

ATH- LE- TICS



St. Michaels
University School

Year In Review 2021-22

MESSAGE FROM THE ATHLETIC DIRECTOR

2021-22 has been a noteworthy year, with schools across BC returning to the sporting arena after a not so insignificant 18-month Covid induced shutdown.

From a SMUS perspective, six teams won Island titles, while, of fourteen possible BC School Sports provincial championships, SMUS qualified for twelve. Moreover, squash players and rowers left their mark on the national stage.

A special thanks to Mark Turner for his ongoing support as Head of School. I am so often reminded of the huge role sport plays at SMUS. Indeed, participation, enjoyment, performance, and sportsmanship remain of vital importance, as reflected in the mottos of St. Michaels ("Nothing is great unless it is good") and University School ("A healthy mind in a healthy body").

To these, I would add a few final words.

To play is good, to win is better, but to love the game is the best.

Vivat!

Lindsay Brooke

DESCRIPTION OF MAJOR AWARDS

TEAM AWARD

Presented to an individual on each Varsity team who best exemplifies work ethic, positive attitude, leadership and sportsmanship. It is voted on by all team members and is not necessarily for the best player.

ATHLETIC DIRECTOR'S MERIT AWARD

Presented on certain occasions to recognize an individual's extraordinary effort and achievement in a single sport.

PARENTS AUXILIARY SPORTSMANSHIP AWARD

Presented to individuals who best reflect outstanding effort, humility in victory and grace in defeat.

PEYTON CUP - OUTSTANDING FEMALE ATHLETE

Based on outstanding performance, work ethic, attitude, teamwork, and leadership. The trophy was first presented in 1979 by Mr. Jim Peyton, a past parent, in recognition of the first class of girls at SMUS.

PARENTS AUXILIARY OUTSTANDING MALE ATHLETE

Based on outstanding performance, work ethic, attitude, teamwork, and leadership.

BILLY GREENWELL CUP

Presented to the most outstanding male basketball player.

DALZIEL CUP

Presented to the most outstanding 1st XV rugby player.

MOLLENHAUER CUP

Presented to the most outstanding 1st XI field hockey player.

LEGACY CUP

Presented to the highest performing senior-level rower based on athletic improvement, dedication to the process and commitment to the craft.

JUDY TOBACCO CUP

Presented to the most outstanding track & field athlete.

NATIONAL TEAM ATHLETES

Thirty-six former students of SMUS have gone on to represent Canada at the senior level. A thirty sixth, Gary Tongue, represented Great Britain.

Reg Wenman '21	Cricket
Percy Williams '22	Track and Field
Jim Weaver '31	Cricket
Doug Peden '34	Basketball
Reider Getz '58	Tennis
Lynn Eves '58	Track and Field
Ken Wilke '66	Rugby
Jim Wenman '66	Cricket
Rob Frame '79	Rugby
Gareth Rees '85	Rugby
Andrew Heaman '85	Rugby
John Graf '87	Rugby
Bob Ross '87	Rugby
Jeremy Cordle '91	Rugby
Jason Penlauna '91	Rugby
Claire Ostick '91	Cricket
Steve Nash '92	Basketball
Martin Nash '93	Soccer
Rob Card '93	Rugby
Meggan Hunt '96	Field Hockey
Ed Fairhurst '97	Rugby
Jamie Pollock '97	Ice Hockey
Gary Tongue '97	Baseball
Mike Danskin '98	Rugby
Matt Pettinger '98	Ice Hockey
Danny Boticki '99	Basketball
Jelena Mrdjenovich '00	Boxing
Mike Pyke '02	Rugby
Meara Crawford '02	Cricket
David Spicer '03	Rugby
Liz Fenje '09	Rowing
Mike Fuailefau '10	Rugby 7s
Luke McCloskey '11	Rugby 7s
Mickey Aylard '11	Rowing
Quinn Ngawati '17	Rugby
Kiri Ngawati '19	Rugby 7s

Furthermore, in a 2005 Almanac of Greatest British Columbians, three SMUS alumni (Percy Williams, Gareth Rees, and Steve Nash) were listed in the Top 10 all-time sports figures from the province.

SMUS PROVINCIAL CHAMPIONSHIP TEAMS

The SMUS teams listed below won BC Senior High School Provincial Championships (in eight different sports).

Boys Cross Country	1988-89
Badminton	1995-96
Girls Field Hockey	1988-89, 1992-93, 1995-96, 1996-97
Boys Basketball (Junior)	1996-97
Boys Basketball	1991-92, 2014-15
Boys Soccer	2005-06, 2014-15, 2016-17
Girls Soccer	2018
Boys Rugby	1990-91, 1991-92, 1996-97, 2006-07, 2014-15, 2015-16, 2016-17
Tennis	2019





Sailing

ISLAND – 1st

Come the spring term, 24 sailors across Grades 9-12 learned not only the basics of the sport but how to race. While the initial sessions at the Royal Victoria Yacht Club were hampered by high winds, all involved were eventually able to get out on the water and practice steering and sail trim.

The competitive season got underway May 14 with the Discovery Cup. The winds varied in intensity throughout the day and ensured excellent racing conditions. The sun even made a brief afternoon appearance.

The SMUS A team, featuring, among others, Jenna Robinson, Tomoe Hayashi, Ringo Hwa, Winston Lee, and Nora Yang, finished 3rd. The SMUS B team placed 6th.

The final regatta was the Vancouver Island Championship, held at Cadboro Bay. Conditions were perfect, with a steady breeze and sunshine throughout. Some 150 sailors competed in over 20 races. SMUS performed very strongly, with the B team securing the overall gold medal, while the A squad ended up second. Special mention to skippers Jason Jiang and Stuart Kerr for a series of 1st place finishes, though it was the consistency of all 22 racers that ensured the cup returned to the school after a five year hiatus and so guaranteed a fine end to the season.

