



ATH LE TICS



SMU
ATHLETICS

Year In Review 2025-26

MESSAGE FROM THE ATHLETIC DIRECTOR

On the SMUS sporting front, 2025-26 was a banner year! Pride of place goes to the athletes and coaches from the SMUS Golf team who captured the school's first 2A Golf BC Championship. The SMUS Crew returned from the CSSRA Nationals with five medals (one gold and four bronze). Also reaching the provincial podium were Senior Girls Basketball (3rd) and members of the Track & Field team earned three medals: Seb Allard (silver in senior boys shotput), Will Hamilton (bronze in junior boys 300 m hurdles) and William Low (bronze in junior boys highjump). In addition, of nineteen possible BC School Sports provincial championships, SMUS qualified for twelve, with five teams winning Island titles. 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

HYDE-LAY CUP OUTSTANDING MALE ATHLETE

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

Winner - Sebastien Allard

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.

Winner - Mackenna Brown

PARENTS' AUXILIARY SPORTSMANSHIP AWARD

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

Winner - Leila Mostachfi

OUTSTANDING JUNIOR ATHLETE

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

Male Winners - Will Hamilton and Alex MacKay

Female Winners - Natalie DiFelice-Oinonen and Piper Geddes

BILLY GREENWELL CUP

Presented to the most outstanding male basketball player.

Winner - Dani Pelyhe

DALZIEL CUP

Presented to the most outstanding 1st XV rugby player.

Winner - Desmond Grant

NANCY MOLLENHAUER CUP

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

Winner - Mackenna Brown

LEGACY CUP

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

Winner - Clara Curry

JUDY TOBACCO CUP

Presented to the most outstanding track and field athlete.

Winner - Finlay Hlannon

ATHLETIC DIRECTOR'S MERIT AWARD

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

Anna Beaudry, Field Hockey

Anderson Brown, Squash

Mackenna Brown, Field Hockey

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.

Boys Basketball - Parker Sheehan

Girls Basketball - Leila Mostachfi

Boys Badminton - Elmond Aphiwetsa

Girls Badminton - Youlan Li

Cross Country - Finlay Hlannon

Field Hockey - Manon Denux

Golf - Ricardo Lu Chen

Rowing - Lucy Turnbull

Boys Rugby - Frank Tsai

Girls Rugby - Mia Wong

Sailing - Siena Gill

Boys Soccer - Rayan Shariaty

Girls Soccer - Manon Denux

Squash - Elliot Judson

Boys Tennis - Oliver Talbot

Girls Tennis - Lilly Dolderer

Track and Field - Martin Winnett

Boys Volleyball - Azaad Gill and Tommy Hong

Girls Volleyball - Nicola Bevington

NATIONAL TEAM ATHLETES

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

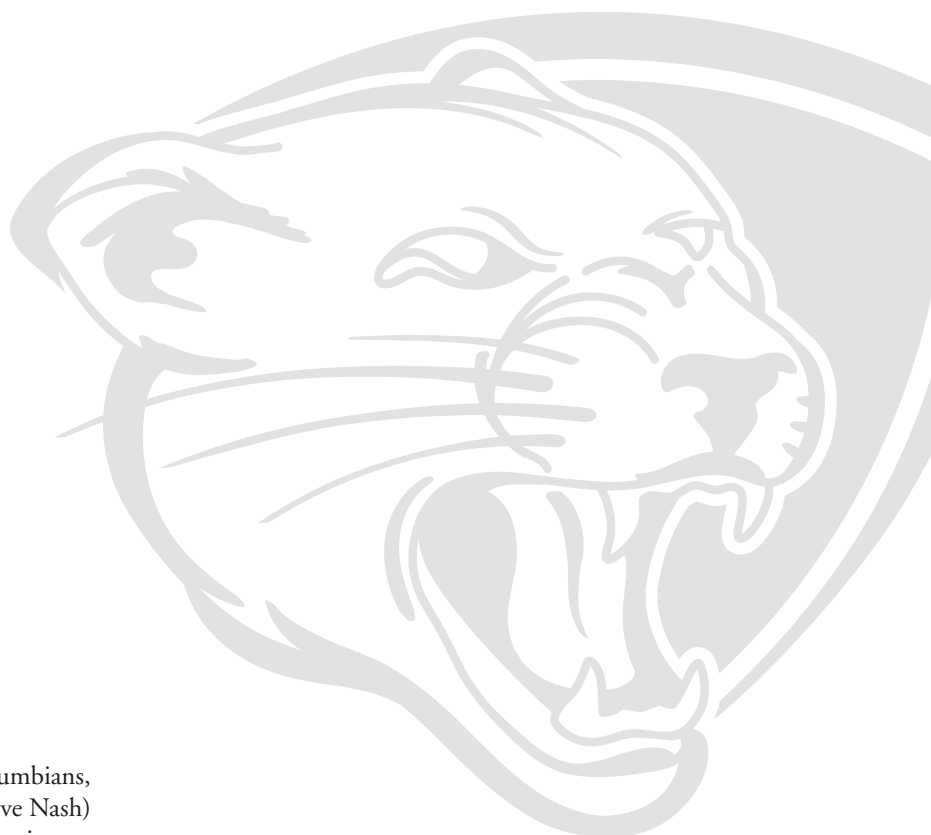
Reg Wenman '21	Cricket
Percy Williams '22	Track and Field
Jim Weaver '31	Cricket
Doug Peden '34	Basketball
Reider Getz '58	Tennis
Lynn Eves '58	Track and Field
Ken Wilke '66	Rugby
Jim Wenman '66	Cricket
Rob Frame '79	Rugby
Gareth Rees '85	Rugby
Andrew Heaman '85	Rugby
John Graf '87	Rugby
Bob Ross '87	Rugby
Jeremy Cordle '91	Rugby
Jason Penaluna '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
Jeremy Bagshaw '10	Swimming
Mike Fuailefau '10	Rugby 7s
Luke McCloskey '11	Rugby 7s
Mickey Aylard '11	Rowing
Max Gallant '14	Laser Sailing
Anna Mollenhauer '17	Field Hockey
Quinn Ngawati '17	Rugby
Kiri Ngawati '19	Rugby 7s
Matt Klimchuk '20	Rugby
Lucas Scheck '21	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, 2022-23
Boys Basketball (Junior)	1996-97
Boys Basketball	1991-92, 2014-15
Girls Basketball	2024-25
Boys Soccer	2005-06, 2014-15, 2016-17
Girls Soccer	2018, 2022-23
Boys Rugby	1990-91, 1991-92, 1996-97, 2006-07, 2014-15, 2015-16, 2016-17
Tennis	2019
Golf	2025-26





Senior Girls Field Hockey

CITY – 1st | ISLAND – 1st | BC – 9th

The Senior Girls Competitive team enjoyed a fine season with a fairly similar record to its previous two seasons. There was an excellent blend of experience and youth and a sense that, if the stars aligned, the team would be challenging for a podium finish at the BCs.

