

All-round Behchoko athlete honoured

Jacqueline Gon wins Aboriginal Sports Circle of the Western Arctic award

by James McCarthy
Northern News Services
Somba K'e/Yellowknife

Jacqueline Gon claimed the top athletic award for 2009 last month. The 16-year-old Behchoko resident was honoured by the Aboriginal Sports Circle of the Western Arctic on Sept. 24 with the Sport Award at the organization's annual awards dinner.

Gon was given the honour based on her athletic performances in a variety of sports during the past 12 months. Gon said it was a big thrill for her to receive the award.

"I got to have all the people there watch me accept the award, which was really good," she said. "My coach (Michael Botermans) and my family were there and I was happy they got to see me get it."

Gon said she found out about the honour while playing in the Hay River Elks Soccer Tournament in September.

"Someone came up and told me I was going to get it," she said. "I didn't even know I was nominated until Michael came up and told me he had nominated me and hoped I would win. I was happy when I found out I did."

Botermans, who teaches at Chief Jimmy Bruneau School in Behchoko, said there couldn't have been a more deserving winner of the award.

"Jacqueline is a great leader, both on and off the playing field," he said. "She plays at a higher level than most of the kids and is very comfortable playing on stronger teams. She has a feistiness because she knows she's at that higher level and she really rises to the occasion."

Botermans also said Gon's competitive side is countered by her soft approach

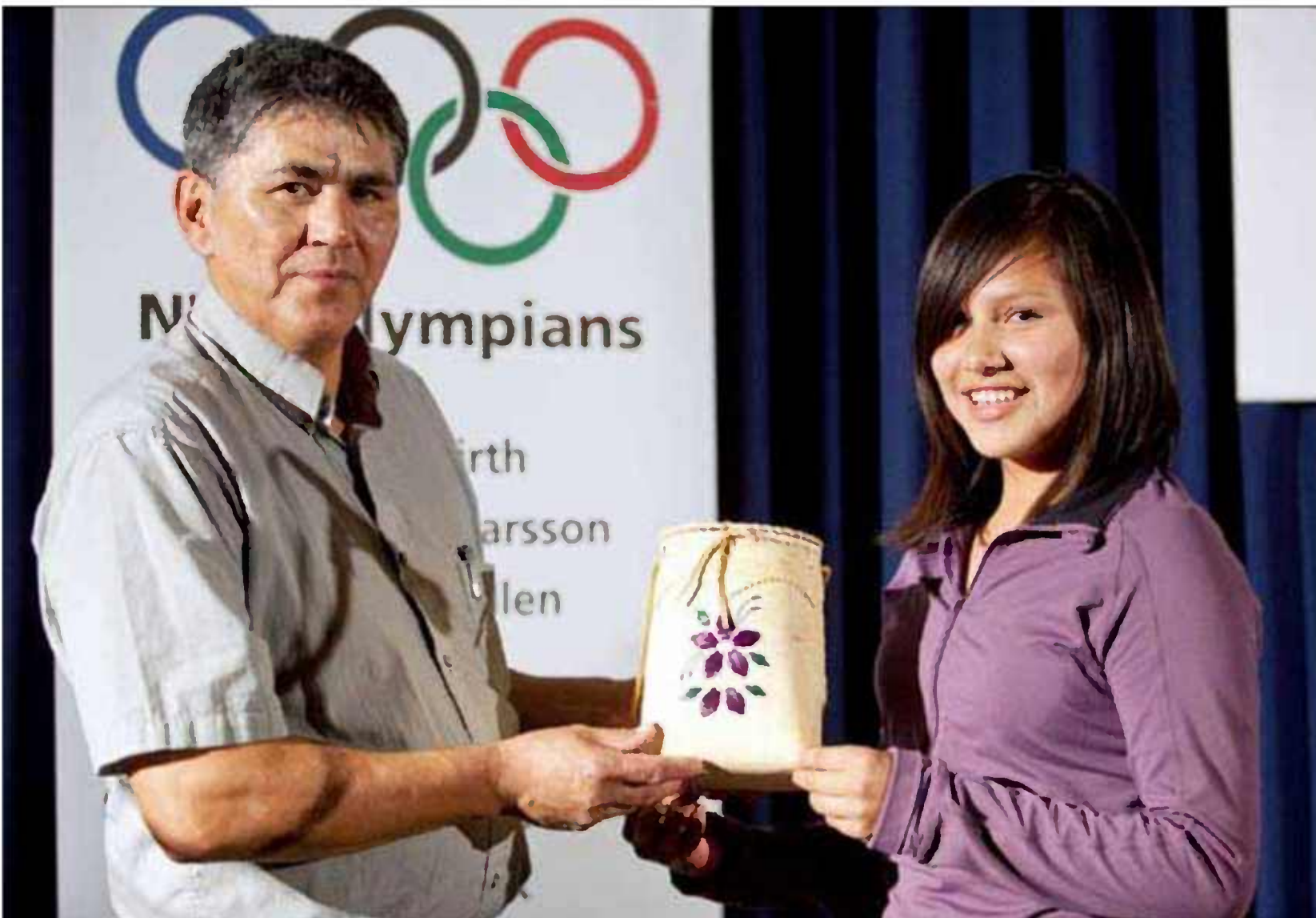


photo courtesy of Dave Brasha/Aboriginal Sports Circle

Municipal and Community Affairs minister Robert McLeod presents a birch bark sack to Behchoko's Jacqueline Gon, winner of the Sport Award for top athlete at the Aboriginal Sports Circle of the Western Arctic's Awards Dinner on Sept. 24.

to life outside of sports.

"She is the president of the student union here at the school," he said. "She's always in the know about everything that's going on here and she is extremely popular with everyone."

Gon said she's had to play mostly with boys teams as opposed to with the girls because of the lack of female teams.

"There's never been enough girls teams, so I played with

them," she said. "Playing with the boys is a challenge, but I always like the challenging competition."

Gon plans to return to high school for one more semester next year. Following that, she said it's off to Edmonton for college.

"I'm going to Grant MacEwan College to study either physical education or police studies," she said. "I want to keep on playing sports while I'm there."

Danny Bodvarson Scholarship

What is the Danny Bodvarson scholarship?

This \$1,000 scholarship was established in memory of Danny Bodvarson to support an aboriginal person who is pursuing a post-secondary degree or a certified trade, and is interested in developing excellence in sports and music. Daniel lived in Hay River and devoted much of his life to the promotion of sports and music.

What are the required qualifications?

- Must be of Aboriginal descent.
- Must live in the NWT.
- Must be enrolled in a post-secondary program at a recognized education institution or registered as an apprentice in a certified trade profession.
- Must be pursuing excellence in sports, preferably golf.
- Must enjoy and promote music.
- Must have two letters of support.

What information do I need to include in the application?

- Personal information: name, address (including temporary address); contact information including email.
- Education information: school, field of study/work; proof of enrollment.
- Career goals
- Interests
- How will this scholarship assist you in achieving your goals?

What is the deadline for submitting an application?

Applications must be submitted by October 31 of each year. The factors that will be taken into consideration in reviewing applications include enthusiasm, friendliness, spirit, determination, love and respect for family and culture, encouragement of others and contributions back to the community.

How and where do I submit the application to?

Applications maybe submitted by mail, fax or email to:
NWT Aboriginal Golf Association
c/o Mr. Fred E. Koe
5626-50A Avenue, Yellowknife, NT X1A 1G3
Telephone: 867-873-5913, Fax: 867-873-5679
Email: koescs@theedge.ca

Scholarship sponsors:

NWT Aboriginal Golf Association
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