Tarik won a bronze medal at an FIS event in Lake Placid, after having competed in USA Nordic's Youth Olympic Games Qualifier, where he placed fourth in a field of 22 athletes. Tarik also competed at the USA Nordic National Championship where he placed 15th out of 43 on the normal hill and 16th out of 36 in fields that included multiple Olympians.

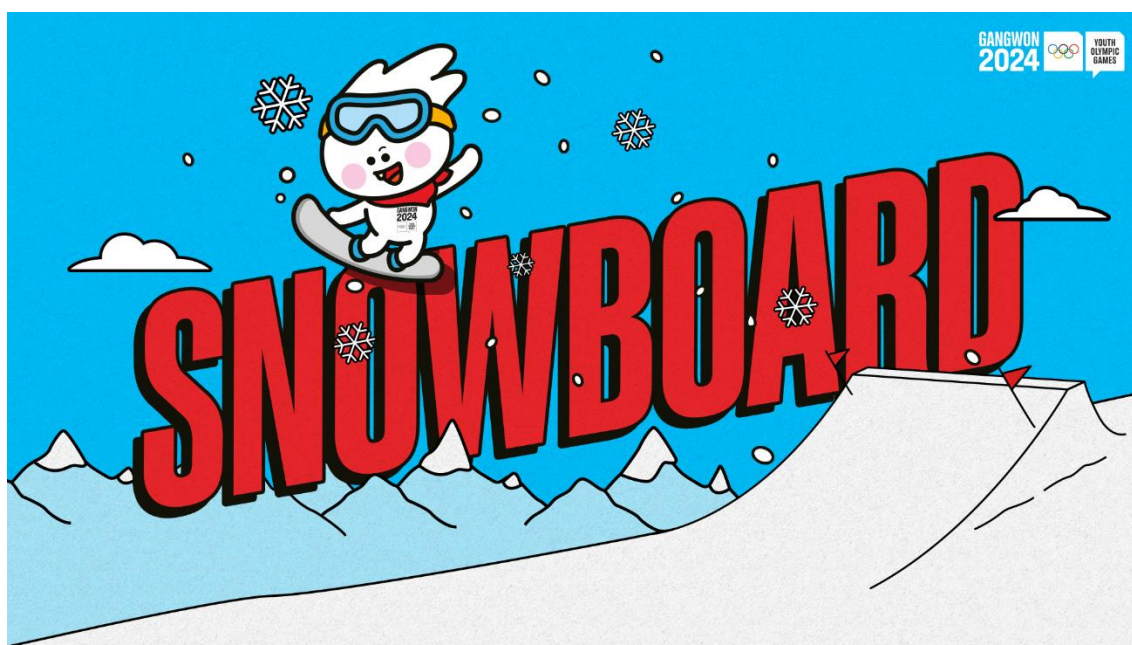
Tarik began ski jumping at age seven, and competed for the first time at age eight. After the Calgary ski jumps shut down in 2019, Tarik began travelling internationally to train, making use of the facilities in Lake Placid, Park City, Steamboat Springs, as well as in Poland and Slovenia. The notion of representing his country and being part of Team Canada sparked his dream of pursuing ski jumping. Tarik has shared that watching Team Canada win the historic Olympic bronze medal at Beijing 2022 in mixed team ski jumping was so exciting, and that it brought so much more motivation to his own ski jumping career.





**A little more about Tarik:** Decided to try ski jumping after watching the Eddie the Eagle movie... Jumped his first 60 meter jump in Park City at 10 years old... Has a younger brother Ryker who also competed domestically in ski jumping... All of the Team Canada ski jumpers and coaches inspire him and are role models to Tarik.

## SNOWBOARD



### ELI BOUCHARD

<b>SPORT:</b> Snowboard	<b>HOMETOWN:</b> Lac Beauport	<b>BIRTHDATE:</b> December 12, 2007
<b>EVENT:</b> Men's slopestyle / big air	<b>HOME PROVINCE:</b> Quebec	<b>AGE AT GAMES:</b> 16

Eli Bouchard represented Canada at the 2023 FIS Junior World Championships in Cardrona, New Zealand, where he placed seventh in slopestyle, after becoming the 2023 Canadian junior champion in slopestyle at Canada Snowboard's National Junior Championships. In his young career, Eli has also won medals at multiple FIS and Nor-Am events, and competed at three senior World Cup events. Eli recently placed 15th at the Edmonton Big Air World Cup in December 2023, in a field of 53 athletes that included the Beijing 2022 Olympic champion in snowboard big air, Su Yiming.