Finally, kudos to seniors Ava Galloway and Jessica Heaton for their contributions to the programme over the years.



Tennis

CITY – 1st | ISLAND – 1st | BC – 3rd

It proved to be another enjoyable, successful season. Unfortunately, despite to a very pleasing mix of depth, skill, and resilience, SMUS, by the slimmest of margins, just failed to bring home a second consecutive BC championship blue banner.

After easing through City league play in April and early May, SMUS first moved on to the Island tournament. In the final, the players combined nicely to edge Brentwood 6-5 to claim top spot. Paige Rothwell, Bianca Toaxen, Maddie Wilson, and Josie Mason helped stake the Blue Jags to an early 3-1 lead, with key wins by Cooper Mills and the doubles duo Kriss Hora and Sam Hamidian securing the narrow victory.

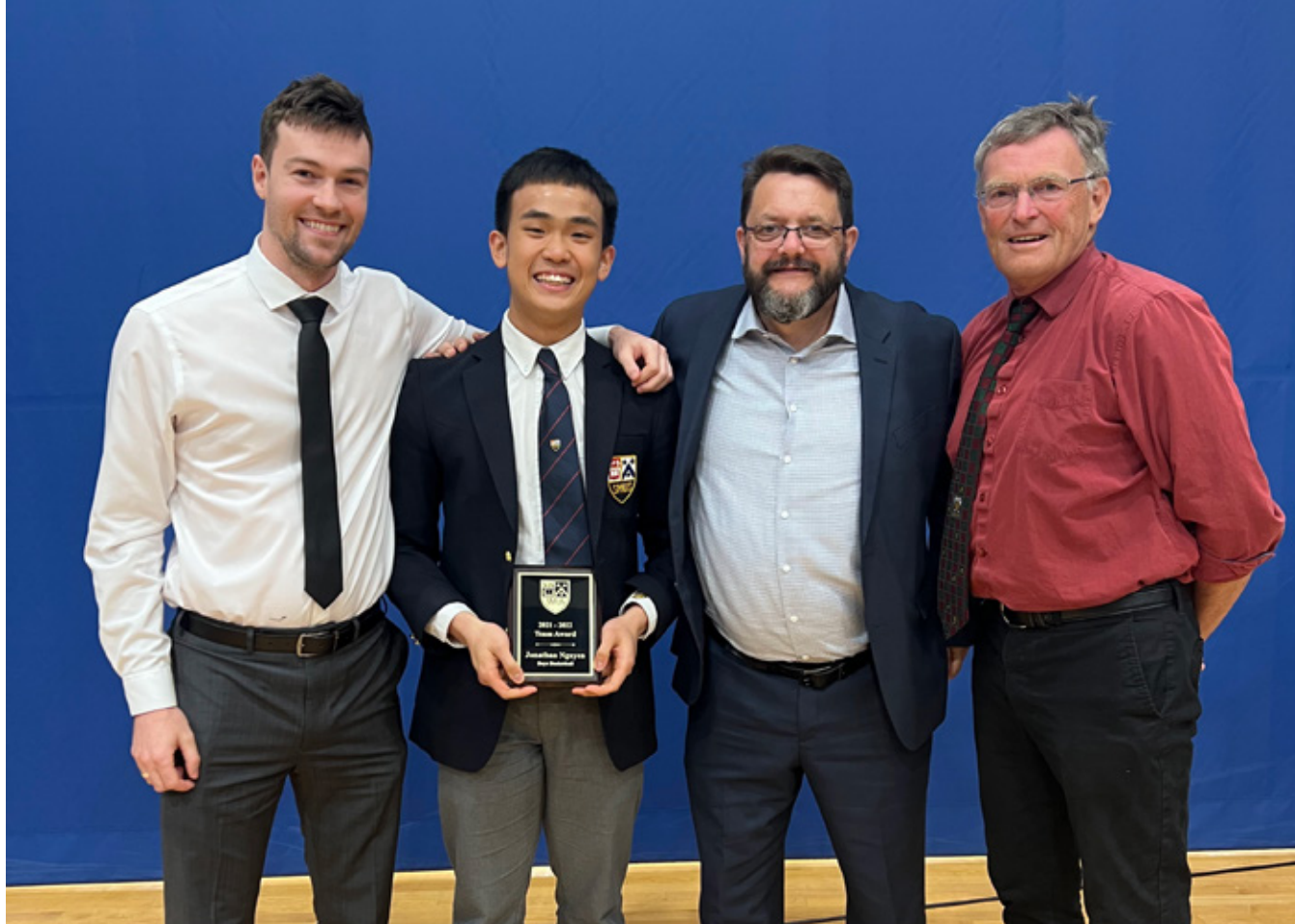
Then, it was on to the AA provincial tournament, set to be played at Queen Elizabeth Park in Vancouver. The Blue Jags, with Rothwell and Toaxen in top form, and Josie Mason-Woodcock and Maddy Wilson a formidable doubles duo, backed up their #1 Island seeding by polishing off West Point Grey and South Kamloops in the opening rounds.

Day 2 of the tournament brought rain, changes of venue and reduced matches. A 4-3 loss to upstart Magee, despite the best efforts of Nicole Meyers, ensured a showdown with perennial rival Brentwood in the semi-final.

With the stakes high and the two teams so evenly matched, this contest was always going to come down to the wire. Inevitably, following an impressive singles victory by Cooper Mills, with the score tied 5-5, everything hinged on the result of the mixed doubles match. Alas, after a stirring battle, Brentwood advanced to play for the championship title.

