



ANNUAL REVIEW

2019/20



UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY
FACULTY OF KINESIOLOGY



DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE DARLENE KASTNER

Empower all to achieve excellence; our purpose statement continues to thrive as the Oval team continues to deliver the highest standards of programs and services. It has been a busy year that witnessed change, exciting new initiatives, key events, and of course challenges with the unprecedented COVID-19 global pandemic.

The Olympic Oval bid farewell to Yves Hamelin this year as he moved on to new ventures in the east. As the search for a new director began, I was appointed Interim Director and was honoured to lead our very talented team until a successful candidate was named.

The Olympic Oval was honoured to be designated an ISU Center of Excellence (CoE). This two year pilot project is a conceptual test and is aimed to serve the development of skating sports all over the world. Our team of experts looks forward to working with the other three ISU CoEs and implementing some exciting new initiatives. I would like to thank Speed Skating Canada for their ongoing support of this pilot project.

Although the racing season was cut short due to the global pandemic, the Oval hosted 26 competitions and racing opportunities in long and short track this year, including the 2020 IMSCC International Masters Sprint Championships. The Alberta Winter Games speed skating events were held at the Oval February 15-16, and the ISU World Cup Speed Skating #5 February 7-8. Athletes from around the globe did not disappoint and kept fans cheering wildly.

With much disappointment, four key events including Short Track Canada Cup Final, Olympic

Oval Grand Prix, Canada Cup #4 Long Track, and Olympic Oval Finale were cancelled due to the onset of the worldwide COVID-19 pandemic. Although difficult, the health and safety of all athletes, staff and visitors was and will remain our first priority. We hope to begin next season with as little disruption as possible, as we navigate through the COVID-19 crisis.

So many teams play a vital role in helping us achieve excellence, and without their support, we would be unable to accomplish all we do. Thank you to every single Oval staff member for their outstanding contribution. Thank you to the University of Calgary, the Faculty of Kinesiology, our many sport partners, valued sponsors and donors, dedicated athletes, and our diverse community who all play an important role in helping us achieve excellence. A special thank you to our amazing volunteers who give so much of their time, expertise and passion to the Oval, allowing us to host numerous world class racing opportunities.

In closing, I would like to thank former director Yves Hamelin for his vision and leadership over the last five years. Under his guidance the Oval's business of sport flourished and continues to do so. The entire Oval team is grateful for his passion, wisdom, and commitment to excellence. I am thrilled to welcome new director Peter McCrory on behalf of the Oval team. Peter brings a wealth of knowledge, a diverse business and leadership background, as well as a fierce passion for sport. His desire to build on the legacy of the Olympic Oval will certainly be a valued asset as we continue to empower all to achieve excellence.



DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE PETER MCCRORY

I am truly delighted to join this world-class team and facility and to have the opportunity to continue the legacy of the Olympic Oval. While the timing of my arrival has intersected with the COVID-19 pandemic, it has not stopped the whole team from moving forward with as many initiatives as possible. The first order of business after getting to know the team, was to assess the condition of Oval. Originally designed to last 25 years, the Oval team has done an incredible job of maintaining the building in a world-class condition. That said, our assessment has shown that the Oval is in need of significant capital renewals, and we will look to prioritise that over the months ahead.

I would like to thank Darlene Kastner for the tremendous work that she did as Interim Director in providing stability during the transition to my arrival. Darlene will be remaining with the Oval to assist with my onboarding. In my short time here, I have been really impressed with the engagement of the Oval team, as well as the engagement of those that we support and those who support the Oval.

Looking ahead to the 2020-21 season, we are planning to continue to fulfill our mandate and support the speed skating community, the varsity teams and athletes, and the wider community. Having come from another facility that supported sport and the public, I recognize the importance of the role facilities play in creating the right environment for sporting organizations to flourish, while also promoting and providing community based activities to all levels of ability.

Assuming the COVID-19 restrictions have been lifted, this season's events will bring a lot of excitement to the Oval for yet another year. We

will be hosting the ISU World Cup Speed Skating #4 and ISU Four Continents Speed Skating Championships January 15-17. In anticipation of these events, we are grateful for all the volunteers who continue to provide their invaluable support to enable the Oval to deliver world-class events. Here's hoping we also see more world records being broken at the Oval, to continue that long tradition of being recognized as *The Fastest Ice in the World*. We are also looking forward to welcoming back many international teams who are planning a return to Calgary to train on the *The Fastest Ice in the World*, including teams from China, Kazakhstan, Norway, the Netherlands, the USA, South Korea and Japan, to name a few. On the varsity side, I am excited to see how our teams will perform, a virtue of being able to train in the Oval. We are proud to be the home training centre for many of the UCalgary Dinos varsity teams including the Vanier Cup Champions football team, men's and women's volleyball and basketball teams, women's hockey team, track and field teams to name a few. We will continue working with varsity teams providing a world class training environment to support their quest for excellence. On the community side, we continue to provide sport and recreation opportunities for the Calgary community. Public skating and running continue to be very popular and we look to introducing some new initiatives this year.

As well we are proud to host community events such our Servus Monday Night Toonie Skates, Annual Christmas Skate and the Servus Credit Union Free Family Day Skate. Looking ahead, my vision is to continue to deliver on our mandate and remain a truly world-class facility for training and competition.



THE
FASTEST
ICE IN THE
WORLD™

PURPOSE

Empower all to achieve excellence.

VALUES

Passion, Quality, Honesty, Respect, and Enjoyment.

MISSION

The Olympic Oval is a world-class speed skating and high performance sports facility dedicated to the pursuit of excellence and health and wellness for all.

VISION

Together with our partners, we will drive the mission of Canadian athlete podium performances.



WHAT IS THE CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE?

The ISU Centre of Excellence (CoE) is a two-year pilot project, spanning across 2020 and 2021, introduced by the International Skating Union (ISU) to promote sustainable growth of skating worldwide. The Olympic Oval was proud to be awarded this designation and will work in conjunction with three other ISU designated speed skating Centres of Excellence around the globe. The CoEs will look to develop projects, workshops, and activities to test the concept and define the best way forward to grow the sport internationally, while demonstrating best practices for an elite sports facility. It will be a renowned hub for athletes, coaches, and officials to access high-quality experts, services, seminars, workshops, and on- and off-ice support. This coveted designation is a testament to the incredible work the Olympic Oval is doing, and we welcome the opportunity to forge ahead and continually innovate.

At the end of the two-year pilot program, the Olympic Oval can apply for the next stage; a four-year phase of the ISU CoE with the goal of serving the development of skating sports internationally.

Thank you to Speed Skating Canada for their ongoing support and collaboration on this project.

CoE PILOT PROJECT GOALS:

- Provide opportunities for developing coaches to work with and be mentored by internationally recognized high-level coaches.
- Give talented skaters the chance to be part of an appropriate training group with access to coaching services and off-ice programs.
- Deliver seminars, workshops and learning opportunities for skaters, officials, coaches, and administrators in combination with the ISU e-learning platform.
- Develop a CoE Handbook and other related guidelines during the two year pilot project phase.