In the city league, SMUS once again dominated with a first-place finish, scoring 26 goals while only conceding one. The Blue Jags' main competition came in the six tournaments that SMUS entered. They won the Ferreira Cup in September in Duncan without conceding a goal; earned a respectable seventh-place finish in the annual Bridgman Cup, which included shootout losses to tournament finalists Crofton House and Handsworth; took fifth-place in the Independent Schools Athletic Association tournament; and finished first in the round robin at the Golden Pumpkin tournament in Surrey. The Blue Jags also recorded a convincing 2-0 win over Glenlyon Norfolk School to retain the May Tully Shield for the eighth consecutive year as the Lower Island's top team.

The Blue Jags competed for the first time in the Island AAA tournament, including a strong 2-0 win over Quw'utsun in the final on goals from Mackenna Brown and Leila Mostachfi.

SMUS travelled to Tamanawis in Surrey in early November to play for the first time in the top-tier BC AAA Championship alongside the strongest teams in the province. In pool play, the Blue Jags managed a great first game, holding No. 1 seed and eventual BC Champion Handsworth to a 1-1 tie until surrendering a goal with just 90 seconds left to play in a 2-1 loss. The goal that Brown scored for SMUS in this game was pure class – an incredible run over the half the length of the field before dinking past the goalie with a beautiful backhand.

The Blue Jags' second pool game against Argyle did not go quite to plan, as SMUS surrendered goals on two late breakaways, leading to a 3-2 loss. This put the Blue Jags into the 9th- to 12th-place bracket. SMUS then re-grouped and recorded three successive victories – 3-0 against Quw'utsun, 2-0 over Charles Best and 4-0 against Maple Ridge to finish ninth overall in the province.

Throughout the season, the team relied heavily on the amazing talents of Brown, who was very ably supported by Anna Beaudry and German field hockey star Julia Nemitz. Brown went on to play for the Canadian Junior National team at the Junior Pan-Ams, while Anna represented Canada's U18 team on a European tour over spring break.

This trio was aided by the experience of Grade 12s Manon Denux and Kate McQueen, and the tireless running of forwards Mostachfi and Madison Triconi, and the solid play of Isabel Thomson and Anika Keirn in defence. There were notable improvements from Grade 11s Elspeth Rodger and Talia Klenz, as well as an amazing rookie season by Grade 9 Piper Geddes.

The next generation of talent through Grade 10s Madeleine Howard, Farah Sinclair-Lingard and Grade 9 Olive Winters is definitely emerging. Behind the out players, the goalkeeping duties were shared by Ailo Streitel and newcomer Emma Knoblochova from Czechia, both of whom recorded numerous shutouts.

Given the depth of the roster, it was a very impressive season with 25 wins, five ties, and six losses, and with 86 goals scored and only 17 conceded through the league and the seven tournaments the team entered, including an incredible 25 shutouts in 36 games played.



Senior Boys Soccer

CITY – 1st | ISLAND – 5th/6th | BC – DNQ

The Senior Boys Soccer season kicked off with an impressive Independent Schools Athletic Association tournament title on home field. The Blue Jags recorded a penalty shootout win in the final against AAA powerhouse St. George's, a team that would ultimately capture the BC Championship in November.

The Blue Jags enjoyed a successful league campaign – finishing third in the Lower Island Tier 1 circuit, which is usually dominated by AAA juggernauts. SMUS finished as the top AA team in the city, earning the South 1 seed for the Island Championship tournament.

In the Colonist Cup, SMUS defeated Claremont in a quarterfinal at home before meeting Oak Bay in an epic semifinal match. The Blue Jags showed great determination against Oak Bay, erasing multiple deficits, but eventually fell in a penalty shootout to the Bays, who would go on to finish second at the AAA provincials.

The AA Vancouver Island zone proved to be the strongest in the entire province. The Jags drew an extremely challenging pool at the Island tournament, including eventual BC AA champion Carihi and provincial bronze medalist Edward Milne.

Illness that affected several key SMUS players and challenging field conditions resulted in the Jags not performing at their best during the Island tournament. Despite being highly competitive with many of the top teams in the province, the Jags did not manage to qualify for the BC AA tournament – a disappointing end to a successful season.

The 2025 Blue Jags were led by a strong core of Grade 12s, including standout play from Joe MacKenzie-Elrick in midfield. The future of the team looks very bright – a talented and experienced group of Grade 11s will return, bolstered by a number of promising Grade 10s.



Senior Girls Soccer

CITY – 2nd | ISLAND – 5th to 8th | BC – DNQ

The 2026 Senior Girls Soccer team featured a strong core group of returning Grade 12s, led by co-captains Manon Denux and Mackenna Brown.

The team started its season strong with two big Lower Island Tier 1 league wins against Esquimalt and Claremont before embarking on a Spring Break trip to Australia, in which most of the Senior team participated.

The Blue Jags also turned in a strong run as it co-hosted the Independent Schools Athletic Association tournament with Glenlyon Norfolk, reaching the semifinal round before losing 1-0 to eventual winner Collingwood.

Unfortunately, returning from Spring Break, the team lost Brown and Anna Beaudry to international field hockey commitments and was also missing a number of other key players over a period of several games.

The depleted roster led to a fifth-place finish in the Lower Island league. However, as players returned, the Blue Jags hit their stride at playoff time, beating Spectrum 4-2 in a Ryan Cup quarterfinal before ousting Royal Bay 2-1 in a semifinal.

The Blue Jags put in a strong effort in the Ryan Cup final against Reynolds but misfortune struck when Brown was injured in the first half and SMUS ultimately fell 2-1.

Without Brown, the Vancouver Island tournament proved to be an uphill climb as the Blue Jags lost 2-1 to eventual Island runner-up Nanaimo District and 3-0 to Oak Bay before tying Spectrum 1-1. Two losses and a tie were not enough for SMUS to advance to the playoff round, meaning their hopes of getting to the BC tournament were dashed.

Among the highlights of the season was the solid play of several Grade 11s, who all figure to return next season, as well as significant contributions down the stretch from a number of Grade 10s after the Junior Girls' season ended. This bodes well for next season's outlook.



Senior Boys Basketball

CITY – 2nd | ISLAND – 2nd | BC – 12th

The Senior Boys Basketball team experienced significant turnover for the 2025-26 season, returning only three players from the previous year.

Despite this inexperience and injuries and other commitments that kept some potential players from contributing, the Blue Jags finished Lower Island AA league play with a solid 6-2 record, including an impressive upset over provincially ranked Pacific Christian School.