Undeterred, SMUS bounced back in the bronze medal game, defeating perennial BC power Collingwood 7-4. Rob Huttegger and Alex Lee were on court for the clinching point.

Already, SMUS looks forward to 2023. With a strong nucleus of players available to return, the team should again be in provincial contention.



Senior Boys Basketball

SOUTH ISLANDS – 1st | ISLAND – 2nd | BC – 15th

With 2020-21 sport cancelled due to Covid, and with multiple key seniors having graduated in the process, SMUS entered the hoop season on very uncertain footing. A series of December injuries further hindered a team lacking depth and experience, with a string of pre-Christmas losses confirming only that a great deal of work needed to be done.

Come the New Year, things slowly changed for the better, with the Blue Jags winning crucial league games while displaying improvement and some grit in narrow losses to Island AAA powers Carihi and Mark Isfeld.

A key win in the South Island final, vs an underrated Vic High outfit, proved significant as it landed SMUS on the preferred half of the subsequent Island draw. Turning in its most inspired performances of the season, the team edged John Barsby in a low scoring quarterfinal before then upsetting Carihi in the semis. The latter result at least ensured a return to the BCs, even if host Mark Isfeld proved a step to far in a thrilling championship game.

Seeded #14 entering the BCs was always going to be a daunting proposition, especially as a cruel, late run of injuries at the forward position decimated the roster. Forced to play with a five-guard lineup, bolstered by junior callups Camilo Libreros, Kian Colgate, and Damon Bains, was hardly ideal. Perhaps not surprisingly, this was reflected in consecutive double-digit

losses to Duchess Park, Gladstone, and Timberline. A final game victory vs LV Rogers at least provided some positives and allowed the team to finish with a 15-14 overall record.

Guards Max Clayton and Oscar Lau developed well throughout the campaign, leading the way on offence, and claiming Island All-Star awards in the process. Likewise, when healthy, LeRoy Wang enjoyed some very good moments thanks to his speed and athleticism. Posts Ethan Woods and Jonathan Nguyen, or, at times, three-point specialist Ryan Killornan, usually rounded out the starting five.

Eight players are set to return in 2022-23 and will be well supported by the nucleus of the Junior squad that finished 6th in its own 32 team provincial event. Likewise, the SMUS Grade 8 and 9 teams both won their Island competitions, then went on to finish 2nd and 8th in their respective BC tournaments.

All this suggests that, better health and work willing, SMUS should continue to feature prominently on the BC basketball landscape in the next few seasons. Much will hinge on the amount of skill and fitness work done this summer in preparation.



Senior Boys Rugby

CITY – 2nd | ISLAND – 2nd | BC – 6th

In the absolute worst start possible, long-term injuries to Dave Escalante (ankle) and Matthew Bennett (arm) robbed the team for the entire season of its two most skilled and experienced players. Other niggling ailments and various non availability then also factored in a middling season when gaining any traction proved difficult.

Early March exhibitions also made clear that the group's lack of size and physicality would factor prominently, especially in a murderous schedule which included eight of the thirteen matches against arguably the top four teams in BC. Likewise, erratic tackling and other avoidable mistakes inevitably heaped on pressure when up against quality opposition.

Nonetheless, there were always any number of committed individual performances, even if the squad never quite jelled as hoped. Certainly, captain Eric Xiong and flanker Calum Webber-Smith battled heroically throughout, while Adam Liu and Adam King in the back field likewise gave everything. Centre Dave Duru, especially in the latter stages of the campaign, scored several fine tries thanks to his powerful running.

Overall, the team managed four wins. Alas, both the Rees Boot and the Howard Russell Cup remained with or returned to Oak Bay. The season highlight came in the form of a 43-22 victory vs Robert Bateman. On this occasion at least, a bright start, with passes sticking and seven tallies registered, was followed by some tenacious defending.

A ray of sunshine then came somewhat unexpectedly, with a favourable BC AA tournament draw offering the chance of advancing to the medal round. Playing nicely vs #3 seed Charles Tupper saw SMUS up 10-3 in the first quarter and on the verge of extending the lead further. Unfortunately, a costly turnover allowed the Tigers a runaway score to draw level by halftime, en route to a 28-17 victory.

SMUS then split its two final games, scrambling home 26-17 vs Langley before bowing out 33-21 to Rockridge.

As the majority of this year's XV graduate, a lot of work will be required in preparation for the 2023 Senior season. The returning Grade 11s and the leading members of a gritty Junior squad will need to train diligently, both in the weight room and on the field.



Senior Badminton

CITY – 2nd | ISLAND – 2nd | BC – 13th

Once back from spring break, the team, on the back of bi-weekly winter term practice sessions, were quickly up to speed. Sparked by the play of Riley Tortensen and Andre Wen, league wins vs Oak Bay, Claremont, and Mt. Douglas set SMUS up nicely for the annual ISA tournament. In this event, the Boys claimed the silver medal with the Girls finishing third overall.

Moving through to the final of the City championship, the Blue Jags, despite the efforts of Manami Otani, fell 7-4 to an ever-improving Mt. Douglas team.

As hosts of the ensuing Island tournament, SMUS moved smoothly through pool play before turning over a feisty Queen Margarets squad 8-3 in the semi-final. Patty Boonsermmit played strongly in singles, while the doubles combination of Jonathan Nguyen and Louis Chong were also in good form. However, Mt. Douglas proved too powerful in the championship match, its deep and skilled team on point throughout in a decisive victory.

At the BC Tournament, held in Richmond, the team played seven matches, opening with a dominant performance vs RE Mountain on Day 1. However, two subsequent losses, to McMath and Moscrop, meant a difficult crossover playoff opener vs perennial power Fraser Heights. A narrow 6-5 loss to Port Moody then moved the team to the consolation side of the draw.

