



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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WinSport reaffirms commitment to Sarah Burke Performance Awards

Calgary, Alta. – WinSport president and CEO Barry Heck announced today that WinSport has renewed its commitment to Canadian winter athletes, with the presentation of the Sarah Burke Performance Awards during the 2014-15 winter season.

The Sarah Burke Performance Award was established by WinSport in 2012 to honour Burke, one of Canada's top freestyle skiers who succumbed to injuries she suffered in a training accident in Utah in January 2012.

The award is presented in the amount of \$5,000 to any Canadian athlete that reaches the podium in any senior World Cup event held at WinSport's facilities at Canada Olympic Park. Burke was a pioneer in her sport of halfpipe skiing and lobbied the International Olympic Committee to include her sport in the Olympic Games.

"Sarah was truly a role model for winter sport athletes and all Canadians," said Heck. "If it wasn't for Sarah, halfpipe skiing may never have been a medal sport at the 2014 Olympics. WinSport is honoured to continue to pay tribute to Sarah's tremendous spirit and support her legacy with these performance awards."

Several Canadian athletes have the potential to receive Sarah Burke Performance Awards this season, with WinSport hosting World Cups in luge, bobsleigh, skeleton and freestyle moguls skiing over the next month.

That quest begins this weekend on WinSport's sliding track, with the world's best lugers battling for medals on Friday and Saturday. Doubles runs begin at 3 p.m. on Friday, with the women hitting the start house at 6 p.m. The men's runs are Saturday beginning at 11:15 a.m., with a Sprint Cup race at 3:45 p.m.

The bobsleigh and skeleton World Cup at WinSport is scheduled for Dec. 19-20, while the World Cup moguls showdown is on Jan. 3, 2015.

Since the inception of the Sarah Burke Performance Award, WinSport has awarded \$95,000 to Canadian athletes.

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About WinSport

The Winter Sport Institute provides world-class sport facilities where Canadian athletes can discover, develop and excel. WinSport owns and operates Canada Olympic Park in Calgary, Alta., the Bill Warren Training Centre located at the Canmore Nordic Centre and the Beckie Scott High Performance Training Centre on Haig Glacier, Alta. A not-for-profit organization, WinSport supports national sport organizations, encourages educational opportunities and subsidizes the operation of unique training and recreational facilities used by the nation's top athletes and the general public. For more information on WinSport please visit www.winsport.ca.

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