The Jags fell to PCS in the Lower Island final, locking up the South 2 berth and an ideal draw for the Island AA Championship tournament at Shawnigan Lake School.

The conclusion of the SMUS Junior Boys' season – which ended one win short of qualifying for their BC tournament – proved to be helpful for the Senior Boys. Four Junior call-ups provided much-needed depth to the short-handed SMUS roster. With those additions, the Seniors managed to gel just in time for the Island Championship tournament and the entire group played its best basketball of the year at the right time.

After a comfortable victory over Gulf Islands Secondary in an Island quarterfinal, the Jags met Highland, the North Island's top seed, in a semifinal. SMUS faced an early 16-3 deficit, but battled back on the strength of Grade 10 guard Alex MacKay's 13 points in the second quarter, more than half of his 25 on the game. Senior guard Dani Pelyhe dominated in the second half, finishing with 33 points – 25 of those coming after the intermission – to lead the Blue Jags to an eventual 64-60 win and into their second straight Island AA Championship game.

While the Blue Jags fell to PCS once again in the Island final, a second-place Island finish and provincial tournament berth was an impressive accomplishment for the squad. Pelyhe received first-team Island all-star honours, while fellow Grade 12 guard Will Bateson was named a second team all-star.

At the BC Championship tournament in Langley, the 10th-seeded Blue Jags faced No. 7 Langley Christian in the first round. SMUS started very well and led by 10 points at the end of the first half, but the larger and physically dominant Lightning team eventually took control of the game, knocking the Jags into the consolation side of the 16-team bracket.

The Blue Jags ended the season on a high with a 12th-place finish at the provincial tournament – an impressive result for a team that sorely lacked experience and depth coming into the season.

Pelyhe, who recorded three games with more than 40 points over the course of the season – including a sterling 45-point effort against Nechako Valley in the provincial tournament – was the standout performer for the Blue Jags. He was supported well by sharpshooter Will Bateson and strong defensive performances from Parker Sheehan.

The outlook for the 2026-27 season is optimistic with a strong contingent of experienced Juniors moving up and the addition of rugged 6-4 forward Jack Harris, who was ineligible this season, joining other Senior returnees.



Senior Girls Basketball

CITY – 1st | ISLAND – 1st | BC – 3rd

The Blue Jags enjoyed another highly successful year at the provincial level. Coming off winning a BC AA Blue Banner the previous season, SMUS was moved up to compete once again in the AAA tier in 2025-26. With a demanding travel and exhibition schedule, the Blue Jags once again positioned themselves amongst the top programs in the province. A return trip to the BC Final Four showcased some excellent skills and commitment to the SMUS style of play. Unfortunately, a semifinal loss dashed any hope of a repeat provincial championship.

With several exhibition tournaments in December and early January, the Blue Jags notched wins over top teams including Duchess Park, Sahali, AAAA contenders Semiahmoo, and local rival Oak Bay. They also dropped some critical games to Island AAA rival Isfeld and BC AAA rival Langley Christian.

Come playoff time, it was clear that an Island Championship title would cement a BC tournament top seed, but the Blue Jags would have to get past Isfeld first. In a low scoring affair, which saw the Jags down one at the half, it was the team's commitment to defence that enabled an eventual 47-37 SMUS win to capture the AAA Island title.

Mikaela Dubé led all-scorers with 22 points and added eight rebounds in the final, earning Island MVP honours, while senior guard Mya Beare contributed 12 points and was named a first-team all-star. Defensive specialist Indigo Edgington rounded out the second island all-star team with a gritty performance in the final.

The BC AAA Championship, hosted at the Langley Events Centre, would once again be the site of some of the Blue Jags' best basketball of the season. As the No. 3-seeded team, SMUS opened play against Steveston-London, winning 101-25. Grade 11 standout Elspeth Rodger had a breakout game, scoring 24 points and pulling down 10 rebounds.

The quarterfinal match-up against Pitt Meadows was not much different. Tidy defence and a well-oiled offensive attack resulted in a 53-29 victory for the Blue Jags.

The semifinal would be the toughest test for SMUS. After giving up an early 13-point lead, the Blue Jags battled back into the game to close the score to within five points at the half. Unfortunately, another SMUS lapse resulted in a 35-22 run for Langley Christian that put the game out of reach and fueled a 66-58 victory for the Lightning. Beare's effort was commendable in the loss, as she finished with 22 points. Rodger added 16 points and Dubé finished with 11.

The BC bronze-medal game would showcase the Blue Jags' pride of program and feature some of the team's rising young stars. In a convincing 69-38 win over Duchess Park, the Grade 11 class featuring the duo of Dubé and Rodger established themselves as a dominant force. A talented class of Junior players contributed to the Senior Girls' success, including Piper Geddes, Natalie DiFelice-Oinonen, Ali Brooks, and Amelia Evans.

Rodger was named to the BC tournament's first all-star team, while Dubé and Beare were selected to the second team. The 2025-26 season marked the fourth consecutive Final Four appearance for the Blue Jags.

What will the 2026-27 season have in store? According to Head Coach Lindsay Brooke, "anything is possible when you return two marquee players such as Rodger and Dubé. We are already looking forward to another exciting season."



Senior Boys Rugby

CITY – 3rd | ISLAND – 4th | BC – DNQ

As part of the BC School Sports reshuffling of competitive tiers, the Senior Boys Rugby team was promoted to the AAA level for the season, essentially eliminating AA rugby from Vancouver Island.

The Blue Jags played 15 games this season, including four in Australia and one against touring Lycée Bellevue from Toulouse, France.

Highlights of the year included that tour, which included 15 Senior players and three Juniors. The Blue Jags won two of their tour games – against Sommerset College and William Clarke College – and had a great time. It was an impressive amount of play for SMUS as it only travelled with 18 players and lost several to injury.

Other highlights of 2026 included beating Brentwood College 45-24 before a large crowd in June's Alumni Game – one of two victories over Brentwood; a win over Royal Bay; and a victory over Carson Graham in the Stadium Series. Coaches felt that the Blue Jags played their best rugby of the season against Carson Graham but that game also resulted in some very costly injuries which, in the end, hurt the team's playoff chances.

In the Island playoffs, the Blue Jags were beaten 57-12 by host Shawnigan Lake. The following week, the Seniors fell 24-19 in a heartbreaker to Oak Bay in the Island third-place game, meaning SMUS did not qualify for the BC AAA tournament. However, the loss marked a massive improvement over the annual Boot Game, in which SMUS was badly outplayed.