Happily, the team turned in two excellent performances to close out the season, handily defeating both College Heights and St. Thomas Aquinas to finish with a 3-4 overall record. Otani again performed strongly, while Claire Boonsermmit supported sister Patty with some resilient play. Finally, Wen was awarded team MVP for his consistency and leadership.



Cross Country

CITY – 2nd combined | ISLAND – 4th (Junior Girls), 4th (Senior Boys)
BC – 15th (Junior Girls), 16th (Senior Boys)

Local league races began in mid-September, with the Lambrick Park, Henderson Park, Cedar Hill and Beaver Lake courses each playing host to over 150 runners. SMUS provided hints of what was to come, with several runners in each division running strongly. These included, among others, Owen Sandquist-Sherman, Nella Meinecke, Avery Geddes, Maria Gilardi Gutierrez and Tion McLeish.

In damp and muddy conditions, SMUS then took part in four Island championship races at Beaver Lake.

The Junior Girls squad of Geddes, Meinecke, Gilardi and Beatrice Sharp ran well, finishing in 4th place finish.

The Junior Boys just missed out of team qualification. However, Grade 9 standout Owen Sandquist-Sherman produced a scintillating 4th place individual performance to ensure his place at provincials.

While the Senior Girls also just failed to reach the BCs, the Senior Boys, led as always by perennial race winner McLeish, did qualify. Indeed, McLeish's torrid 18.41 ensured he blitzed the field, with Calum Webber-Smith, Bryson Henry and Oscar Lau providing the necessary support for a 4th place team finish.

Two weeks later, at Jericho Beach in the BC Championships, conditions were less than ideal, with half of the course under 15 centimeters of standing water.

In the Junior Girls division, 240 runners started. In the slop and mud, progress through a packed field was difficult. In the end, Geddes finished a very credible 44th, while Meinecke, Sharpe, Gilardi and Larisse Zhao rounded out a 15th place team. Meinecke, out for the previous two weeks due to injury, turned in a particularly gutsy performance.

In the Junior Boys competition, Grade 9 standout Owen Sandquist-Sherman, after a solid first loop, began experiencing some muscle cramping. Despite this challenge, he battled through to place 40th in a field of 265 athletes.

The Senior Boys took to the course for the final race of the day. With rain now thundering down, the course featured new sections of deep mud and treacherous footing. Early on, McLeish was in a small chase pack about 10 seconds out of the lead. Digging in on the second lap, he dropped the chase pack but still remained behind the leader. While not able to quite catch his opponent, his silver medal finish was a tremendous result, especially given the crazy conditions. Not to be forgotten, the other SMUS runners also enjoyed solid performances. Weber-Smith, Henry, Lau, and Joshua Kim combined to allow SMUS to place 16th out of 26 teams.



Golf

SOUTH ISLANDS – 5th | ISLAND – 6th | BC – DNQ

It was always going to be something of a difficult season. With Jay Park the only holdover from the spring of 2019, a basically new and very inexperienced team readied for an all too brief campaign.

Additionally, the annual ISA, Victoria City Police and Lower Island tournaments in mid to late April featured much inclement weather, with wind and rain playing havoc at various courses, particularly Olympic View, throughout the city.

Nonetheless, SMUS looked forward to the Island qualifier, played May 17-18 at Arbutus Ridge GC. Alas, brutal conditions, with cross winds up to 80km an hour, ensured low scores were well nigh impossible. Park handled himself extremely well in both rounds, with Luis Anaya, Hanryck Brar, Cameron Bono and A Lee knuckling down as best possible. However, a 6th place overall team finish left the Blue Jags one position away from qualifying for the BC finals.

The season wrapped up with the annual match vs the faculty, an event enjoyed thoroughly by all.



Rowing

CITY – 1st (Overall efficiency)

Tryouts began in September with a whole series of dry land, ergometer, and swimming tests. The school's Gorge Rowing centre hummed with activity, as over 60 athletes were selected to crews. The fall revolved primarily around three local competitions. In the Crabfest, Sprints Regatta and City championships, despite a mixture of sun, rain, and wind, SMUS performed with distinction, giving a hint of what might be in store come the New Year.

With the onset of winter, the rowers upped their practice schedules in preparation for the spring racing season. While inclement weather somewhat hampered water training from January to March, enough quality training saw the team well placed for strong performances at the annual Maple Bay, Brentwood, and Shawnigan regattas. Numerous SMUS combinations secured top three finishes, with two crews further invited to compete in the prestigious Windermere Cup, hosted by the University of Washington.

