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The Charles Bloom basketball team from Lumby won Girls Team of the Year at the 2019 Rotary Athletic Awards (submitted photo/Keith Johnston)

SIXTH ANNUAL

By Pete McIntyre

Best in high school sports honoured

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It's been another great year for sports at North Okanagan high schools.

That was evident as the 2019 Rotary Athletic Awards were handed out Tuesday evening at the Vernon Lodge.

Twenty-eight awards were presented at the event put on by local Rotary clubs, with support from numerous sponsors, including 107.5 Beach Radio.

Kelsey Falk of Vernon Secondary, a basketball player, was named the best all around female athlete and top academic female athlete, while the best all around male athlete was Thomas Hyett, quarterback from the VSS Panthers football team, with Liam Alder as the top academic male athlete.

The Patrick Nicol Award for team spirit and dedication, sponsored by Beach Radio, went to River McDonald of Vernon Secondary.

"The award this year goes to a young man who has had to overcome several challenges," Rotary presenter Keith Johnston said of McDonald. "He became a part of the VSS football program a few years ago and has worked hard and put in countless hours to support the team and coaching staff during practice and at the games. He has progressed every year to where, in his Grade 12 year, he was easily handling the demands and pressures placed upon him."

The girls team of the year was Charles Bloom basketball, with the boys teams of the year going to Vernon Christian Volleyball and Vernon Secondary Senior Football which won the B.C. title last fall.

See the complete list of winners below.

Award	Winner	Sponsor
	2019	
Most Outstanding Girls Volleyball Player	Paige Noakes	Peter and Cathy Evans
Most Outstanding Girls Cross Country	Annika Ariano	Talon Benefits - Brian Reid
Most Outstanding Girls Basketball Player	Kelsey Falk	Vernon Optometry
Girls Newcomer of the Year	Olivia Tymkiw	Charlene Sylvester Notary Public
Girls Teammate of the Year	Esther Drysdale	Edward Jones Investments
Most Outstanding Girls Soccer Player	Maddy Overend	The Goplen Family
Most Outstanding Girls Track and Field	Annika Ariano	Snap Fitness
Most Outstanding Girls Golfer	Kendra Jones-Munk	Vernon Golf and Country Club
Most Outstanding Boys Track and Field	Braden Kersey	Dr. James Mayne of Arise Chiropractic
Most Outstanding Football Player	Charles Lemay	Nicholas Alexander Landscaping
Most Outstanding Boys Volleyball Player	Ben Molitwenik	Doyle's Custom Rock Walls
Most Outstanding Boys Basketball Player	Devin Hofsink	Martin Von Holst - 3% Realty Inc.
Most Outstanding Boys Soccer Player	Kody Kongsdorf	Andy Ericson, Investor Group
Most Outstanding Golfer	Austin Armanini	Vernon Golf and Country Club
Boys Teammate of the Year	Tage Kineshanko	True North Leadership
Boys Newcomer of the Year	Liam Remple	Heemskerck Accounting
Most Outstanding Rugby Player	Evan Trottier	City Furniture
Most Outstanding Boys Cross Country	Braden Kersey	Brentwell Construction
Patrick Nicol - Booster Award	River McDonald	1075 Beach Radio
Coach of the Year	Chris Bannick	Total Fun
Lifetime Achievement in Coaching	Katherine Norman	Rotary
Top Academic Male Athlete	Liam Alder	Capri CMW Insurance
Top Academic Female Athlete	Kelsey Falk	The Larsen/Szudek Family
Best All Around Male Athlete	Thomas Hyett	Bannister Honda
Best All Around Female Athlete	Kelsey Falk	Bannister GM
Girls Team of the Year	Charles Bloom Girls Basketball	Sun Life Financial

2019 Rotary Athletic Award winners