In 2022, when Eli was just 14 years old, he received special permission from FIS to compete at the Edmonton World Cup, as the FIS normally does not allow competitors under the age of 15, and was excited to be able



to compete alongside teammate and idol, three-time Olympic medallist, Mark McMorris. At the 2023 Canada Winter Games, Eli won gold in both the big air and slopestyle, and also competed in men's snowboard cross and men's snowboard parallel giant slalom.

**A little more about Eli:** Began snowboarding before his second birthday... Became a YouTube sensation at eight years old when he became the youngest snowboarder to land a double backflip... Began slopestyle because of his older brother Zac.

## OLIVIER GAGNÉ

<b>SPORT:</b> Snowboard	<b>HOMETOWN:</b> Lac-Etchemin	<b>BIRTHDATE:</b> February 14, 2006
<b>EVENT:</b> Men's snowboard cross	<b>HOME PROVINCE:</b> Quebec	<b>AGE AT GAMES:</b> 17

Olivier Gagné won bronze in the 2023 Canada Winter Games in both snowboard cross and parallel giant slalom, which he cites as his sporting achievement that he's currently most proud of. He also competed in the big air and slopestyle events. In April of 2023, Olivier won gold in snowboard cross in an FIS event in Mt. Original, Quebec. He has competed at multiple Nor-Am Cups and FIS events, and represented Canada in a junior event in Pitztal, Austria in 2022.

For Olivier, the adrenaline and the challenge is what intrigued him most to snowboarding. At the age of 11, Olivier competed in alpine skiing competitions, but realized that he wasn't passionate about skiing. When he tried snowboarding at 12-years old, everything clicked and he began competing in snowboarding that winter. Olivier won his second competition he ever competed in, after only two months of practicing snowboarding.

**A little more about Olivier:** Has two older siblings... Sister Anne competed in the World Cup event in La Molina, Spain in 2018 and won the 2019 Canada Winter Games in snowboard cross... Looks to Olympic medallist, Eliot Grondin, as well as his sister Anne as personal role models... Loves the quote, "Obsession is going to beat talent every time. You've got all the talent in the world, but are you obsessed?"

## FELICITY GEREMIA

<b>SPORT:</b> Snowboard	<b>HOMETOWN:</b> Calgary	<b>BIRTHDATE:</b> June 4, 2007
<b>EVENT:</b> Women's halfpipe	<b>HOME PROVINCE:</b> Alberta	<b>AGE AT GAMES:</b> 16

Felicity Geremia represented Canada at the 2022 FIS Junior World Championships in Leysin, Switzerland, where she placed 11th in women's halfpipe. Throughout 2022 and 2023 she earned many podium placements at various FIS events and Nor-Am Cups, including winning gold in both slopestyle and halfpipe on home



snow at Winsport at an FIS event in Calgary in March 2023. Days later, she went on to win bronze in halfpipe at Canada Snowboard's National Junior Championships. This followed a performance at the 2023 Canada Winter Games where she won silver in parallel giant slalom, bronze in big air and placed fifth in both slopestyle and snowboard cross.

**A little more about Felicity:** Began snowboarding at 5 years old because her sister was involved with the sport and she wanted to follow her sister... In the off-season, Felicity plays competitive softball for a U17 team called the Calgary Adrenaline and competitive soccer for the Calgary West Soccer Club in the Alberta Youth Soccer League – the highest level of competitive soccer for youth players in Alberta... Is superstitious about wanting to eat french toast for breakfast on competition days.