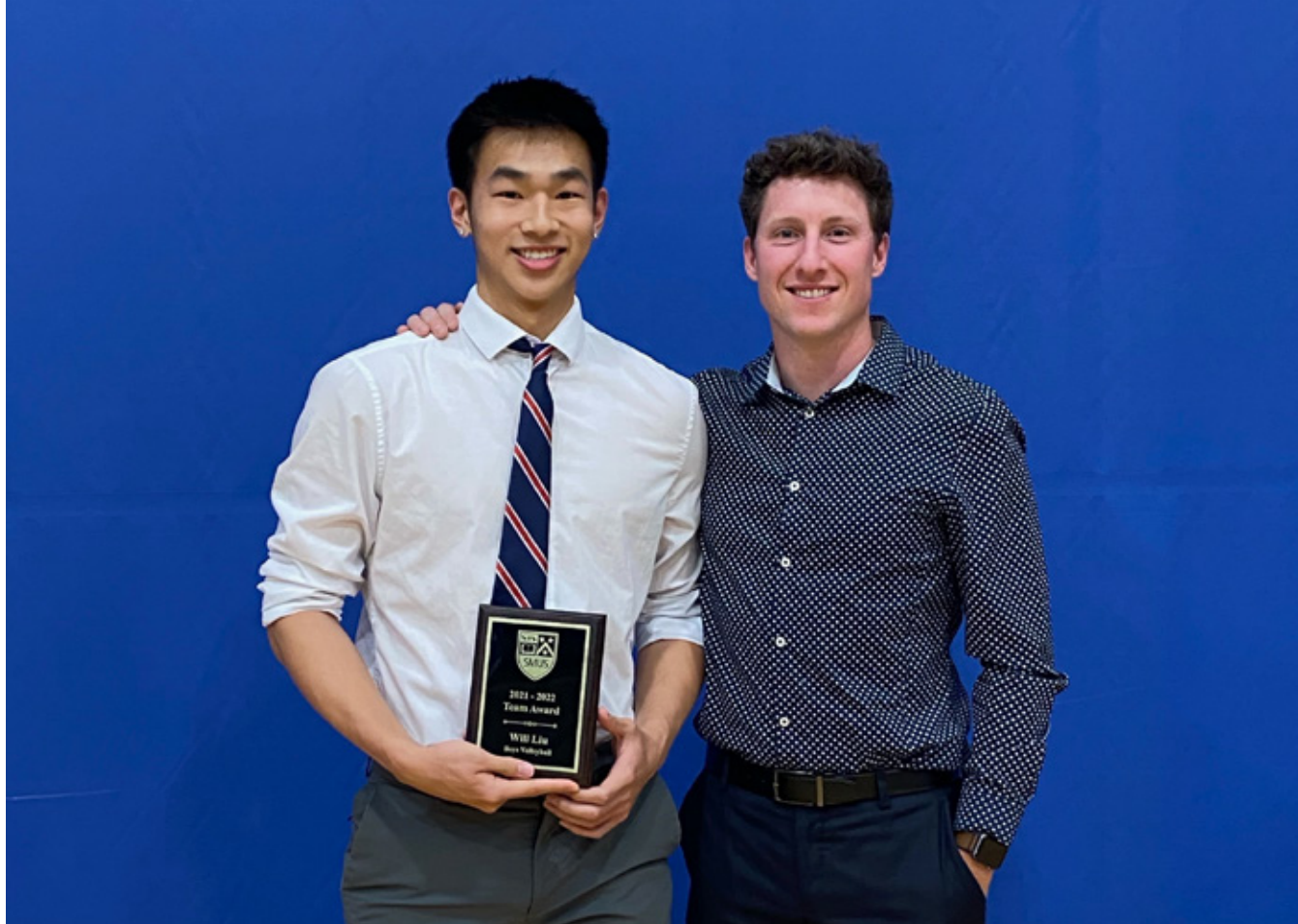
Of course, all eyes were on the season ending national Secondary Schools Rowing Association Championship, held in St. Catharines, Ontario, June 3-5. Over a thousand athletes from schools across Canada and the USA took part.

SMUS was extremely well represented, reaching eleven finals. In an outstanding effort, while both the Women's and Men's Senior 4+ narrowly missed reaching the podium, the other nine crews did. In fact, four crews won their respective races, while the other five boats finished second.

Kudos to Malik Salmatian and Ryan So, each of whom had the distinction of capturing two gold medals. Eighteen others also claimed multiple medals. Full results of the CSSRA competition may be found at the following site.

<https://cssra.ca/download/2022-sunday-final-results/?wpdmdl=51209&refresh=629e2084ec9471654530180>

Congratulations to the entire team on a superb season overall, and thanks to a talented and dedicated coaching staff.



Senior Boys Volleyball

SOUTH ISLANDS – 2nd | ISLAND – 3rd | BC – 12th

SMUS, finally back on court after all the various Covid interruptions, looked forward to the 2021 season with considerable anticipation. Early season Invitational events confirmed flashes of real ability, with the performance at the Oak Bay tournament especially noteworthy. Joshua Muwonge, Ryan Killornan and Ryan Cheng all showed their skills, while Nathan Chiao cemented his status as the best libero in Victoria with a superb all-round display.

Following a second-place AA City finish to PCS, the team traveled to Nanaimo to compete in its provincial qualifier. Despite missing power hitter LeRoy Wang, sidelined with a finger injury, the team adapted extremely well, winning six consecutive sets, vs Esquimalt, North top seed Wellington and Mark Isfeld, to win its pool.

With Chiao moving to the hitter position and Geoff Lei taking over as libero, SMUS faced cross town rival Lambrick Park in the opening semi-final. Earlier meetings with the Lions indicated there was little to choose between the two teams, and so it proved once again. Indeed, the five-set thriller literally went down to the last point, with SMUS dropping a 15-13 final game heartbreaker.

Undeterred, the Blue Jags bounced back immediately to defeat a talented Gulf Island team in the crucial bronze medal match. By so doing, the team achieved one of its goals by

qualifying for the BC AA Tournament. In addition to Chiao and Lei, setter Cheng enjoyed a fine tournament So too did Will Liu, who, as one of the strongest players in the event, paced the attack. Chris Lee, Ben Ingimundson and Kyle Berger-North registered key blocks, with Hugo Accad also contributing well. Likewise, Muwonge and Killornan continued to effectively fill various roles when called upon.

The Blue Jags entered AA provincials, held cross town at PCS, saddled with various injuries but intent on moving through pool play to the championship side of the draw. Massive floods throughout BC severely limited travel for certain schools, with the subsequent 14 team event making for some interesting scheduling. Unfortunately, SMUS never quite hit its collective stride, with another close defeat vs Lambrick Park followed by an equally gut-wrenching reverse to eventual champion Duchess Park.

The squad did rebound to claim two final victories and 12th place overall. Though perhaps a disappointing overall finish, the season, for a group not necessarily expected to challenge at the BC level, was a great success. Kudos to all the seniors for the key roles they played.