CoE LONG-TERM GOALS:

- Implementation of a four year phase for interested skating entities across the globe with the aim to serve the development of skating sports around the world.
- Increase the quantity and quality of skaters, coaches, and officials worldwide.
- Increase the number of skaters globally that will be competitive at ISU Events and the Olympic Winter Games.
- Foster continuous development of skating expertise in all countries for coaches, skaters, officials and administrators for skaters, coaches, officials and infrastructure.

**BEIJING
CHINA**



**CALGARY
CANADA**



**HEERENVEEN
NETHERLANDS**



**SALT LAKE CITY
USA**





SPEED SKATING EVENTS

The Olympic Oval was the host facility for 32 different speed skating events this season, ranging from recreational meets for young skaters to ISU World Cups. Over 240 international athletes travelled from 24 different countries to compete during the season. The facility takes pride in the professionalism and efficiency it has perfected for running such events. By continuing to hold competitions, we are exposing our skaters and programs to international audiences while giving skaters who train at the Oval the opportunity to compete on home ice.

Olympic Oval Team Trophy (Short Track)
August 17-18, 2019

Olympic Oval Summer Classic (Long Track)
August 23-25, 2019

Olympic Oval Fall Classic (Long Track)
September 19-22, 2019

Skate-Tec Western Elite Circuit #1 (Short Track)
October 12-13, 2019

**Canadian Long Track Championships and
Olympic Oval International
(Long Track)**
October 17-20, 2019

Olympic Oval Can Am (Long Track)
November 8-10, 2019

Canadian Junior Short Track Championships
November 29 - December 1, 2019

Canada Cup #2 (Long Track)
January 3 - 6, 2020

Canadian Junior Long Track Championships
January 3 - 6, 2020

Alberta Open Indoor Long Track (AASSA)
January 11 - 12, 2020

**ISU World Cup Speed Skating #5
(Long Track)**
February 7-8, 2020

**2020 Alberta Winter Games
(Long Track)**
February 14-17, 2020

Skate-Tec Western Elite Circuit #3 (Short Track)
February 22-23, 2020

**IMSSC Masters Sprint Games 2020
(LONG TRACK)**
February 29 - March 1, 2020

RUFAST (Short Track)
March 7-8, 2020

Time Trials (Ten) (Long Track)
September 7, 2020
September 14, 2020
October 5, 2020
October 12, 2020
November 2, 2020
November 30, 2020
December 21, 2020
December 28, 2020
February 1, 2020
February 22, 2020

Single Distance Series (Three) (Short Track)
September 28, 2019
November 16, 2019
December 7, 2019

CANCELLED EVENTS DUE TO COVID-19

Short Track Canada Cup Final
March 13-15, 2020

Olympic Oval Grand Prix Long Track
March 14-15, 2020

Olympic Oval Finale Long Track
March 19-22, 2020

Canada Cup # 4 Long Track
March 19-22, 2020

ISU WORLD CUP 2020

The fifth leg in the ISU World Cup Speed Skating circuit was held at the Olympic Oval February 7-8, 2020.

Racing was fast and furious for Canadians over the weekend but it was Russia's Pavel Kulizhnikov and Denis Yuskov, Japan's Nao Kodaira and Miho Takagi and the Czech Republic's Martina Sáblíková who performed for Gold.

Speed Skating Canada and the Oval were proud to honour Denny Morrison as he announced his retirement. Over his 16-year speed skating career, he won four Olympic medals and eleven medals at ISU World Single Distances Championships.

On day two the Oval was proud to honour five women who are now retired from the sport; Kristina Groves, Clara Hughes, Cindy Klassen, Christine Nesbitt, and Shannon Rempel. They were inducted into the 'Hall of Champions' for their silver medal performance in the women's team pursuit in Torino 2006.



**TED-JAN
BLOEMEN**
SILVER - 5,000M
6:07.426



IVANIE BLONDIN
SILVER - 1,500M
1:51.767 PB



GRAEME FISH
BRONZE - 5,000M
6:10.583 PB



Denny Morrison
Retirement Announcement



Hall of Champions Induction
Kristina Groves, Clara Hughes (unable to attend), Cindy Klassen, Christine Nesbitt, and Shannon Rempel



Ted-Jan Bloemen
Silver - 5,000m



Ivanie Blondin
Silver - 1,500m



Graeme Fish
Bronze - 5,000m

Graeme Fish Canadian Record (CR) and World Record (WR) - 10,000M (LT) 12:33.86

Graeme Fish set a world record (and a Canadian record) in the men's 10,000m, winning gold at the World Single Distances Speed Skating Championships on February 14 in Salt Lake City, Utah. The 22 year-old from Moose Jaw Saskatchewan was neck and neck with Canadian teammate Ted-Jan Bloemen all season but managed to break Bloemen's world record set just five years ago in 2015. Fish placed 2nd overall in World Cup Rankings in the 5,000M and 10,000M.

Ivanie Blondin CR – 1,500M (LT) 1:51.76

On top of her many achievements this season, Ivanie Blondin broke the Canadian record in the 1,500m at the World Cup #5 in Calgary. Her performance earned her a silver medal. The record was previously set by Cindy Klassen 14 years ago. Blondin placed 3rd overall in World Cup Rankings in the 3,000M and 5,000M.

Isabelle Weidemann CR – 5,000m (LT) 6:47.34

Isabelle Weidemann dominated the 5,000m distance at the 2019 Canadian Long Track Championships on October 18. She set a new

Canadian record and earned a gold medal right here at the Olympic Oval. Cindy Klassen had previously set the Canadian record in this distance in 2006. Weidemann placed 2nd overall in World Cup Rankings in the 3,000M and 5,000M.

Ivanie Blondin, Valerie Maltais, Isabelle Weidemann CR – Team Pursuit (LT) 2:53.62

Ivanie Blondin, Valerie Maltais, and Isabelle Weidemann posted a national record time of 2:53.62 to win bronze in the women's team pursuit at the ISU World Single Distance Championships in Salt Lake City on February 14.

CANADIAN
AND
WORLD
RECORDS

The Alberta Winter Games were held February 14-17, 2020 and the Olympic Oval had the privilege of being the host facility for the speed skating events. It proved to be an exciting and successful weekend for the up and coming speed skaters from seven

different zones, with a total of 56 speed skaters competing. Speed skaters from Calgary helped propel their zone's medal count during the games to 40 gold, 35 silver, and 30 bronze.

ALBERTA
WINTER
GAMES



OVAL ELITE ATHLETE

PATHWAY

ATHLETE HIGHLIGHTS

Oval athletes train incredibly hard throughout the season to see improvement in their skills, technique, and results. Here are just a few athletes who reached significant milestones in the 2019-2020 season.