## AMALIA 'BILLY' PELCHAT

<b>SPORT: Snowboard</b>	<b>HOMETOWN: Whistler</b>	<b>BIRTHDATE: December 17 2007</b>
<b>EVENT: Women's slopestyle / big air</b>	<b>HOME PROVINCE: British Columbia</b>	<b>AGE AT GAMES: 16</b>

Amalia 'Billy' Pelchat made her international debut for Canada when she competed in both slopestyle and big air at the 2023 FIS Junior World Championships in Cardrona, New Zealand, where she won the bronze medal in slopestyle. Daughter of former professional snowboarder, Jean-Francois Pelchat who competed at multiple World Cups in the late 90s, Billy grew up in a snowboard family. Billy won gold in both slopestyle and big air, as well as bronze in snowboard cross at the 2023 Canada Winter Games. At Canada Snowboard's 2022 National Junior Championships, she won bronze in slopestyle.

**A little more about Billy:** Her father taught her to snowboard at age 3... Looks up to New Zealand snowboarder and Olympic champion Zoi Synnott as a role model.

## NEKO REIMER

<b>SPORT: Snowboard</b>	<b>HOMETOWN: Rossland</b>	<b>BIRTHDATE: November 28, 2006</b>
<b>EVENT: Men's slopestyle / big air</b>	<b>HOME PROVINCE: British Columbia</b>	<b>AGE AT GAMES: 17</b>

Neko Reimer represented Canada at the FIS Junior World Championships in Cardrona, New Zealand in September 2023, where he competed in both slopestyle and big air. He also has competed in multiple Nor-Am Cups and FIS events - winning a gold medal in slopestyle at an FIS event in Whistler in January of 2023. At his first international event, a Park City FIS event in February of 2020, Neko won a bronze medal.



**A bit more about Neko:** Was born in New Zealand, but moved to British Columbia when he was very young... Started snowboarding at about two years old, and started competing in snowboarding at age six... Looks up to Craig and Mark McMorris as role models.

## ROSE SAVARD-FERGUSON

<b>SPORT:</b> Snowboard	<b>HOMETOWN:</b> Baie-Saint-Paul	<b>BIRTHDATE:</b> July 6, 2006
<b>EVENT:</b> Women's snowboard cross	<b>HOME PROVINCE:</b> Quebec	<b>AGE AT GAMES:</b> 17

Rose Savard-Ferguson won the bronze medal in parallel giant slalom at the 2023 Canada Winter Games. At that event, she also competed in snowboard cross where she earned fourth place. She has also competed at multiple Nor-Am Cups, as well as an FIS event in Pitztal, Austria.

The daughter of Canadian Olympian Marie-Claude Savard-Gagnon who competed at the Nagano 1998 Olympic Winter Games in pairs figure skating, Rose is also an accomplished figure skater herself. She competed at the 2020 Quebec provincial championships in the pre-novice category, as well winning a silver medal at the 2019 Jeux de Quebec in juvenile, but after not being able to train or compete during the pandemic, she found it challenging to return to the sport. She made the difficult decision to step away from figure skating, but discovered snowboarding through her brother and loved it. Her brother, James Savard-Ferguson, also a competitive snowboarder, has competed at multiple World Cups and is a member of Canada Snowboard's NextGen team.

## ANTHONY SHELLY

<b>SPORT:</b> Snowboard	<b>HOMETOWN:</b> Whistler	<b>BIRTHDATE:</b> February 12, 2007
<b>EVENT:</b> Men's snowboard cross	<b>HOME PROVINCE:</b> British Columbia	<b>AGE AT GAMES:</b> 16

Anthony Shelly won the silver medal in snowboard cross at the 2023 Canada Winter Games. At that event, he also competed in big air, slopestyle and parallel giant slalom. Shortly after the Canada Games, he travelled to Passo San Pellegrino, Italy, to compete at the FIS Junior World Championships. Anthony has also competed in multiple Nor-Am Cup events, as well as a junior event in Gargellen, Austria.

**A little more about Anthony:** Was born in Squamish, British Columbia... Began competing in snowboard when he was six year old... Loves downhill mountain biking and also races competitively in provincial competitions.