Senior Boys Soccer

CITY – 8th | ISLAND – 6th | BC – DNQ

After 555 days without extracurricular school sport, ever since the March 12, 2020 “Boot Game” Rugby series vs Oak Bay, the 2021-22 Athletics season opened on multiple fronts.

Without question, the pure results were almost immaterial. Instead, after 18 months of Covid interruption, the sheer joy of actual competition vs other schools was palpable.

Unfortunately, the Senior Boys squad immediately fell victim to the injury bug and struggled through a very demanding opening month. Yet, while only managing one victory against five defeats, there was enough positive play to suggest that, with several key players returning to full health, brighter times would be around the corner. Cole Pontefract registered several goals, with Matthew Bennett strong in defence. Campbell Wilson and Richard Mwanzia battled bravely in difficult circumstances.

However, league losses started to mount up, although a few precious points achieved in difficult circumstances did allow SMUS to at least qualify for the Island tournament in Campbell River. However, in this event, the Blue Jags failed to advance from their pool, as losses to Brentwood and Lambrick balanced a sole win vs Mark Isfeld. Of note was the performance of Wilson, who showed great skill and tenacity in scoring all five of the team’s goals in the competition.

The team did at least have the satisfaction of finishing the season in style, by virtue of capturing the Colonist Shield. In a 4-2 decision vs Mt. Douglas, the players, led by Bennett and Finn Klenz, made light of the appalling weather conditions. SMUS then avenged a regular season defeat to PCS with a comprehensive 5-0 win, before then dropping Spectrum 2-1 in the final.

There was more joy at Junior level, as the Blue Jags battled through a very competitive city league before claiming a silver medal at the Island tournament. Two victories and a draw allowed the team to top its pool, before a thrilling final vs Claremont went to a shootout. Unfortunately, four of five successful penalties were not enough with the Spartans scoring all five from the sport to win the title.

Nonetheless, top performances from, among others, Kian Colgate, Enrique Gilardi and Cole Michel, backed by the goalkeeping of Camilo Libreros, should combine nicely with the many returning Grade 11s. All this should allow for SMUS to make another run to the BCs in the fall of 2022.



Senior Girls Basketball

SOUTH ISLANDS – 1st | ISLAND – 1st | BC – 3rd

The season began full of hope and expectation, as a talented team set its sights on Island and provincial success. In the end, SMUS missed out on provincial glory by the narrowest of margins.

Pre Christmas action included a comprehensive win in the Victoria Classic as well as a 5th place finish in the prestigious Howard Tsumura Invitational. With these results came the realization that the group could mix it with anyone in BC, regardless of tier.

Still, while moving smoothly past all local opposition, the Blue Jags went through a January wobble or sorts, dropping road games to mainland rivals Walnut Grove, York House, and Notre Dame.

However, recovering nicely, SMUS entered the Island tournament as a strong favourite. In a dominant performance, the team, powered by MVP Makena Anderson and excellent contributions from Charlotte Hardy, Brianne McLeish, Sophie Olcen and Amanda Adams, defeated a talented Brentwood squad 73-47 thanks to a commanding second half.

At the BCs, though seeded #5, the team, led throughout by point guard Avery Geddes, opened with a comfortable opening round victory vs Collingwood before exacting revenge against Notre Dame in the quarterfinal to the tune of 59-40. This set the stage for a hugely anticipated semifinal vs top ranked Langley

Christian School. In the game of the tournament, full of ebb and flow, SMUS kept fighting back from various deficits to then take a 55-50 lead with just under two minutes remaining.

Alas, a coveted berth in the final was not to be, as three buckets without reply saw the Chargers squeeze home by a single point. Undeterred, SMUS bounced back from the disappointment to capture a BC AA bronze medal by virtue of an 56-36 triumph vs nemesis York House. Geddes and Anderson capped fine seasons by being named to the All-Star team.

The future looks bright indeed, with Hardy the only senior to graduate in advance of 2022-23. In addition, several members of a deep and talented Junior team, which lost only once in their season while compiling a 27-1 record, will move up and provide extra scoring and depth.



Senior Girls Field Hockey

CITY – 2nd | ISLAND – 1st | BC – 2nd

It was a thrilling season from start to finish. The team played an extensive schedule, battled hard throughout, and showed the necessary depth and timely scoring to constantly trouble BC's top teams.

After several September exhibition matches, SMUS then took part in the prestigious Bridgman Cup at UVIC, playing solidly against top quality opposition over the Thanksgiving break. Likewise, in a deep and well-balanced Island AA division, each of Shawnigan, Mt. Douglas, Brentwood, GNS, and Lambrick Park offered a series of stern tests. In all these encounters, Eva Cuddihy paced the attack while Talia Pike made an impressive start to her goalkeeping career.

Though Oak Bay did go on to capture the City championship, SMUS soon made amends in claiming the Island AA tournament. After a 5-0 victory over Frances Kelsey, the Blue Jags edged Brentwood in a tight 2-1 affair, Cuddihy notching the winning goal in the last minute. This formula proved equally successful a day later, following a 4-0 triumph against Shawnigan and then a closely fought 1-0 battle with Mt. Douglas.

At the most competitive BC AA Tournament in recent memory, held on the turf at UVIC, SMUS enjoyed pool wins over Southridge (7-0) and Windsor (2-1) before, courtesy of yet another Cuddihy goal and shutout by Pike, tripping up local rival Mt Douglas in a riveting quarter final.

This victory set up a semi-final showdown against powerhouse Crofton House. Down 1-0 in the late going, a superb solo effort by Cuddihy sent the game to a shootout. With Pike performing heroics in net, markers from Cuddihy and Fay Hoefer confirmed a place in the championship match.