Standout players included the Blue Jags' core group of Grade 12s. Des Grant at #10 played almost every minute of every game and really gained confidence as commander on the field. Seb Allard played #8 and then moonlighted in the centers as injuries took their

toll. Quinn McMeekin, at #15 and then the centers, always made crushing tackles and had a cannon for a boot. Nick Lee, on the flank, was hard-nosed and played through a lot of injuries. Tristan Mo missed most of the season to injury but came back and was a lineout throwing master. Declan Longridge, in the centers, became almost unstoppable until he stopped himself with a silly celebration try but bounced back and finished the season strong playing the best rugby of his SMUS career. Dani Pelhve made an immediate impact at #9 when basketball ended with lightning passes, endless fitness, and an outstanding positivity and work rate. Frank Tsai in the front row was perhaps the hardest worker on the field who did the dirty work quietly and efficiently and never asked for any recognition.

Some key Grade 11s will be back to form the base of another strong team next year, including Santiago Flores La Salvia, leading the charge in the front row and as professional post-game speech-giver. Others include Fraser Tuck, workhorse and line out specialist; Jack Harris, new this year and a major impact in the centers until he broke his thumb; Liam Whiteside at #9, who was a natural leader and so smart on the field until he broke his ankle on tour.

Next year's Seniors will also pick up Marcus Bellows, who was ineligible this year. Lots of other solid players will fill the ranks, as SMUS started most of its games this year with more than half the lineup Grade 11s.

SMUS coaches are proud of how players continued to push through a very challenging season of close losses, lots of injuries forcing players into new positions, and a relentless schedule that saw them play 15 games in nine weeks.



Senior Girls Rugby

CITY – N/A | ISLAND – N/A | BC – N/A

This season was a big building year for SMUS Girls Rugby. It was unfamiliar water for two new coaches – Bronwyn Zodichi and Tyson Beukeboom – and returning alumni coach Alex Motherwell.

Though not entirely sure what was going to come from the team this year, the leaps and bounds made by the athletes were amazing for the coaches to watch. Seeing girls who had never tried the sport come out and find community in it was foundational.

The Blue Jags played in Division 2 of the Lower Island league, meaning they were not in contention for Island or BC tournament berths. On the scoreboard, SMUS had a mixed bag – some wins, some losses, and a lot of learning during the process.

Coaches would like to give a special shout-out to the team's leaders, Valentina Elizalde Olea and Mia Wong, who really brought the team energy up and paved a pathway for anyone learning to follow. They would also like to thank graduating players Elizalde Olea, Savannah Ferguson, Lily Ford, and Nya Tsang.



Senior Boys Volleyball

CITY – 3rd | ISLAND – 5th | BC – DNQ

What coaches thought would be a rebuilding year quickly turned into one of the most exciting storylines SMUS has had in Senior Boys Volleyball. With only two returning seniors – Seb Allard and Tommy Hong – the expectation was to spend the season developing a young roster and building toward the future. Instead, it became a race against time to refine a team loaded with raw talent and potential.

A major turning point came when coaches pulled up Grade 10 setter Kevin Li from the Junior Boys team. His athleticism, vertical, and naturally soft hands immediately elevated the pace and consistency of the Blue Jags' offence. Add in the emergence of middle 6-foot-4 Jack Harris, who had never played volleyball before this year, and suddenly the lineup looked completely different. Harris's rapid transformation from complete beginner to dominant middle was one of the highlights of the season.

Right at the heart of the team's identity was the Blue Jags' truly amazing libero, Benjamin Lei. His energy, intensity, and never-give-up attitude were the spark that kept the team alive in every match. No matter how far down the Blue Jags were, Lei was the one chasing down balls that seemed impossible and raising the level of urgency. He was the emotional catalyst every coach dreams of, the player who refused to let the Blue Jags quit, and the one the team always followed.

On the outside, Eric Thompson and Hong brought power, intensity, and the ability to score from anywhere on the court. But where the team truly shone was when its middles were rolling. When Allard, Harris, and the middle attack got going, SMUS froze blockers, opened lanes for its pin hitters, and became incredibly difficult to defend.

After five weekend tournaments, countless practices, and a full slate of lead-up games, the Senior Boys arrived at the Island Championships ready, and it showed. The Friday of the tournament was the Blue Jags' best volleyball of the season. They finished second in their pool with strong wins over Isfeld and Wellington, and they pushed the eventual Island champions, provincially third-ranked Pacific Christian, to the brink before falling just short, 29-27, in one of the tightest sets of the Island tournament. The level of play, confidence, and execution on that day was everything SMUS had been working toward.

That performance set up the Blue Jags for a crossover quarterfinal, where they hoped to propel themselves into the semifinal round. Unfortunately for SMUS, tournament host and North No. 1 seed Highland had the opposite kind of day on Friday, struggling and finishing third in its pool. That meant the Blue Jags drew the host Raiders far earlier than expected. Highland played to its potential on the tournament's final day and, despite the Blue Jags' fight, the Raiders took the match and ultimately finished second overall.

The Blue Jags refused to let that loss define their Island tournament, however. They dominated Vic High in the fifth-place match and ended their season on a high note and in dramatic fashion. The final point came on a quick middle set, with Allard elevating and whipping the ball straight down for a loud and emphatic victory.

A season that began with question marks ended with pride, identity, and a team that grew faster and further than anyone predicted. With the talent returning and the culture built this year, the future looks incredibly bright.



Senior Girls Volleyball

CITY – 4th | ISLAND – DNQ | BC – DNQ

The 2026 season for the SMUS Senior Girls Volleyball team was defined by competitive league matches, valuable tournament experience, and an exciting playoff run. Anchored by a talented core of nine returning Grade 12 players, the Blue Jags relied on their experience, versatility, and determination.

Early in the season, the Blue Jags built momentum at the 16-team Spectrum tournament, earning a sixth-place finish. This opening event helped the squad develop chemistry and showcase its ability to adapt against skilled opponents.

At the 28-team Vancouver Island University tournament, the group truly began to gel both on and off the court, which helped the Blue Jags secure a second-place finish in the Silver tier. The Blue Jags followed up by competing in the 32-team Camosun tournament, which provided a rigorous test against outstanding opponents from the Lower Mainland and up-Island.

The midpoint of the season took the Blue Jags to the Brentwood Invitational Tournament. This served as a valuable opportunity to scout many of the opponents the team would face again in the AAA Lower Island playoffs just a few weeks later.

Brentwood College also hosted the ISAA Championship tournament, where SMUS got off to a strong start in Tier 1. Unfortunately, a few middle-blocker injuries took their toll on the squad as they headed into the final push of the season.