## AVERY SPALDING

<b>SPORT:</b> Snowboard	<b>HOMETOWN:</b> Havelock	<b>BIRTHDATE:</b> February 12, 2007
<b>EVENT:</b> Women's slopestyle / big air	<b>HOME PROVINCE:</b> Ontario	<b>AGE AT GAMES:</b> 16

Avery Spalding won the bronze medal in slopestyle at the 2023 Canada Winter Games in Prince Edward Island. At that event, she also competed in big air and snowboard cross. Just a couple weeks after the Canada Games, Avery travelled to Calgary where she won gold in slopestyle at Canada Snowboard's National Junior Championships, one step better than the silver medal she won at the 2022 National Junior Championships. Avery has also competed at FIS events and Nor-Am Cups throughout Canada, as well as the 2020 and 2018 Ontario Winter Games. Avery's brother Cam is on Canada Snowboard's National Team, and is the 2022 Junior World Champion in slopestyle.

**A little more about Avery:** Has two siblings that both compete in snowboard... Has competed in snowboard since she was five years old... Dad introduced her to snowboarding and has loved it ever since... Personal role model is New Zealand snowboarder and Olympic champion Zoi Synnott... Enjoyed her time so much at the Canada Games where she also got to watch judo and women's hockey, as well as being able to march in the Closing Ceremony and trade clothing with athletes from other provinces.

## HANNAH TURKINGTON

<b>SPORT:</b> Snowboard	<b>HOMETOWN:</b> Whistler	<b>BIRTHDATE:</b> January 17, 2007
<b>EVENT:</b> Women's snowboard cross	<b>HOME PROVINCE:</b> British Columbia	<b>AGE AT GAMES:</b> 17

Hannah Turkington competed at the 2023 FIS Junior World Championships in Passo San Pellegrino, Italy in March. A few weeks before that, she competed at the 2023 Canada Winter Games in Prince Edward Island, where she won gold in snowboard cross, and placed fifth in parallel giant slalom. Winning gold at the Canada Games was Hannah's most proud sporting achievement so far in her career. Hannah has also competed at multiple Nor-Am Cups and FIS events, including winning gold at a FIS event at Big White in February 2023. In 2022, she competed at a junior event in Pitztal, Austria, and won a bronze medal at the South American Cup in Corralco, Chile.

Hannah has shared that when she was three years old, she watched Maelle Ricker win gold at the Vancouver 2010 Olympic Winter Games on television, pointed at the TV and shouted to her parents "that's what I want to do!". She still looks at Maelle as her personal role model, as well as two-time Olympic medallist Meryeta





O'Dine. Hannah was diagnosed with severe dyslexia in grade two, but understands that though she struggles in some fields, she excels in many others, including her athletic ability. Hannah now calls her dyslexia her 'superpower' and says that it drives her to succeed, pushing her to dream of competing at the Olympic Winter Games.

**A little more about Hannah:** Switched from skiing to snowboarding when she was five because she wanted to be like her dad and uncle who were snowboarders... Fell in love with snowboard cross by the time she was nine years old... By age 11, she had won all the provincial and Western Canadian competitions that she had entered... Wants to learn how to say "please" and "thank you" in the language of each country she travels to... Volunteers with Whistler Off-Road Cycling Association which helps build trails in Whistler... Enjoys mountain biking, hiking and cooking... Works as a bike mechanic in the off-season.

## LILY-ANN ULMER

<b>SPORT:</b> Snowboard	<b>HOMETOWN:</b> Calgary	<b>BIRTHDATE:</b> July 14, 2006
<b>EVENT:</b> Women's halfpipe	<b>HOME PROVINCE:</b> Alberta	<b>AGE AT GAMES:</b> 17

Lily-Ann Ulmer competed at a senior World Cup in December 2023 at Copper Mountain in the USA. At the 2023 Canada Snowboard National Junior Championships, Lily-Ann placed fourth in halfpipe. Also having competed at Nor-Am Cups and FIS events, Lily-Anne won gold at an FIS event at Canada Olympic Park in Calgary in January, 2020.

**A little more about Lily-Ann:** Tried snowboarding for the first time in 2014 on a school trip, fell in love with it and joined a snowboarding club in 2016... Competed for the first time in 2018... Loves the technical aspects of halfpipe and loves flying through the air... Qualified for the Junior World Championships in 2022 but a torn ACL and meniscus while competing on double mini trampoline forced Lily-Ann to withdraw... Is also a high-level trampoline athlete, and won gold at Gymnastics Canada's 2021 Canadian Championships in double-mini trampoline at the junior level.