Alas, up against a polished York House side, the Blue Jags surrendered two early goals, ensuring a long and difficult climb back into the game. Cuddihy capped a simply outstanding tournament with a well taken penalty flick, but the required equalizing goal never materialized.

Despite the BC final disappointment, the team produced some wonderful hockey. Rebecca Stone, Allegra Nelson, and Amanda Adams in particular enjoyed fine campaigns.

With senior Emma Curry the only player set to graduate, SMUS looks set for further success in 2022.



Senior Girls Rugby

CITY – 2nd | ISLAND – 2nd | BC – 5th

This rapidly growing sport continued to secure its foothold in the SMUS athletic landscape.

Coaches Morgan Warner and Chloe Hill-Huse, well led by the vastly experienced Chris May, took on the coaching reins, giving the players a basic framework in sessions prior to spring break.

Weekly 7s matches began in early April and continued unabated until the start of June. SMUS finished unbeaten in the league series, but fell agonizingly short of winning the City title, falling narrowly in the gold medal playoff to Claremont. However, by way of compensation, the team did retain the Robinson Cup by 33-10 over Oak Bay.

The Blue Jags then went on to compete in the BC 7s event, held, for the first time ever in Abbotsford and in conjunction with all the other Boys and Girls tournaments. The tournament more than lived up to expectations, providing the full array of highs and low, joys and disappointments.

SMUS, after opening with easy pool wins vs Semiahmoo and South Kamloops, then failed to take several scoring chances vs a hard tackling Lake City outfit. This 22-5 defeat made for a challenging quarterfinal, once again vs Claremont.

An absolute thriller ended in agony, as the Jags just failed to protect a 19-7 lead in the dying minutes. On the last play of the game, with the clock well in the red, the Spartans registered a converted try to draw level. Down to six players due to a

late yellow card, SMUS almost went the length of the field in the first minute of sudden death, extra time. However, the Spartans regained control of the ball and duly crossed for the winning score.

Despite the bitter disappointment, the team bounced back with decisive wins vs Esquimalt and Cowichan to secure 5th place, though it was a bitter pill to then watch Claremont and Oak Bay contest the final.

Of the many who shone through the course of the season, Skye Farish used her speed and experience to score or set up numerous tries. Chioma Duru ran and tackled powerfully, with Ava Gillespie also solid in defence. Speedster Ruki Madzimure and fly half Alex Motherwell were also important cogs in the side, well supported by Manola Gomez and Magdalena Batkova.

With the talented Delaney Arkell the only player set to graduate, and with Harper May waiting in the wings as a most able replacement, SMUS should again figure prominently on the Island and provincial circuits in 2023.



Senior Girls Soccer

CITY – 3rd | ISLAND – 2nd | BC – 7th

With the various Covid interruptions finally over and with the 2018 BC AA title receding in the memory banks, this year's team set out once again to make its mark at City, Island and BC level.

Victory in the ISA Tournament suggested that while goals might be at a premium, a rock-solid defence, in front of goalkeeper Eva Cuddihy, would make life equally difficult for opponents. Indeed, the team played eight games in a row without conceding a goal, with the two losses, both in the UVIC Invitational, coming via penalty kick shootouts.

Then, in the Ryan Cup, emblematic of City supremacy, the Blue Jags also reached the final four before bowing out to Claremont in a semi-final, once again the victim of spot kicks.

In the AA Islands, SMUS sailed close to the wind after a narrow 2-0 win over Brentwood before needing a late Talia Pike score to edge by unfancied Edward Milne. Another 2-1 victory, this time vs Mark Isfeld, moved the team into the final vs rival Lambrick Park. Somehow the Lions, on a beggar's ration of possession and territory managed two early goals before surviving an absolute barrage of Blue Jags' crosses and corner kicks. Incredibly, a last minute penalty by Brianne McLeish was the sole reward, with defeat confirming a tricky provincial tournament draw.

Focus then shifted to preparation for the BC AA Tournament, held June 2-4 in Burnaby. Two easy victories, vs North Delta and Langley Fundamental were probably not the best preparation for a final pool game vs Collingwood. The small and quick Cavaliers controlled play and were rewarded with two second half markers in a 2-0 win.

The result moved SMUS into the second-tier playoff bracket. An extra time 2-1 loss to Carihi balanced out a win against South Kamloops and a 7th place overall finish.

McLeish, Pike and Makena Anderson provided much of the offence, while the defenders Charlotte Hardy, Amanda Adams, Sophie Olcen and Allegra Nelson all enjoyed strong seasons. Rebecca Stone was a workhorse in midfield, ably supported by Lauren Withers. Hardy was named to the tournament Commissioner's XI.



Senior Girls Volleyball

CITY – 4th | ISLAND – 1st | BC – 10th

SMUS opened the exhibition season in early September, hopeful that a combination of returning players and some talented newcomers would mesh quickly. High calibre competition, in the form of the Vic Lindal Cup and ISA Tournament, was excellent preparation for what promised to be a demanding and intense playoff run.

As combinations began to form, it became clear that Makena Anderson's powerful hitting would pace the attack, with Delaney Arkell key to the back row defence.

After a 4th place finish, out of 19 teams, in the City combined league, a long and winding post season road duly began with a win over GNS but a narrow defeat to PCS. However, in the middle of November, the Blue Jags, entering the full Island AA tournament as the South #3 seed turned on the power in front of a large and boisterous home crowd to emerge as champions.

Pool victories vs Kwalikum and Highland set the tone for a three-set thriller against favoured PCS. Though unable to protect a handsome game one lead, the team rallied impressively to advance via 25-16 and 15-7 wins.