Throughout weekly league play, the Blue Jags showcased their defensive strength, offensive firepower, and multi-dimensional skill set. Players seamlessly stepped into leadership roles and contributed

across various positions. Returning setter Crystal Cai, middle blocker Indigo Edgington and left-side Nicola Bevington set the tone early, leading the team's offensive system. Kate Marriette and Mikaela Dubé stepped up to run a quick offence and maintain a strong blocking presence in the front row. Libero Sienna Shanks and defensive specialists Pema Dolkar and Jada Ayesworth anchored the backcourt, taking excellent care of both serve receive and team defence. Maggie Stiel's pivotal dual role as a setter and left-side hitter, Mya Beare's solid right-side attacking, and Fallon MacKenzie's untouchable serving completed the well-rounded package. In tight matches, the Blue Jags consistently displayed resilience, learning and growing stronger with every contest.

During the Lower Island AAA playoffs, SMUS demonstrated immense competitive spirit. The team advanced to the later stages, fighting hard for a berth in the Island AAA championship tournament. Although their season ended just short of qualification, the Blue Jags walked away with a profound sense of accomplishment and pride in their progress.

Beyond the scoreboard, the season was defined by team cohesion and the dedication of its athletes. Graduating seniors Crystal, Indigo, Kate, Jada, Maggie, Mya, Nicola, Pema, and Sienna were celebrated for their leadership and years of commitment, leaving a lasting legacy for the program while paving the way for the next group.



Senior Cross Country

ISLAND – 2nd (Boys), 5th (Girls) | BC – 7th (Boys), Girls DNQ

The SMUS Cross Country team was comprised of 30 athletes from Grades 9 through 12. After a grueling three-week trial period, the athletes were divided into two squads – a Competitive ‘A’ team and a Developmental ‘B’ team.

The Competitive team took part in five Lower Island league races, in which SMUS consistently finished among the top three schools competing.

At the Senior level, the top SMUS performers were Finlay Hlannon and Rina Chida, who each improved so much that, by the last league race, both finished within the top five in the overall results. Hlannon placed sixth individually in the Island AA Championships and 38th overall in BC while Chida placed eighth on the Island and 50th in BC as an individual qualifier.

At the Island Championships, the conditions were less than ideal with a torrential amount of rain hitting the Beaver Lake course the day prior. In the Senior Boys race, SMUS ran with strength and determination throughout the five-kilometre course and it was Grade 10 standout Isaac Ren who had the race of his life to finish 15th among AA runners and lift the SMUS Seniors to a second-place team result and a berth in the BC Championships.

The Senior Girls team showed great resilience and perseverance throughout in their Island race. Of note aside from Chida’s eighth-place, Sophie DeLaunier had a stellar race, finishing 25th with the rest of the SMUS girls not too far behind. In the end, SMUS secured a fifth-place team finish which, unfortunately, was just shy of qualifying the Senior Girls for the BC meet.

The BC Championships were held at a new venue this year – Arbutus Meadows Farm in Nanoose Bay. As luck would have it yet again, a massive rainstorm flooded the course the night prior, making this race one of the wettest in provincial championship history. SMUS runners were not deterred, however, and embraced the situation as “a character-building experience.”

In the five-kilometre Senior Boys race, the Blue Jags stayed in tight-knit packs and worked together to keep the pace at an all-time high. Finishing just behind SMUS leader Hlannon (38th) were Michael Carpiano (40th) and Grade 10 Pascal Krawez (42nd). Their combined efforts spurred the SMUS Boys into an impressive seventh-place BC AA team result.

Overall, one can only describe the 2025 season as a huge success. With strong numbers in the SMUS Cross Country program – coupled along with continued success at both the local and provincial levels – the future looks bright. In particular, the fine performances of Junior-age runners Krawez and Ren with the Senior Boys team in 2025, and the running of Natalie DiFelice-Oinonen, who led SMUS to a 26th-place team finish in the BC Junior Girls race, give reason for optimism.

SMUS coaches would like to thank the athletes for their unwavering commitment and determination.



Track and Field

CITY – 10 gold, 8 silver, 2 bronze

ISLAND – 7 gold, 6 silver, 1 bronze

BC – 1 silver, 2 bronze

The Track and Field season began this year with a record-breaking number of athletes joining the SMUS squad. During Lower Island league meets, the team had some outstanding performances, with many SMUS athletes among the top three in the league in their events.

During the Lower Island meet, 30 SMUS athletes competed, winning 20 medals at the Junior and Senior levels. In the Island Championships at Nanaimo, Blue Jag athletes earned 14 medals, seven of them gold. Among the Senior athletes to win Island golds were Martin Winnett in the pole vault and the Senior Boys 4x100-metre relay team of Tommy Hong, Adam Zilber, Parker Sheehan, and Winnett.

Other notable Senior finishers from SMUS at the Island meet included Sheehan, who took silver in both the 100- and 200-metre sprints, and Seb Allard, who placed third in the shot put. The Senior Boys 4x400-metre relay team, including Sheehan, Zilber, Milann Wenham, and Josh Hobbs, captured silver in its race.

Nineteen SMUS athletes at the Senior and Junior levels took part in the BC Track and Field Championships, June 4-6 at McLeod Stadium in Langley. Allard was the lone Blue Jag competitor to medal at the Senior level, with a personal-best of 12.69 metres to place second in the shot put, taking the silver medal and improving on his bronze at the Islands.

Winnett finished eighth in Senior Boys pole vault with a 3.05-metre effort while teammate Finlay Hlannon followed him

in ninth place. The SMUS Senior Boys 4x400-metre relay team qualified for its final and placed eighth.

The SMUS Track and Field team handled the BC meet with humility and respect, often going for a handshake, high-five, or hug before and after events.

The future looks bright for the Track and Field program at the school. Two Grade 10 SMUS athletes also medalled at the Junior level in the BC Championships. William Low, who won the Island Junior high jump title, finished an impressive third in BC with a leap of 1.80 metres. And Blue Jag hurdler Will Hamilton, who won both the 100-metre and 300-metre events at Islands, also took a bronze in the 300-metre hurdles at the BC meet despite his seventh seed entering the final.

Low and Hamilton were also part of the SMUS 4x100 Junior relay team that captured gold at the Island meet, along with Ben Keyes and Tor Nelson. The school's 4x400 Junior Boys relay team, including Hamilton, Nelson, Keyes and Isaac Ren, earned Island silver.

Other notable Junior finishes by SMUS included Declan Ross (eighth in triple jump at the BC meet, second at Island meet); Calvin Winnett (first in Junior Boys pole vault at Island meet); and Alex MacKay (second in 100-metre hurdles at the Island meet).



Senior Badminton

CITY – 1st (Girls), 3rd (Boys)
ISLAND – 2nd (Girls), 3rd (Boys)
BC – 14th (Boys), 14th (Girls)

The SMUS Badminton team enjoyed a successful season with both the Boys and Girls squads earning top-three finishes at the city and Island levels and each squad finishing 14th overall in their respective BC Championship draws.