FRANK ROTH
LONG TRACK ATHLETE

LT Canadian Junior Championships:

- 500m Gold
- 1000m Gold
- 1500m Gold
- 5000m Silver

LT Junior World Championships:

- 500m 10th
- 1000m 8th



JACK DEIBERT
LONG TRACK ATHLETE

Long Track Canadian Juniors:

- 5000m Gold
- 1500m Bronze
- Overall 2nd place

Junior Worlds:

- 16th place 5000m



JOSH HATHAWAY
LONG TRACK ATHLETE

Canada Cup #1:

- 3rd place 5000m
- 3rd place Mass Start

Canada Cup 2:

- 7th place 5000m

Canadian Single Distance Championships:

- 6th place 5000m



HEE-WON SON
LONG/SHORT TRACK ATHLETE

ST Canada Cup #1:

- 1000m 2nd
- 500m 3rd

LT Canadian Junior Championships:

- Silver in 500m and 1000m
- Overall 3rd

LT World Junior Championships:

- 11th in the 500m



RENEE STEENGE
SHORT TRACK ATHLETE

ST Canadian Championships:

- Overall 9th

ST Canada Cup #2:

- 1500m 1st
- 500m 2nd



ETHAN MCKINLEY-YOUNG
SHORT TRACK ATHLETE

ST Canadian Championships:

- Overall 13th

ST Canada Cup #2:

- 500m 5th



LEGEND

STAGE 1

Provincial Sport Organization (PSO)/Club Performance

STAGE 2

Regional Training Centre

STAGE 3

National Development Pool

STAGE 4

Senior National Pool

STAGE 5

Senior National Elite Pool

NEO-SENIOR

Between Stage 3 and 4

STAGE 4/5

Marsha Hudey
Kayline Irvine
Gilmore Junio
Carolina Hiller
Brooklyn McDougall
Sam Deckert
Jacob Graham
Nicolas Hiller
Cooper Emin
Connor Woods
Jordan Belchos
Ted-Jan Bloemen
Ben Donnelly
Graeme Fish
Connor Howe
Tyson Langelaar
Hayden Mayeur
Kaleb Muller
Jake Weidemann
Konrad Nagy

Jess Neufeld
Ivanie Blondin
Valerie Maltais
Isabelle Weidemann
Kali Christ
Lindsey Kent
Abigail McCluskey
Maddison Pearman
Alexa Scott

STAGE 3

Hayleigh Bell
Anna Bourgeois
Jasmine Chase
Kiersten Hagen
Ashley Hannah
Sierra Johnson
Cassidy Peterson
Gabrielle Sanson
Lily Weidemann
Abbey Young

Paul Coderre
Garrett Gledhill
Mark Golden
Max Halyk
Anders Johnson
Zachary Lacroix
Christian Liebrezeit
Cody Miller
Frank Roth
Gavin Broadhead
Hanno Dahmen
Ian Babulic
Max Brant
Jack Deibert
Marc-Andre Doyon
Joshua Hathaway
Gibson Himbeault
Thomas Meline
Eric Orlowsky
Sam Pollock
Matthew Scutchings

Jonah Hurtubise
Matthew Laxton
Simon Koots

STAGE 2

Alexa Annecca
Kennedy Charles
Rachel Freitag
Maartje Geuzebroek
Jake Hannah
Emma Javra
Molly Johnson
Claire Mallard
Zuzana Nedeljakova
Mathias Bathe
Emil Hodzic-Santor
Logan Toblan
Kaeden Witkowski

ELITE PATHWAY SHORT TRACK

STAGE 4

Cheyenne Goh
Hee Won Son
Roger Fulton
Ethan McKinley-Young
Matej Pederson
Marco Schumann
Brendan Yamada

NEO SENIOR

Akash Aradhya
Connor Rogerson
Isaac Sherwood
Ian Smibert

STAGE 3

Cezara Bere
Jenna Larter
Caitlin Pelkey
Sebastian Champagne
Ayame Mizuno
Benjamin Ward

STAGE 2

Annika Johnston
Maxwell Cole
Samuel Green
Stryden Hult-Griffin
Lukas MacDonald
Luka Mahrt-Smith
Dalton McLeod
Craig Miller
Wesley O'Brien
Braeden Picek
David Seal
Marshall Shupe
Yankun Zhao

106 OVAL ATHLETES

DROP-IN ATHLETES



The Olympic Oval offers an excellent drop-in program that affords high performance training opportunities to athletes who would like to train at a higher level.

Skaters that meet the standards are able to drop in and train at a high performance level throughout the regular skating season and/or during the summer. Younger, less experienced, athletes acquire a taste of training in a high performance facility and are placed into the appropriate stage of the Oval's Elite Athlete Pathway. The drop-in program is intended to complement provincial and territorial speed skating clubs and organizations to assist skaters with the transition of training full-time in the Oval's Elite Athlete Pathway program.

Short track skater Wren Acorn is a great example of a young athlete that has flourished under this program. Wren's first experience as a drop-in began in the summer of 2016. At 13 years old she came from the Northwest Territories to skate in the Oval's drop-in program. She returned every summer that followed and moved to Calgary this year to continue training full time in the Oval's Elite Athlete Pathway program.

The drop-in program is a great opportunity for athletes to experience high performance training at an advanced level and serves as a great recruitment tool for the Oval's Elite Athlete Pathway.

STATS

19

**SHORT TRACK
WEEKLY DROP-IN**
• 19 skaters for the
2019/2020 season

7

INVITATIONS
• Seven short track drop-in skaters
invited to train full-time for the
2020/2021 season

61

TOTAL SKATERS
• The number of drop-in skaters
total (55 short track and six long
track skaters) for the
2019/2020 season

IST SUPPORT

INTEGRATED SUPPORT TEAM CANADIAN SPORT INSTITUTE CALGARY

The Integrated Support Team (IST) works with Stage 3 and 4 Oval athletes offering specialized services in strength and conditioning, physiotherapy, sport psychology, physiological testing, monitoring, and programming as well as baseline concussion protocols. Experts in each field provide support to

enhance performance, prevent injury, and provide recovery strategies. These services are critical support for athletes aspiring to reach the national team level.



**SPORT
PHYSIOLOGY**
JEFF OSADEC



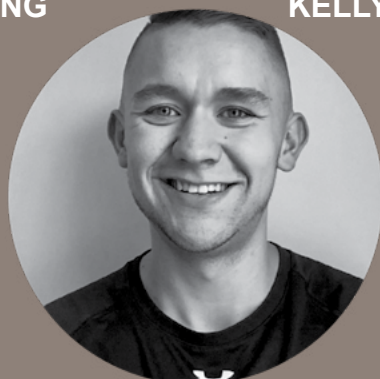
MENTAL HEALTH
ALAYNE HING



NUTRITION
KELLY-ANN ERDMAN



PHYSIOTHERAPIST
SHELBY WOGSBERG



ASSISTANT STRENGTH COACH
MATT ZUKOWSKI

SAFE SPORT

The Olympic Oval strongly believes that everyone has the right to enjoy the sport at any level or position. Athletes, coaches, officials, and volunteers have the right to participate in a safe and inclusive training and competitive environment that is free of abuse, harassment, or discrimination.

The Oval believes that the safety and welfare of every individual coming into the facility is paramount. We also believe that ensuring a safe training environment is the responsibility of the Oval, as a facility, and also the whole speed skating community including, but not limited to, athletes, coaches, staff, officials, volunteers, and special interest groups.