Then, in the semifinals, SMUS again defeated Kwalikum, so setting the stage for the gold medal match vs Brentwood. In an outstanding contest, full of long rallies, superb digs and huge smashes, the Blue Jags claimed a first ever Island crown, 25-20, 26-24 and 25-16.

Arkell was named a tournament All-Star with Anderson impressive throughout in winning the MVP award. However, this was a team triumph in every way, with Skye Farish, Ava Gillespie, Sophie Olcen, Alienor de Nanteuil and Anna Fowler all contributing at key junctures.

Unfortunately, horrendous December weather then impacted the Provincial championships, with travel to the various events proving difficult and, in some cases, impossible. Draws needed to be rejigged at the last minute to account for qualifying teams forced to withdraw.

While SMUS did open the BCs by dropping DP Todd and AW MacNeill, a loss to eventual finalist Abbotsford Christian confirmed a difficult power pool crossover quarterfinal vs West Point Grey. Serving errors made gaining momentum virtually impossible in a straight set defeat.

To close out what ended as a 10th place provincial finish, the Blue Jags recorded wins over DP Todd, Archbishop Carney, and a loss to Holy Cross.



Squash

Squash, now in its fourteenth year of operation in the Brian Graves Centre, continues as a very vibrant part of the SMUS Athletic program. This season proved to be another success, based on the large number of student-athletes in the program who participated at regional, provincial, and national level.

Things got underway in the fall, with the Pacific North-West tournament held at the Cedar Hill Squash Club. In an event showcasing the top junior players from all across Canada, Lucas Quon finished 6th in the Boys U17 competition, narrowly losing in the quarter finals. Alex Brown and Christian Yuen both placed 4th in their respective U19 categories. Furthermore, Alden Weymar, Stuart Kerr and Roshan Pathak all finished above their seeded starting positions.

Come the new year, at the provincial championships in Vancouver, both Alex Brown and Cristian Yuen played superbly well in winning their respective U19 finals.

Also reaching the podium and capturing silver medals at U17 level were the brother and sister combination of Lucas and Sophia Quon. Likewise, in winning 13-11 in the deciding game, Anderson Brown claimed bronze in the U15 Boys Event. Others who also performed strongly included Ryan Chow, Jamie Kim, Alden Weymar, and Katie Herring.

SMUS continued its fine form at the Jericho Gold tournament in Vancouver. Roshan Pathak, Stuart Kerr, and Alex Brown all turned in excellent efforts, while Anderson Brown, Lucas Quon and Herring won their respective divisions.

Finally, the school co-hosted the Canadian Junior Squash championships. Every SMUS athlete taking part lifted his or her game in the most rigorous and demanding circumstances. Lucas Quon won the U17 Boys' Silver division, not dropping a single game throughout the tournament. Then, Pathak finished second place in the U15 Boys Silver event.

In the Girls' U17 main event Herring placed 8th, with Yuen one position higher at U19 Boys' level. Finally, both Alex and Anderson Brown finished 5th respectively in the Girls' U19 and Boys' U15 competitions.

Special mention is due Alex Brown, who, in addition to his excellent play, won the tournament's National Sportsmanship award.

Coach Vicky Lust paid tribute to the entire team, while noting that "those involved must continue to work hard on their games over the summer. The competition at all events on the circuit grows ever more demanding."



Track and Field

CITY – 2nd | ISLAND – 1st (Boys) | BC – 12th (Boys)

Once again, weekly meets in April and early May at Centennial Stadium allowed athletes to get up to speed, quite literally, in addition to trying various new events.

Then, qualification began in earnest, with the Lower Island competition and then the full Islands. In the first of these two competitions, SMUS combined for a second-place overall finish and provided numerous highlights.

Congratulations in particular to Tion McLeish, who completed an outstanding triple gold medal performance by winning the 1500m, 3000m and 2000m Steeplechase races. In the latter event, he lowered the Island record by over seven seconds, on his way to being named 2022 Senior Boys Most Outstanding Performer.

Similarly, Leupold Wang was recognized as the Junior Boys top athlete for his outstanding jumping, with brother LeRoy also a huge factor in the High Jump (1.82m) and Long Jump. Calum Webber-Smith grabbed silver medals in the Senior Boys 400m and 100m Hurdles, as well as running strongly as part of a successful 4 x 400m relay team.

On the Girls side, Brianne McLeish placed second in both the 100m and 200m events, with Nella Meinecke third in the 1500m. The Senior 4 x 100 relay team also reached the podium.

At the Islands, held in Nanaimo, the Blue Jags set the early standard, making light of howling winds that, at times, approached 100km an hour. The hugely impressive McLeish

again laid down a marker with three gold medals in the 1500m, 3000m and 2000m Steeplechase events. Not surprisingly, he was also named the meet's Most Outstanding Performer.

With LeRoy Wang again leading the way in the jumps, Calum Webber-Smith winning the 400m hurdles and the respective relay teams all running solidly, SMUS claimed first place overall in the Senior Boys division, registering 113 points to knock off perennial favourites Oak Bay.

To close the season, the BC Championships took place June 9-11 in Langley. The quality and depth of the field were simply breathtaking, with several long-standing zone and provincial records being shattered. Some 2400 athletes represented 330 schools.

McLeish capped a simply brilliant term with a picture-perfect Steeplechase effort, lowering his personal best by an additional 12 seconds. He then grabbed second place in the 3000m, as all three medalists and the fourth-place finisher broke the previous meet record. While Wang failed to reach the finals of both the long and triple jump events by the narrowest of margins, the Junior Boys 4 x 400m relay team of Jack Macqueen, Seb Bixby, Owen Sandquist-Sherman and Will Cuddihy did run an impressive 4.00.36.

Others who turned in personal bests in their individual events included Webber-Smith, Sandquist-Sherman, Charlotte Lee, and Ma'an Al Hajjaj.