On the Senior Girls' side, pre-season training began in February with the Blue Jags determined to make it to provincials after failing to qualify in 2025.

The SMUS Girls hosted the Independent Schools Athletic Association tournament, with the Blue Jags taking the bronze medal after beating St. John's and losing to Crofton House.

In Lower Island League play, the SMUS Girls defeated Claremont, Belmont, and Oak Bay, losing only to Mount Douglas. However, the Blue Jags turned the tables to edge Mount Douglas 4-3 in the Lower Island final, earning SMUS top seed heading into the Island Championship. That scenario was again reversed in the Island tournament, where SMUS finished second to Mount Douglas.

The Blue Jags were seeded 11th heading into May's BC Championships in Burnaby. They finished second in their preliminary pool to begin the provincial tournament. However, subsequent days of cross-over and ladder ties proved extremely difficult as SMUS faced schools with deep talent pools. The Blue Jags finished 14th in the tournament, ahead of Prince George and Alberni. Lisa Pai received the Most Improved Player award while YouLan Li earned the Super 16 MVP award for SMUS.

The coaches singled out Li for leading the team this season, as well as doubles pair Nicole Meng and Janette Ooi for helping form a strong backbone of the squad, and Memi Sonsophon for her grit and resilience as a consistent and irreplaceable singles player.

Looking to the future, Nancy Wu and Katheryn Sun of SMUS won the Lower Island Grade 9 doubles title and Grade 10 Ellie Whitehouse took the singles crown.

Meanwhile, this was a formative and team-building year for the SMUS Boys, not without its challenges, as nearly half of the Blue Jags team graduated last year.

Grade 10s showed an exceptional interest, filling the gym at tryouts with nearly 30 players and the new SMUS Boys team went on to perform well in local and regional competitions.

The Boys also hosted their ISAA competitors in April with the SMUS Boys 'B' Team placing an impressive first, while the Boys 'A' Team fought valiantly against St. John's School and West Point Grey Academy.

In the Island Championships in May, the SMUS Boys secured a well-deserved third-place finish behind host Mount Douglas and Vic High. That qualified the Blue Jags for the BC Championships in Burnaby.

At the provincials, the SMUS Boys did their utmost to topple elite teams from the Island and the Mainland, ultimately placing 14th, ahead of Prince George and Vic High. Elmond Aphiwetsa, who modelled outstanding sportsmanship and leadership at all times for the team this season, was honoured with the Boys Super 16 MVP award for SMUS.

Honourable mentions through the term go to Leighton Foster and Kevin Jiang, who formed an excellent doubles team and captured first place in the Lower Island Junior Championships; to Kevin Li, who proved to be a formidable singles and doubles player; and to Carl Sham, whose spirit and positivity buoyed SMUS Boys tournaments and practices.



Tennis

CITY – 1st (Boys), 5th (Girls)

ISLAND – 2nd (Boys), Girls DNQ

BC – 7th (Boys), Girls DNQ

A Lower Island title, an Island silver medal and a seventh-place finish at the BC Championships for the Senior Boys team were the highlights for SMUS Tennis in 2026.

After a second-place showing in their Lower Island league pool, the SMUS Boys captured the Lower Island team title in late April, making the Blue Jags the top South seed for the Island Championships.

SMUS beat Glenlyon Norfolk 3-2 in a Lower Island quarterfinal playoff match. In the semifinal round, the Blue Jags edged Oak Bay by the same score before downing Claremont 4-1 in the championship match.

Meanwhile, the SMUS Girls played hard, but lost 4-1 in a Lower Island quarterfinal match to Oak Bay, which included some very close sets. The Girls then beat St. Andrew's 4-1 to place fifth, which did not qualify them for the Island tournament.

Advancing to the Island Championships at Brentwood College in May, the SMUS Boys defeated Oak Bay and Shawnigan Lake School to top their preliminary pool. The Blue Jags then beat Claremont in a semifinal before falling to the host Brentwood squad in the Island final. Michael Liu of SMUS turned in a notable

performance, winning 6-0, 6-1, 6-1, 6-1 in his four singles matches against each school and defeating all top-seeded players.

The provincial tournament was hosted by the UBC Tennis Centre in early June. The SMUS Boys went 1-1 in their two matches on the opening day of the provincial tournament, beating South Kamloops 4-1 and losing 5-0 to Vancouver Magee 5-0 in preliminary pool play.

That moved the Jags into a quarterfinal against Sentinel, where they fell 4-1. SMUS followed that up with a 4-1 loss to Moscrop in its first consolation-side match.

On the tournament's last day, SMUS captured seventh-place honours with a 3-2 decision over Steveston-London in its final match of the BC event.

Liu, a Grade 11, earned SMUS Athlete of the Month honours in May for not losing a set of singles throughout the league, Lower Island, and Island Championships.



Squash

The SMUS Squash team enjoyed a great season, with 18 athletes playing competitively, split between two training squads – the Elite and ‘A’ teams.

SMUS was represented at tournaments across Canada and the international stage, including Silver and Gold Series events in BC, National Junior Circuit events in BC, Alberta, and Ontario; BC adult tournaments; and international events such as the U.S. and British Junior Opens.

Grade 12 Anderson Brown, who will study and play Varsity Squash beginning this fall at Western, enjoyed a standout season. Brown, ranked third in Canada in the Boys U19 category, finished fourth in the 2025 BC Junior Open, second in the 2026 Pacific Northwest Junior Championships, second in the 2026 Ontario Junior Open Championships, and fourth in the Canadian Junior Championships. He represented Canada at the 2026 British Junior Open and has been selected to the Canadian team for the 2026 World Junior Championships.

Max Arndt, ranked No. 11 nationally and fifth provincially in Boys U17, also had a strong season – highlighted by his second-place finish at the Arbutus Club BC NJC Gold event, third place in Men’s A at the UVic Open; 11th place at the Canadian Junior Open; fifth place in the Pacific Northwest Junior Championships; fifth place in the BC Junior Championships; and 10th in the Canadian Junior Championships. Arndt represented Canada at the 2025 US Junior Open Championships in Philadelphia.

Teammate Kieran MacKay, ranked 8th in BC in Boys U17, earned fifth place at the Arbutus Club BC NJC Gold; seventh in the BC Junior Championships; and 12th to 16th place at the Canadian Junior Championships.

Carsten Rodger of SMUS, ranked 12th in BC in Boys U17, finished eighth at the BC Championships, 18th at nationals; 10th at the Pacific Northwest Championships; and seventh in Vancouver Lawn Gold.