We are strongly committed to the principles and practices of safe sport. We will continue to focus on educating all athletes on safe-sport practices, while remaining vigilant and responsive to ensure that all users have a fun, healthy, inclusive and safe environment in which to train and compete.

For more information visit:
[oval.ucalgary.ca/
speed-skating/athletes-coaches/safe-sport](https://oval.ucalgary.ca/speed-skating/athletes-coaches/safe-sport)

Canadian Sport Helpline:
abuse-free-sport.ca/en | 1-888-83SPORT

OLYMPIC OVAL ATHLETE BURSARY

“I am so proud to see all the athletes that are a part of the Olympic Oval pursuing their goals in sport. I know the Olympic Oval Athlete Bursary will help them get one step closer to achieving that dream and all of us at the Oval are proud to help support them.

- Catriona Le May Doan

The Olympic Oval Athlete Bursary fund was created to help alleviate some of the financial strains put on Canadian high-performance athletes. The fund supports deserving locally-trained athletes in a variety of ways – helping to pay for competition travel, training, equipment, clothes, rent, and food.

This program has grown significantly since its creation in 2005-2006; that first season saw six athletes each receive \$1,000, and by 2019-20 the total awarded had grown to \$19,000 across 12 athletes. Since its inception, the Olympic Oval Athlete Bursary has supported more than 100 athletes with more than \$180,000 in support of their quest for excellence.

Notable past recipients of Oval bursaries include current and former Canadian national team long and short track athletes, such as short track national team skater Alison Desmarais, 2018 Olympians Ben Donnelly, Heather McLean, Josie Morrison, Keri Morrison, and Isabelle Weidemann, Olympic medalist Marie-Evè Drolet and 3-time Olympian Brittany Schussler.



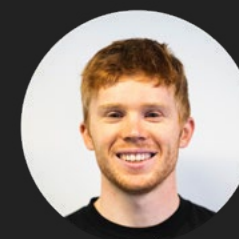
**Maddison
Pearman**

Long Track
Ponoka, AB



**Brooklyn
McDougall**

Long Track
Calgary, AB



**Jess
Neufeld**

Long Track
Calgary, AB



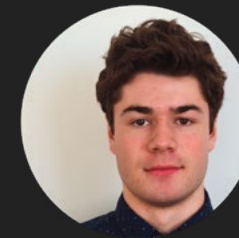
**Kaeden
Witkowski**

Long Track
Medicine Hat, AB



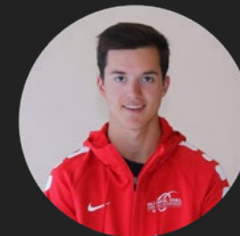
**Connor
Howe**

Long Track
Canmore, AB



**Max
Halyk**

Long Track
Calgary, AB



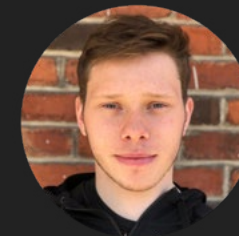
**Paul
Coderre**

Long Track
Calgary, AB



**Hee-Won
Son**

Short Track
Calgary, AB



**Benjamin
Ward**

Short Track
Montréal, QC



**Ethan
McKinley-Young**

Short Track
Ottawa, ON



**Brendan
Yamada**

Short Track
Calgary, AB



**Roger
Fulton**

Short Track
Fredericton, NB

“This past year I went to Penticton and the Oval Athlete Bursary helped to cover the costs of that training camp. I really focused on my nutrition and didn't really have to worry about the financial side of that. I'd like to thank the Oval Athlete Bursary and its donors like Nick's Steak House and Pizza for helping me achieve my goals and pushing me to get to that next level internationally.

- Brooklyn McDougall

NORWAY EXCHANGE

The Norway/Canada exchange was a two-part program for both athletes and coaches. The goal was for the Olympic Oval Elite Athlete Pathway and the WANG Sports Academy to each offer professional development for coaches while also providing skaters with a unique training and cultural experience.

The program started in August 2019 when 17 Norwegian long track skaters trained within the Oval's Elite Athlete Pathway program. The skaters were able to train with different partners and were exposed to new training methods. When the Norwegians came to Calgary they utilized the ice to work a lot on speed. Most of the Norwegians had never skated on ice this fast and were getting personal bests during training. Visiting athletes were billeted with a skater/family to experience Canadian culture. Skaters went hiking, trained, socialized, and competed in Oval hosted competitions.

Oval Elite Athlete Pathway skaters were then given the same opportunity. Thirteen skaters, accompanied by coaches Justin Warsylewicz, Mike Ireland, and Marcel Lacroix, flew to Hamar in February to gain the same experience and learn a great deal about the training methods that Norway employs. In particular, head coach Eskil Ervik was a great resource in sharing his journey from athlete to coach, demonstrating methods he was exposed to as an athlete and discussing whether or not he chooses to use them with his athletes now and why.

The group spent a day in Oslo, trained and raced in the Vikingskip (Vikingskipet), visited the Olympic museum in Lillehammer, and watched professional handball and hockey. Norwegian head coach, Eskil Ervik, worked with the Oval long track coaches for five days in Calgary, and in return, Marcel Lacroix traveled to Norway in November to work with their coaches.

The Oval's participation in this exchange program was a great introduction to the CoE pilot project, exposing the athletes and coaches to new training methods and reintroducing the internationality and interconnectivity of speed skating.



**HAMAR
NORWAY**



HALL OF CHAMPIONS 2019/20 INDUCTEES



Kristina
Groves



Clara
Hughes



Cindy
Klassen



Christine
Nesbitt



Shannon
Rempel

Silver Medal Team Pursuit
2006 Torino

Dubbed “Canada’s Medal Factory” the Olympic Oval remains a Canadian National Training Centre and for the last 33 years it has been home to many of Canada’s elite speed skating athletes, all of whom we are proud to call a part of our Oval Family!

The Oval’s Hall of Champions is a celebration of Canadian speed skating athletes who have trained at the Olympic Oval. The honour is bestowed on those who are Olympic medalists and are now retired from the sport. Inductees have their images raised to the Hall of Champions rafters in the Olympic Oval.

This season five members of our Oval Family were inducted into the Hall of Champions; Long track Olympic medalists Kristina Groves, Clara Hughes, Cindy Klassen, Christine Nesbitt and Shannon Rempel.

ARE YOU OVAL ALUMNI? STAY IN TOUCH. UPDATE YOUR CONTACT INFO WITH THE OVAL!

The Olympic Oval considers its alumni to be anyone who trained as part of the Oval's speed skating programs. It is an inclusive community of former speed skaters whose link to the University of Calgary is solidified by their experience at the Oval.

As experts in the sport, we value the contribution and the role of our Oval alumni in the ongoing development of Oval program athletes and the development of our next generation skaters. The Oval has begun re-engaging former skaters to bring them back to the building to take part in skating once again – whether in coaching, skating with their kids on Family Day, or watching the action during and re-connecting with former teammates at a World Cup.

