



2017 Mike Mintenko Swimmer Scholarship RECIPIENT ANNOUNCED

Swim Saskatchewan is pleased to announce that **Rebecca Dean, 15**, of the **Regina Optimist Dolphins Swim Club (ROD)** is the recipient of the **2017 Mike Mintenko Swimmer Scholarship** award.

Mike Mintenko is an Olympic Swimmer from Moose Jaw. He swam with the Moose Jaw Kinsmen Flying Fins and went onto the University of Nevada, Las Vegas on a swimming Scholarship. He was selected to Team Canada for the 2000 Olympics in Sydney Australia and the 2004 Olympics in Athens.

In 2004, when Mike Mintenko completed his Olympic Journey, he decided that he wanted to give something back to Saskatchewan's young swimmers. He took the proceeds from the sale of the *Mike Mintenko 2004 Journey to Athens Calendar* and created a swimming scholarship to assist youth age swimmers to pursue excellence. One swimmer is selected annually from applications received from youth aged swimmers that are aspiring to pursue excellence. Female swimmers between the ages of 13 to 16 and male swimmers between the ages of 14 to 17 that have achieved Western Canadian Championship time standards are eligible to apply.



Mike Mintenko is a two-time Olympian (2000 and 2004) and Silver Medalist at the 2005 World Aquatic Championships.

Rebecca Dean is a member of the Junior High-Performance squad with the Regina Optimist Dolphins Swim Club in Regina. In 2016-17 Rebecca was selected by team-mates as the Captain for the Team Sask Swimming Canada Summer Games team. At the Games, she earned the first medal for Team Saskatchewan, a bronze in the 1500m freestyle as well as placed 6th in 200m butterfly and 8th in 400m freestyle.

According to her coach, Craig Nieuwstad, it is "the National level where her achievements have shone. At the Canadian Western Championships, she achieved four top eight finishes (800m FR 4th, 400m IM 4th, and 400m FR 5th), which included a Bronze Medal in the 200m Fly and one B-Final (200 FR). Her achievements in the pool during this qualification window saw her selected for her third straight Prospects



The presentation was made to Rebecca Dean November 4th in Saskatoon Swim Sask Provincial Coach Aaron Maszko.

West Team. At the first Canadian Junior Nationals, swimming at the bottom of her age group, she achieved an A final in the Girls 15-17-200m Fly, finishing 9th and qualifying for Senior Nationals in that event.”

Becky’s goal for the 2017-18 season is to continue training to the best of her ability and better her technique in all strokes; working towards medalling and/or qualifying for finals at meets such as Canadian Junior Championships, Western Canadian Championships and Senior National Championships. Rebecca’s long-term swimming goals include working towards making a Junior and Senior National Team as well as earn a scholarship to a Division 1 NCAA school introducing her to the world of international swimming.

Coach Craig Nieuwstad indicates that Rebecca is determined and that she continues to work smarter and better in the training pool and that her improvements in the training pool are just one of the reasons she achieves in the competition pool. She also sets an example for her peers and younger swimmers in her club and the province. **Congratulations Rebecca!**

The recipient receives \$1,000 from the fund which is made payable to the swimmer’s club, with the money allocated for the individual’s training, competition or travel costs.

Winners of the Mike Mintenko Scholarship

2017	Rebecca Dean, Regina Optimist Dolphins	2010	Quinn Moore, Regina Optimist Dolphins
2016	Jean-Philippe Dufresne, Regina Optimist Dolphins	2009	Mitchell Benkic, Saskatoon Goldfins
2015	Bree Crookshanks, Regina Optimist Dolphins	2008	Samantha Bancescu, Regina Optimist Dolphins
2014	Brian Palaschuk, Regina Optimist Dolphins	2007	Taylor Moore, Regina Optimist Dolphins
2013	Shelby Stene, Saskatoon Goldfins	2006	Max Moore, Regina Optimist Dolphins
2012	Lexy King, Regina Optimist Dolphins	2005	Brit Robson, Saskatoon Goldfins
2011	Cassie Brassard, Regina Optimist Dolphins	2004	Courtney Kapustianyk, Saskatoon Goldfins