Sailing

DISCOVERY CUP – 1st and 2nd LOWER VANCOUVER ISLAND – 1st and 4th

After Spring Break, 19 sailors across Grades 9 through 12 learned the basics of sailing and how to apply those skills through racing in regattas. All sailors were able to get out on the water at Cadboro Bay, using the dinghies at the Royal Victoria Yacht Club, and practice steering, sail trim, and coping with different wind speeds.

This initial sailing experience transferred into understanding how to race around a course, with special attention to the “starts” and “buoy rounding”.

The season included two regattas – the first of which was the Discovery Cup in late May. Increasing southwest winds throughout the day and warm, sunny weather ensured excellent racing conditions. The SMUS 1 team finished first in the regatta, while the SMUS 2 team placed second, out of seven teams on the water. Notable results came from Pascal Krawez in SMUS 1, who won all his races by a considerable distance.

The final regatta took place in early June – the Lower Vancouver Island Championship, again at RVYC. The constant southerly breeze was perfect to complete the maximum number of races throughout the day. After close racing, the SMUS 1 team came out just on top, winning the trophy by four points, while the SMUS 2 team finished fourth overall in the seven-team event.

The SMUS 1 team consisted of Krawez, Ruby Xu, Jai Tatra, Joshua Leung, Emma Li, Matty Kolinek, Alvin Tsao, Marcus Chee, and Ashley Baek. Special congratulations go to Krawez and Tatra and, from the SMUS 2 team, Siena Gill and Molly Gu, for recording first-place finishes in at least one of their races throughout the day.



Rowing

Elk Lake Spring Regatta – 1 gold, 1 silver, 2 bronze

Brentwood Regatta – 2 gold, 2 silver, 1 bronze

Shawnigan Lake Regatta – 4 gold, 4 silver, 6 bronze

CSSRA Nationals – 1 gold, 4 bronze

It was a historic and remarkably successful year for the SMUS Rowing program. Led by Head of Rowing Susanne Walker Curry, the team made significant waves on both historical regional waters and national stages, culminating in a five-medal performance at the Canadian Secondary Schools Rowing Association (CSSRA) national regatta in June.

The fall season set a highly competitive tone for the year. A major pinnacle came when SMUS sent the first women's Coxed Quad in school history to compete at the prestigious Head of the Charles Regatta. Senior rowers like Braelyn Rowan and Lucy Turnbull were part of this historic crew, providing invaluable international racing experience that elevated the team's ambitions for the spring.

The fall season with the Greater Victoria Youth Rowing Society (GVYRS) served as the launchpad to the highly successful year, with SMUS fielding a roster of 53 athletes for the GVYRS circuit. More than 60 per cent of the roster consisted of brand-new rowers who had only learned the sport four weeks prior to their first competitive race. SMUS entered an impressive 16 different crew configurations across various GVYRS events to maximize racing time for the beginners.

During the height of the GVYRS fall league window, SMUS split its squads to target elite long-distance head races, using the local GVYRS talent pool to fill the boats.

In October's GVYRS Sprints Regatta on Elk Lake, the Blue Jags claimed seven medals. SMUS also put on a dominant show of depth. Out of the SMUS boats entered, 12 finished in the top six of their respective categories.

In the Head of the Gorge/Tail of the Gorge Regatta in Victoria, the Blue Jags dominated the sculling flights, placing first and fifth overall in the U19 Men's Coxed Quad (4X+), and adding second- and fifth-place finishes in the U19 Women's Coxed Quad (4X+).

In November's Lower Vancouver Island Secondary Schools Athletic Association Championships, SMUS utilized its massive roster to qualify deep into the bracket, entering multiple major sweep boats, including two separate SMUS boats in the premier Eights (8+) semifinal brackets and four separate crews in the Mostly Novice Coxed Quad (4x-) flights.

This GVYRS season proved critical because it allowed the coaching staff to unearth the young novice talent that eventually

formed the backbone of the Junior Varsity crews that went on to win national gold in Ontario in June.

The Kraken Indoor Erg Regatta and the Elk Lake Spring Regatta served as the winter-to-spring checkpoints for SMUS Rowing, providing crucial benchmarks for the athletes before their regatta season from April to June.

The Elk Lake Spring Regatta in March was marked by brutal, challenging weather – high winds on Sunday forced the cancellation of two-thirds of the weekend's racing schedule (including the entire U17 brackets).

Despite a highly condensed schedule and rough water, SMUS crews showed incredible resilience in the time trials and the few completed Final A brackets, including:

- First-place in the U17 Women's Eight. In a dominant display of early-season depth, the SMUS U17 Women's 8+ powered through the wind to capture a spectacular Final A victory, giving a preview of the crew's championship trajectory.
- Second place in the U19 Women's Single
- Third place in the U19 Women's Pair
- Third Place in the U19 Women's Double

The 2026 Brentwood International Regatta, held in late April, served as a competitive litmus test for the SMUS Rowing team. Facing an elite field of hundreds of boats from across the Pacific Northwest, Canada, and the U.S., the Blue Jags delivered a well-rounded team effort that emphasized their strength in the mid-tier and sweep categories. Brentwood Regatta highlights included:

- Two gold medals. The premier performance belonged to the SMUS U17 Junior Varsity Women's Eight (8+), which put on a dominant show of depth and power to claim first place. Individually, SMUS dominated the lightweight sculling circuit with a gold medal in the U19 Women's 63-kilogram Single (1x).
- Two Silver Medals. The U17 Junior Varsity Women's Four (4+) paired precision with power to capture second place. The senior leadership shone in small-boat execution, taking a hard-fought silver in the U19 Women's Pair (2-).
- One Bronze Medal. The U17 Women's Coxed Quad (4x+) anchored the team's sculling depth by fighting onto the podium for a third-place showing.

Beyond the podium finishes, the hallmark of the 2026 Brentwood Regatta for SMUS was how many boats advanced deep into the final brackets. The Blue Jags repeatedly placed boats in the top eight overall standings of the regatta, displaying an incredibly deep roster.

The Shawnigan Lake Regatta in May served as the final full-team competition of the season. Out of 25 SMUS crews entered, an incredible 22 qualified for 'A' finals, with 14 reaching the podium. SMUS left the regatta with four gold, four silver, and six bronze medals, showcasing its elite depth in the U19 and U17 Novice and Junior categories.

Twenty-four select SMUS athletes travelled to St. Catharines, Ont., for the 79th CSSRA Regatta in early June. Competing against 130 school and club squads, SMUS advanced eight crews to the finals and secured sixth-place overall in the team standings while capturing an impressive five medals.

The dominant SMUS Junior 63-kg. Women's 8+ crew won gold, blowing the competition away. Their time of 7:35.290 was more than 11 seconds faster than the silver-medal boat from Toronto's Branksome Hall (7:46.510). While that gold medal grabbed the headlines, the depth of the 24 SMUS athletes sent to St. Catharines was evident in how close the other crews came to national prominence.