Oval Alumni are afforded certain benefits, and we continue to look to draw on them for their expertise and their abilities to ignite the speed skating community. We are indebted to our Alumni for continuing to contribute to the sport as ambassadors and role models. Thank you to all!

If it's been a while since you heard from the Oval, be sure to visit oval.ucalgary.ca/alumni and update your contact info to receive the latest updates, event invitations, and more.

oval.ucalgary.ca/alumni



Jesse Slusar
Short Track Athlete
(2011 - 2016)
Currently
Senior Skate
Shop Technician



Dustin Miller
Short Track Athlete
(2005 - 2014)
Currently
Oval Short Track
Program Coach



Justin Warsylewicz
Long Track Athlete
(2003 - 2014)
Currently
Oval Long Track
Program Coach



Kerry Dankers
Long Track
(2000 - 2010)
Currently
Oval Business
Operations Manager



Stacey Polet
Long Track
(1989 - 1996)
Currently
Oval Program
Coordinator



James Monson
Long Track
(1994 - 2008)
Currently
Oval Skate Shop
Coordinator



Kelsey Duffield
Long Track
(2003 - 2010)
Currently
Oval Team Lead
Sport Activities



Mike Ireland
Long Track
(1992 - 2010)
Currently
Oval Long Track
Program Coach



Dan Carruthers
Long Track
(2011 - 2018)
Currently
Oval Operations

INT'L TRAINING ATHLETES

As the top training facility in the world, the Oval is a training ground for over 29 countries and nearly 600 athletes from around the globe. International athletes in both long and short track speed skating get to experience *The Fastest Ice in the World*. In addition to world-renowned fast ice, the Olympic Oval provides a world class high performance training environment, support, and services that allow speed skaters to perform at their best. We are thrilled to have welcomed athletes from Australia, Austria, Belarus, Belgium, China, Chinese Taipei, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Great Britain, Hungary, India, Italy, Japan, Kazakhstan, Latvia, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Romania, Russia, South Korea, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, and the USA, and always look forward to the arrival of international athletes and teams.



29 PARTICIPATING
COUNTRIES

504 LONG TRACK
ATHLETES

79 SHORT TRACK
ATHLETES

SUMMER SPEED MASTERS SPEED

The Summer Speed and Masters Speed camps are for current club level speed skaters who want to develop their skills and understanding of the sport while also having fun during this one week camp. It includes one or two daily sessions in both long track and short track so participants can experience

both disciplines. On top of on-ice training, indoor and outdoor training games and activities are also included. The week ends with a small competition.

STATS

90 17

SUMMER SPEED CAMP

- 90 Participants, 88 Canadians and 2 international athletes

MASTERS SPEED CAMP

- 17 Participants, 15 Canadians and 2 international athletes



RSSD

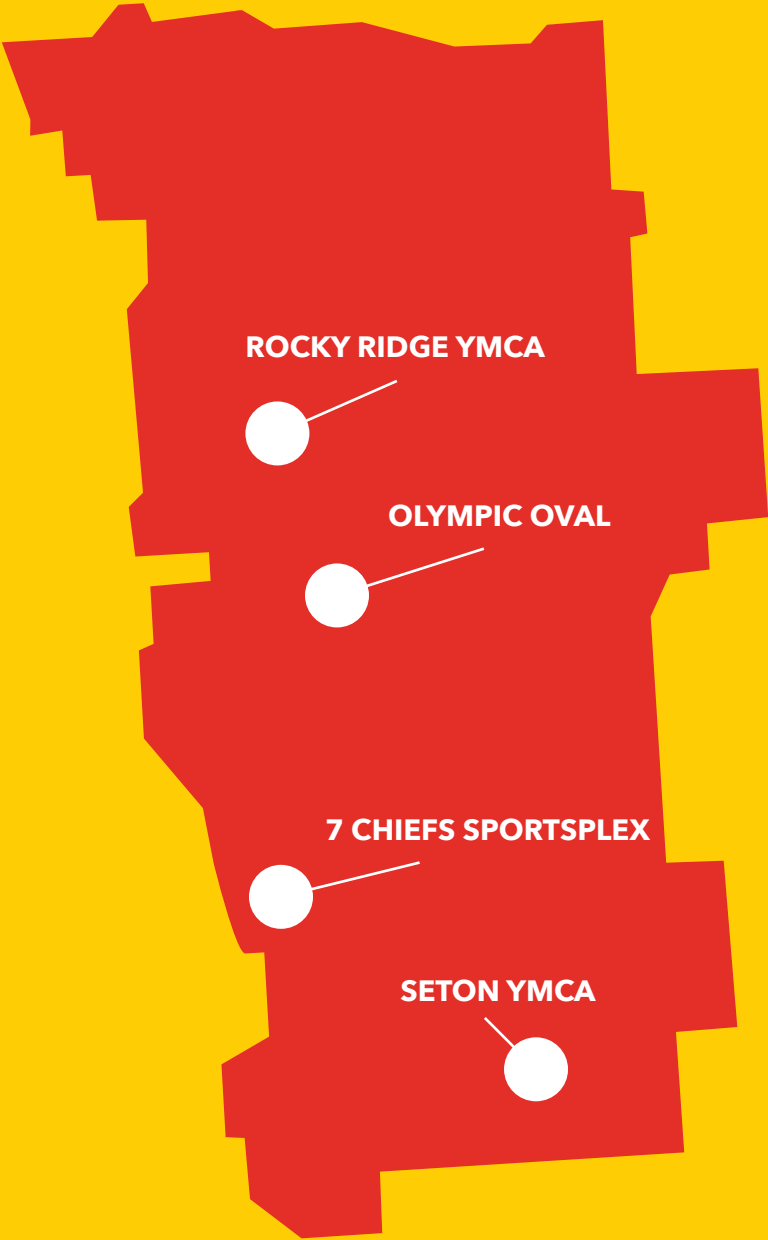
Regional Speed Skating Development (RSSD)

The Olympic Oval continues to be a major supporter for grassroots development of speed skating both locally and nationally, working with Speed Skating Canada and provincial organizations and clubs to guide athletes into the elite pathway.

Thank you so much to the working group comprised of sport community leaders, stakeholders, representatives from the Olympic Oval, Alberta Amateur Speed Skating Association, Calgary Speed Skating Association, Calgary Grizzlies Speed Skating, Sport Calgary, Alien Inline and Special Olympics that dedicates so much time and energy to growing the sport.

Rocky Ridge YMCA saw a spike in participants this year and the inaugural year at Seton YMCA was a huge success with local club registration across the city increasing by 30%. Speed skating sessions will be offered again this year at both Rocky Ridge and Seton YMCAs.

Indigenous youth had an exciting opportunity to try both inline skating and speed skating. An inline skating session was held at the Tsuut'ina Nation middle and high school and ice sessions were offered at the 7 Chiefs Sportsplex. It was a fun time for everyone!



