

DALTON VAN DER NEST
2022-23 Quinn Stevenson Memorial Referee of the Year presented by
Al Anderson's Source for Sports

SMHA is pleased to announce the winner of the Quinn Stevenson SMHA Referee of the Year Award presented by Al Anderson's Source for Sports. The 2022-23 recipient is **Dalton van der Nest!**

The Quinn Stevenson Memorial Referee of the Year Award was created by SMHA to memorialize and recognize Quinn Stevenson for his contributions to refereeing in Saskatoon before he was taken from us far too early. This award recognizes the many hard-working and strong referees that SMHA is fortunate to have. The sport simply could not exist without our on-ice officials - we thank all of our officials. Dalton van der Nest epitomizes why this award was created and is a most deserving recipient.

About Dalton:

Dalton grew up in Slave Lake, Alberta, where he became the first in his South African family to take to the ice. Growing up playing minor hockey, his first job was, of course, as a hockey official. This experience helped solidify his love for the game. Unfortunately, Dalton could only complete two years of officiating as he moved to Edmonton to play AAA hockey. Dalton played four years of AAA hockey. This experience built a strong skating ability and a hockey sense, providing him with a foundation to build upon as a future official.

After taking some time away from the sport to focus on his education, Dalton returned to hockey as an official in Saskatoon in the 2021-22 season. He was fortunate enough to quickly be surrounded by senior officials such as Evan Koturbash, Mike Alford and Neil Harmon, who helped bring him up to speed with the new officiating standards. Dalton quickly re-developed his love of the sport and his passion for elite-level hockey, setting his sights on returning to referee at the levels where he once competed. In order to do so, Dalton had to soak up as much information, advice, and experience as possible. After taking so many years away from the sport, his ability to accept critique and feedback and immediately implement that onto the ice allowed Dalton to excel.

Immediately implementing feedback allowed Dalton to quickly stand out during the 2022-23 season and at the Sask First tryout camp. Dalton has since been invited to attend the Sask First Male U18 main camp in Regina, where he will showcase his abilities to provincial supervisors. This season he has had the privilege of working deep into playoffs in the U15AA and U18AA leagues. He is now excited to continue his pursuit of elite-level hockey while prioritizing helping younger officials develop

From Dalton:

“In my first-year officiating in Saskatoon, I was quickly trusted to headman U18 age groups, where I earned the privilege of working deep into city playoffs. From this, I set my sights on moving up to AA for the 22-23 season, where I would end up being supervised often by SMHA Referee-in-chief Clint Joyes, who could see that I took the feedback and put it into practice. Thank you, Clint, for the feedback and encouragement. I would not have developed as quickly as I did without senior officials and supervisors taking the time to come out and mentor me.”

**Congratulations Dalton – 2022-23 Quinn Stevenson Memorial Referee of the Year
presented by Al Anderson’s Source for Sports**