Several SMUS athletes pulled double duty, racing in multiple finals on the same weekend. Elsa Dukes, Silke Behn, Weline Dietrich, and Gretchen Oelschlager won gold in the 8+ and then turned around to capture bronze in the Junior Women's 63-kg. Coxed Four (clocking 8:26.276) alongside coxswain Laurel Gomori. Other members of the SMUS gold-medal 8+ crew were Addy Newman-Ting, Cleo Price, Natalie DiFelice-Oinonen, Rachel Oliver, and coxswain Michaela Yee.

The pairing of Clara Curry and Braelyn Rowan was vital to the Senior sweep. They took bronze in the Senior Women's Pair (8:38.160) behind Eden High School and local rivals Brentwood College. They then joined forces with Mia Nadra, Lucy Turnbull, and coxswain Bianca Batoni to take a bronze in the Senior Women's Coxed Four (7:44.88), finishing behind Brentwood College and American power Orchard Lake St. Mary's of Minnesota.

Turnbull, Elizabeth Hardcastle, Tristan Salter, and Leo Denis also secured a national bronze for SMUS in the Mixed Quad with a blistering time of 7:04.660.

SMUS narrowly missed three more national medals, securing a fourth-place finish in the Junior Women's Coxed Four, a fourth-place showing in the Junior Men's Coxed Quad (by 0.7 sec), and a fifth-place finish in the Junior Men's Coxed Four.

The graduating class of 2026 featured an accomplished group of rowers who left an indelible mark on the SMUS program. Curry (four years), Rowan (four years), Turnbull (2½ years) and Batoni (three years), were not just the competitive engine of the team's historic sweep boats; their individual paths to the podium and post-secondary recruitment were emblematic of the standard of excellence that they brought to Blue Jags Rowing.



Senior Boys Golf

CITY – N/A | ISLAND – 1st | BC – 1st

The SMUS Golf Team came into the season with high expectations after reaching the provincial tournament with an extremely young lineup in 2025. The Blue Jags more than lived up to those expectations by capturing the school's first BC Championship in early June.

SMUS began the season by competing against a 32-team field in the Victoria City Police Tournament, which is played at the very challenging Olympic View Golf Club. SMUS entered two teams in the annual event and both finished in the top 10, including a fifth-place showing led by Austin Yang's two-day total of 149 (76-73).

The Blue Jags had a quick turnaround before venturing to the Mainland to compete against a talented field at the Vancouver Police Tournament. They played back-to-back rounds against the elements at Kings Links in Delta and Mayfair Lakes in Richmond. Ricardo Chen led SMUS to a seventh-place finish with a two-day total of 145, which included a 1-under 70 on Day 2. Jerry Tai recorded a very tidy 78-77 to represent SMUS well over both days.

The Blue Jags sent four players to the Independent Schools Athletic Association tournament at the McCleery Golf Club in West Vancouver, where they battled against many of the top AA schools in the province. Yang's 75 and West Dingle's 76 propelled SMUS to an eighth overall placing in that event.

In preparation for the Island AA Championship in Duncan, the team entered the inaugural Ladysmith Tournament held at Cottonwood Golf Club. The Blue Jags registered four scores in the 70s for a team total of 297 with rounds of 73, 74, 75, and 75 by Jeff Su, Chen, Dingle and Ming Tsang, respectively.

On the heels of that success, SMUS competed in the Island Championship tournament held at the Cowichan Golf Club the following week. Once again, the team registered four scores in the 70s for a total of 296 including rounds of 73, 74, 74, and 75 scored by Chen, Su, Sting Zhang, and Yang, respectively. This total earned SMUS the 2026 AA Island title and a berth in the BC AA Championships, June 2 and 3 at the Redwoods Golf Course in Langley.

Led by Yang's even-par 71 that included four birdies, SMUS posted a low-four aggregate score of 297 on Day 1 of the BC tournament. Su had a strong finish to his back nine that included birdies on three of the last five holes enroute to his 75. Not to be outdone was Zhang, who tallied two birdies and an eagle on his back nine. After the opening round, the team sat in third place, four strokes back of leader MEI.

Entering the second day, four teams were within five strokes and striking distance of the leader and were therefore all playing partners in Day 2 foursomes. This made for an intense finish to the

tournament. In addition, the course was playing very difficult for the second round as the grounds crew pushed the tee markers back on some holes and offered golfers challenging pin placements.

During the final round, Zhang hit a blind shot onto the 15th green from the edge of the penalty area and converted his par putt with a fist pump. With that finish, the SMUS team's emotional leader sent a message to tournament participants that SMUS was playing amazing golf and would be tough to beat right to the final hole. This was emblematic of the entire squad, who brought a competitive fire to match their amazing display of golf.

The par-3 seventh hole had the pin tucked up on a ledge behind a front-side bunker, forcing much of the field to play it to a bogey. The SMUS team each took different approaches but all managed to register a well-earned par and gain a stroke on the field. This included a 30-foot putt from a delighted Dingle enroute to his 78.

Su almost holed out for eagle on the downhill 11th hole and had a tap-in birdie to move the SMUS team closer to the lead as he worked his way away from the clubhouse and down the back nine. The end of the round saw him turn in a 2-over 73.

Chen, in his foursome, matched the tournament's low-gross winner from MEI shot-for-shot the entire day to finish with a steady 74. He notched two birdies each day, the result of the precision in his approach shots and his accuracy off the tee box.

Yang's 76 was the final score to be added to the team results as SMUS posted rounds of 73, 74, 74, 76, for a one-day total of 297.

With all five SMUS players entering a score in the 70s, the team leapfrogged the competition into the coveted championship spot, four strokes ahead of second-place and defending champion Mulgrave and eight strokes in front of MEI, the 2025 runner-up.

Junior and Development Team Photos



DEVELOPMENT SENIOR FIELD HOCKEY



DEVELOPMENT SENIOR BOYS SOCCER



DEVELOPMENT SENIOR CROSS COUNTRY



GRADE 9 BOYS BASKETBALL TEAM



JUNIOR BOYS BASKETBALL TEAM



JUNIOR BOYS RUGBY TEAM



DEVELOPMENT JUNIOR GIRLS VOLLEYBALL TEAM



JUNIOR GIRLS BASKETBALL TEAM



DEVELOPMENT JUNIOR GIRLS BASKETBALL TEAM



JUNIOR BOYS VOLLEYBALL TEAM



JUNIOR GIRLS VOLLEYBALL TEAM



JUNIOR BOYS SOCCER TEAM



JUNIOR GIRLS SOCCER TEAM



St. Michaels
University School