MARCOMM

MARKETING & COMMUNICATIONS



144,923

VISITS TO [OVAL.UCALGARY.CA](https://oval.ucalgary.ca)

WEBSITE
USERS

»»

New Users
71,980

»»

Returning Users
72,943

»»

Sessions
168,486

WEB
SEARCH

»»

Organic
69%

»»

Direct
21%

»»

Referral
3%

»»

Other
1%

POPULAR WEB
PAGES

»»

Total
296,531

»»

#1 Page
Public Schedule

»»

2 Page
Public Skating

»»

3 Page
Competitions



3,640
LIKES



3,046
FOLLOWERS



1,551
FOLLOWERS



2,510
SUBSCRIBERS



Top Post
FEB 26, 2020
Reaching 5,600 ppl

Top Tweet
FEB 05, 2020
Earning 4,579 impressions

Top Post
FEB 05, 2020
Most Likes (211)
(1730 Reach)

Top IGTV Post
FEB 06, 2020
Maddison Pearman story with 920 views

Top Video
FEB 26, 2020
Athlete on the Edge with 1,752 views

Top Live Stream
SEP 20, 2019
Fall Classic with 2,094 views

Total YouTube Season Views
Gained 467 subscribers
123,000 views
9600 hours view time

ICE-IN EVENTS

FALL OPEN HOUSE

October 6, 2019
500 Guests

UCALGARY ALUMNI SKATE WITH SANTA

November 23, 2019
1,500 Guests

OLYMPIC OVAL ANNUAL CHRISTMAS SKATE

December 22, 2019
1,000 Guests

ISU WORLD CUP #5 CALGARY

February 7-8, 2020
2,500 Guests

SERVUS CREDIT UNION FREE FAMILY DAY SKATE

February 17, 2020
3,300 Guests

SERVUS MONDAY NIGHT TOONIE SKATE

4,800 Guests



13,600+ EVENT GUESTS



ICE-OUT EVENTS

**CALGARY YOUTH
SCIENCE FAIR**
April 4-6, 2019
2,700 Attendees

**UCALGARY
PRESIDENT'S
INSTALLATION**
April 7-8, 2019
1,500 Attendees

**UCALGARY STRONG
FESTIVAL**
April 10-13, 2019
2,600 Attendees

DRIVEN CAR SHOW
May 3-4, 2019
4,500 Attendees



11,000+ EVENT GUESTS

PUBLIC SKATING

&

After 33 years the Olympic Oval continues to be an integral part of the University of Calgary's Faculty of Kinesiology supporting well-being, fitness and high performance training. Whether users are escaping the winter months for a leisurely run, preparing for marathons, triathlons or the Olympics, the Oval is a top destination for indoor running and the multisport community. Runners and high performance athletes alike agree that the Oval's 450 metre running track is the best indoor training surface in Calgary.

INDOOR RUNNING

» 36,000+

PUBLIC SKATERS

1,700+ «

INDOOR RUNNERS



FACILITY UPGRADES

“Thanks to the Operations team, we continue to offer a world-class training and competition environment for a 33 year-old building which was only designed to last for 25 years. At the end of the season, an architectural and engineering report highlighted the pressing need for significant capital renewals to continue to deliver world-class services for the long-term.

- Peter McCrory, Director

VIDEO BOARDS

- \$1M investment in technology utilizing video boards for instant replay, etc.

REFRIGERATION

- \$30K investment in maintenance and safety upgrades, \$50K in pump upgrades.

WATER HEATERS

- \$450K investment to replace six 30 year-old heaters with three new, safer, more efficient units.

BUILDING MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

- \$90K investment to replace 20 year-old electronic control systems for building operation and efficiency. Phase one of two phase project.

WEIGHT ROOM AND TRAINING SPACE

- \$20K investment to replace old equipment and expand training space and capacity.

GUEST RELATIONS FRONT DESK

- Replacement of old front desk to better serve our clients, improve ergonomics for staff, and refine access control systems.

“If the ice is not right, skaters will dig in too much. You’ll hear them pushing ice, and you’ll see the snow coming off. When it’s just right, it’s much quieter; almost a hiss, and a very fine puff of snow, if anything, comes off. It’s amazing to see.

- Mark Messer,
Operations
Manager



VIDEO CONTENT

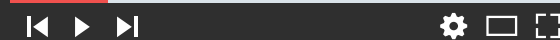
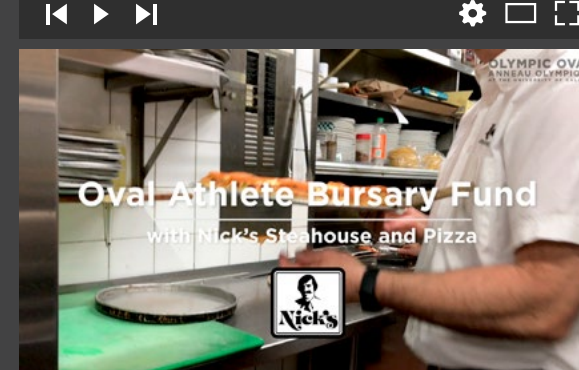
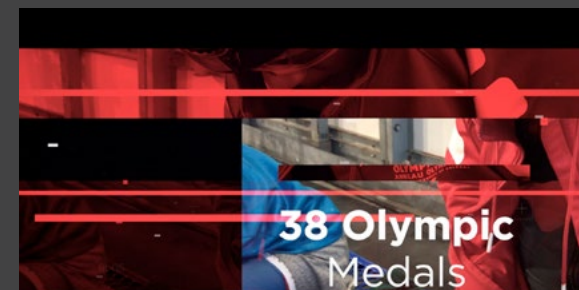


Video content was a new initiative by the Oval team in the 2019-2020 season. This new approach proved to be a fantastic way to showcase all the different elements that make the Olympic Oval a world renowned legacy facility. By focusing on video content creation, the Oval created a larger digital presence, as well as highlighted the incredible work, stories, and most importantly, people that make the Olympic Oval unique.

With the collaboration of every department, 31 videos were created (not including live webcasts of competitions). These videos offered a glimpse

of the best parts of our programs, facility, athletes, community activities, and give voice to the people who know the Olympic Oval the best; the staff and athletes.

Since the Oval created a YouTube channel in 2011, we have had 2,500 subscribers and over 464,000 views. In the past year, our subscribers have increased by 20%.



HEE-WON SON 1,387 views on YouTube

The Athlete on the Edge series was a way for the Oval to celebrate our athlete's achievements and push them to constantly be better. Hee-Won's feature was a great example of an athlete who works hard, studies at UCalgary, and skates in both long track and short track.

THE OVAL SKATE SHOP 358 views on YouTube

This video highlights all of the amazing work that goes on behind the scenes at the Oval Skate Shop. It showcases the knowledge, expertise, and professionalism of the Skate Shop skate technicians. This video was shown on the screens during public skating sessions and was shared on the competition webcasts.

MADDISON PEARMAN - WORLD CUP DEBUT 460 views on YouTube and 926 views on IGTV

This was a two video series leading up to ISU World Cup #5. Oval staff members Maddison Pearman (Guest Relations) and Hayden Mayeur (Operations) each made their World Cup debut and this video demonstrated how these athletes were able to demonstrate balancing training, competition and work.

ISU CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE 1,695 views on YouTube

The ISU Centre of Excellence two year pilot is an opportunity for global recognition. The goal of the video was to show off what makes the facility stand out from other speed skating facilities. It demonstrated short and long track programs, international exchanges, competitions, the weight room, skate shop, and Oval values.

OLYMPIC OVAL ATHLETE BURSARY WITH NICK'S STEAKHOUSE 231 views on YouTube

The Oval Athlete Bursary video is a good reminder of all of the different efforts that go into supporting our athletes and the impact it has on each of them. Three bursary recipients sat down and talked about the different ways the bursary gave them opportunities throughout the season. The Olympic Oval is so grateful for the community support it receives from valued community members like Mark Petros, Owner of Nick's Steakhouse and Pizza.

BUSINESS & TECH

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT, INNOVATION & TECHNOLOGY

The Olympic Oval is continually striving to improve the daily training environment with new technology, research and technical advancements. Both Canadian and international athletes are clearly

benefitting from these advances and we look forward to new and improved ways of delivering video, timing, and data-driven results to the Olympic Oval.



VIDEO TECHNOLOGY

- Short Track**
 - 4 camera set-up for training and short track competitions
- Long Track**
 - Additional camera angles added to the system to cover most of the 400m oval
 - 3 camera angles (side, front, back) added for start analysis

- Weight Room**
 - Weight room video replay station added

TIMING SYSTEM ENHANCEMENTS

- Web-based lap viewer app
 - Summary data reports
 - Pack/group function
 - Heart rate integration

OTHER INITIATIVES

- CSIS event registration integration with Swiss timing
- Support**
 - Support for single person operated webcasts
 - Software development
 - Weight room gate installation
 - Booking system and calendar migrations



STUDENT ENGAGEMENT

Computer Science Internship
Timing system development by Yuvraj Hundal



Practicum Students
KNES 441 practicum students (3) – in collaboration with Dr. Larry Katz and Pro Stergio Acceleration Measurement Project



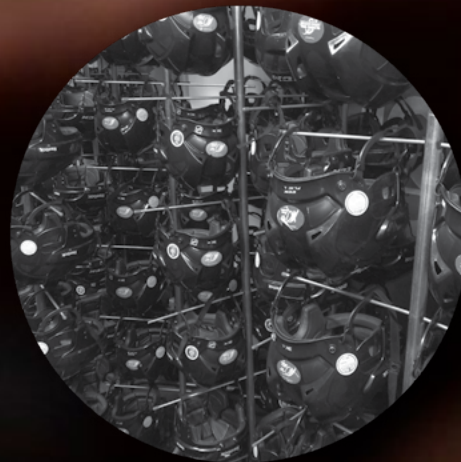
Anthropology PhD student
Sarah Jacobs
Knowledge acquisition and transfer in sport



OLYMPIC OVAL SKATE SHOP

The Olympic Oval has a well stocked, professional skate shop offering services and products both on site and online. Our highly accomplished skate technicians offer efficient, top quality service. As former and active speed skaters, our techs have first-hand knowledge and understanding of equipment services and technical needs. Whether it's rentals, skate tune-ups, new equipment, or repairs, the Oval Skate Shop is the preferred stop for many high performance athletes around the world.

Check out the Oval Skate Shop at: ovalskateshop.com



17,668
17,000
11,858
2,380
500
450
300
13

HELMET RENTALS

- Helmets Rule. Protect your brain, skate smart.

ONLINE STORE VISITS

- A 64% increase in online sales from the previous season.

SKATE RENTALS

- Both hockey and speed skates.

SKATE SKARPENINGS

- 1/5 of these support the Dino Women's Hockey Team.

LACES

- The number of speed skating laces sold.

KLAP SKATE SPRINGS

- The number of klap skate springs sold.

PAIRS

- The number of speed skating pairs sold.

COUNTRIES

- The number of countries the Skate Shop ships to.

WEIGHT ROOM

The Olympic Oval is always striving to ensure the facility is in the best shape to maintain a world-class training environment. Over \$10,000 was invested in 2019-20 to support off-ice training equipment, including a live video feed so athletes can watch back and assess their technique.

More than 1,000 athletes have access to the Olympic Oval weight room and weight cage. This includes varsity athletes, Canadian and international speed skaters, high performance Olympic lifters (several competing in the Pan Am Games), the national speed skating team, and both summer and winter Olympians of various sports.



1,000
346
250
100
30
25
15
15

CARD SCANS

- More than 1,000 card scans are processed every month

WEIGHT ROOM SCHEDULE

- The Olympic Oval Weight Room is open 346 days a year - one of the most comprehensive schedules in Alberta

SPEED SKATING ATHLETES

- More than 250 athletes use the Olympic Oval Weight Room every day during major speed skating competitions

ATHLETES

- More than 100 athletes use the Olympic Oval Weight Room every day

OLYMPIANS

- There are over 30 Olympians who regularly train in the weight room including athletes from; speed skating, track and field, swimming, skeleton, cycling, and triathlon.

WEIGHT ROOM STATIONS

- 6 squat racks
- 8 Olympic lifting platforms
- 3 bench press stations
- 8 squat racks (weight cage)

PROFESSIONAL STAFF

- There are 15 strength trainers, therapists and weight room staff who work regularly in the weight room

VARISTY SPORTS

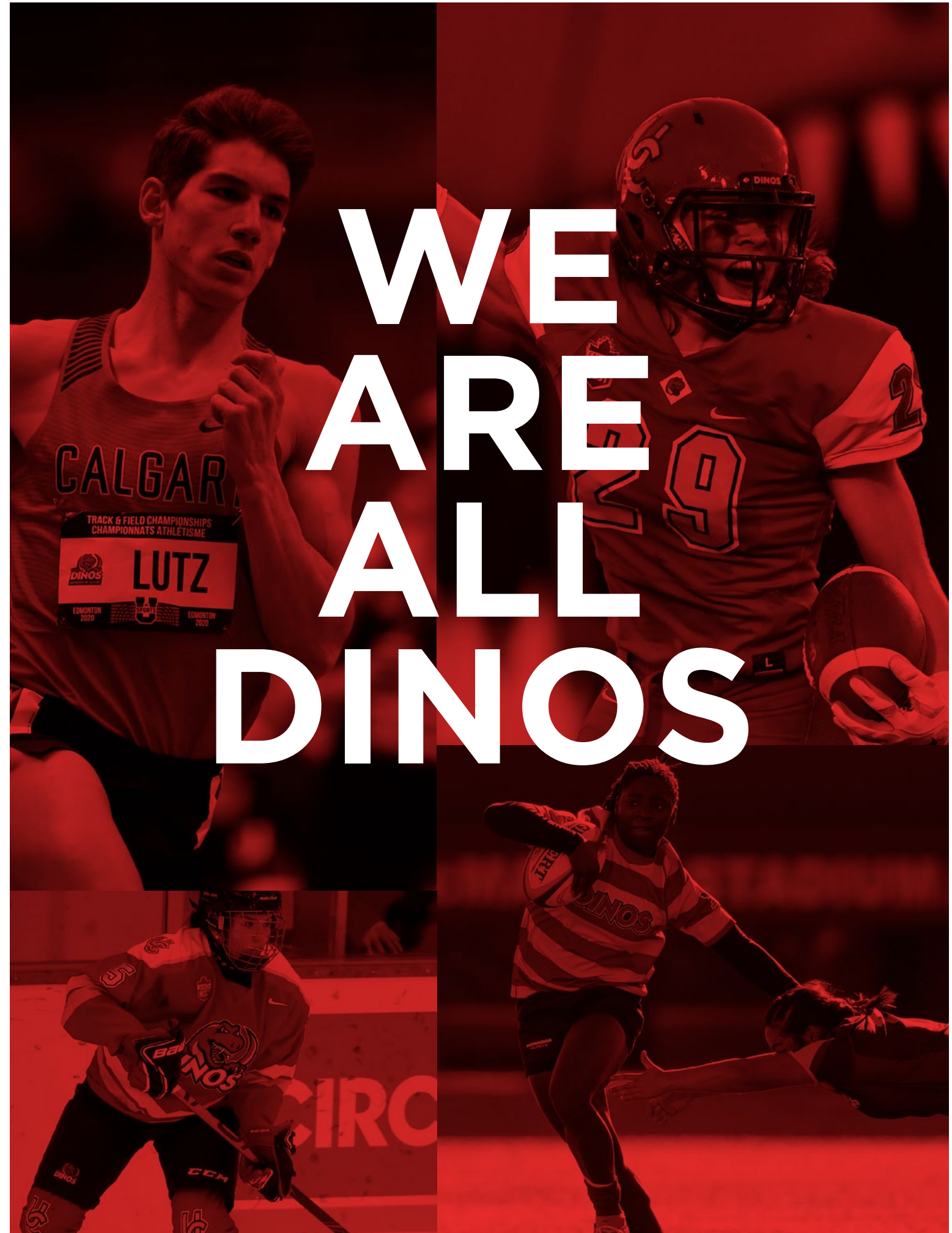
- 15 different varsity athletics teams use the weight room

The Olympic Oval is proud to be the home training ground for hundreds of University of Calgary Dinos varsity athletes. The high performance weight room hosts 40 basketball players, 43 volleyball players, 21 field hockey players, 100 football players, 62 hockey players, 50 rugby players, 50 soccer players, 46 swimmers, 117 track and field athletes, and 50 wrestlers.

579

VARSITY
ATHLETES
TRAINING
AT THE
OVAL

WE
ARE
ALL
DINOS





VOLUNTEER

63000 100

The number of volunteer hours needed every year to run long track competitions.

The number of technical speed skating volunteers who assist the Oval throughout the course of a speed skating season.

1988 40

The year five current volunteers began volunteering for the Olympic Oval, starting with the 1988 Calgary Olympic Winter Games.

It takes 40 volunteers to help run a short track speed skating competition.

STATISTICS

96000

The number of volunteer hours needed every year to run short track competitions.

33

The number of years volunteers have been helping run world-class speed skating competitions.

The age of the Oval's eldest (most experienced) volunteer.

85

10

The Oval has volunteers from over 10 different countries living and working in Alberta.

At least 20 speed skating competitions per year require volunteers.

20

14

It takes 14 roasts to prepare beef on a bun - a volunteer favourite during competitions.

25

It takes 25 volunteers to help run a long track speed skating competition.



LEADERSHIP TEAM 2019/20



Darlene Kastner
Interim Director



Peter McCrory
Director



Kerry Dankers
Business Operations
Manager



Marcel Lacroix
Associate Director High
Performance Programs
Long Track



Sean Ireland
Manager Business
Development,
Innovation & Technology



Jamie Seguin
Associate Director
Marketing,
Sponsorship & Events



Jonathan Guilmette
Manager High Performance
Programs Short Track



Mark Messer
Operations Manager



Sylvie Tanguay
Associate Director Guest &
International Relations

ADMINISTRATION

Suma Joshua
Business Operations Coordinator

Yves Hamelin
Director (April - September)

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT, INNOVATION & TECHNOLOGY

Braeden Elliott
Senior Skate Shop Technician

John Little
Competitions Technical Systems
Specialist

James Monson
Skate Shop Coordinator

Jesse Slusar
Senior Skate Shop Technician

CARETAKING

Jenny Li
Caretaking

Eva Sy
Caretaking

Gary Wright
Caretaking

Daniel Xu
Caretaking

John Yallop
Caretaking

GUEST RELATIONS

Allyson Bischler
Guest Relations Representative

Kelsey Duffield
Team Lead Sport Activities

Stephanie Griffiths
Guest Relations Supervisor

Katrina Kastner
Guest Relations Representative

Kyla Kastner
Team Lead Guest Relations

Arianne Messer
Guest Relations Representative

Robert Porter
Team Lead Sport Activities

Ivonne Vargas
Team Lead Guest Relations

KINESIOLOGY OPERATIONS

Jo-Ann Billingsley
Manager - Facility Scheduling

Karen Delaney
Scheduling Coordinator

MARKETING, EVENTS, COMMUNICATIONS COMPETITIONS AND SPONSORSHIP

Dawn Brown
Competitions Support Specialist

Kristen Fong
Digital Media and Production
Coordinator

Ryan Ohashi
Communications and Community
Relations Specialist

Gregg Planert
Competitions Coordinator

Lorelei St. Rose
Competitions Coordinator

David Vink
Marketing and Corporate Events
Specialist

Robyn Wilson
Sponsorship and Events Advisor

OPERATIONS

Luke Janetzki
Building Engineer

Brad Kowal
Ice Technician

Norm Lennon
Ice Technician

Cam MacLeod
Operations Team Lead

Joey McLeod
Ice Technician

Scott Manuel
Ice Technician

Justin Murphy
Ice Technician

Crispin Parkinson
Team Lead Facility Operations
Dylan Rama
Ice Technician

Andy Yardy
Ice Technician

PROGRAMS

Laurie Ehrman
Program Coordinator and
Competitions Assistant

Arno Hoogveld
Long Track Coach

Michael Ireland
Long Track Coach

Jeff Kitura
Long Track Coach

Eiji Kohara
International Guest Coach

Joffrey Larocque
Short Track Coach

Cristina Lazarescu
Short Track Coach

Todd McClements
Long Track Coach

Al McIlveen
Short Track Coach

Dustin Miller
Short Track Coach

Stacey Polet
Program Coordinator

Elizabeth Ward
Short Track Coach

Justin Warsylewicz
Long Track Coach

FULL-TIME STAFF

SPONSORS AND PARTNERS

“Thank you to our valued partners and sponsors for your generosity. Your support is vital and greatly assists us to deliver world-class competitions, programs, and events. The Olympic Oval is grateful for your ongoing commitment and we look forward to working together in the future.

- Darlene Kastner

LEGACY PARTNERS



SPORT PARTNERS



OVAL PARTNERS





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