



REPPING THE BISON AT CANADA SUMMER GAMES

Luke Enns (above) was named Team Manitoba's flag bearer for the Canada Summer Games on Tuesday. Manitoba is sending 374 of the province's best young athletes to the games in St. John's, N.L., from Aug. 8-25. Team members (inset, top left) Enns, Matthew McKay, Benjamin Purvis, Ihor Brezdun, Gemma Fudge-McDonald, (bottom left) Piper Hollywood and Kishi Folarin were introduced Tuesday at Sport Manitoba.



Winnipeg will host the 2025 World Archery Youth Championships Aug. 16-24.

Bull's-eye for Canadian archery

Winnipeg playing host to world youth championships

ZOE PIERCE

THE biggest event on the World Archery calendar is making a stop in Winnipeg later this month. Held in countries like Spain, Poland, Argentina and Great Britain since its launch in 1991, the World Archery Youth Championships is a significant international event for young archers that takes place every two years. In 2025, it's Canada's turn and, with Winnipeg as the host city, organizers hope the tournament will put the country on the archery map.

This is Winnipeg's first time hosting a major international archery championship, an idea that began in 2019 when event chair Kelly Taylor attended the World Archery Youth Championships in Madrid, where six Manitobans were competing for Team Canada. "I said to people as we were waiting for the bus, I said to the other Canadians, 'You know, we could host that in Winnipeg,'" said Taylor. "And they said, 'Oh, you can't do that in Winnipeg.' You need this much money and, you know, all the preparations, they'd never take it, right? So I kind of took that as a challenge."

In 2020, Taylor's efforts, with support from Tourism Manitoba and Archery Canada, were rewarded when he was informed that Winnipeg had won the bid to host the event. From Aug. 16-24, nearly 600 athletes from 67 countries will compete, bringing more than \$5 million in economic impact to the city, Taylor said.

"For both of us, as the provincial Association and the National Association in Ottawa, hosting an event on this scale and this importance is significant," said Ryan Van Berkel, executive director of Archery Manitoba. "I mean, Canada's hosted a few smaller international events over the past five years that are significant for sure and have an impact on that national community. But for us to do this here is huge."

The compound and recurve events for U18 and U21 men and women will be held at the Winnipeg South End United Soccer Club complex for all matches leading up to the semifinals.

The bronze and gold medal matches will be quite the spectacle, Van Berkel said, as they'll take place at the CN Stage area at The Forks.

"From an organizational standpoint, excited to just get archery out into the community at this level," said Van Berkel. "I think it'll be something that will really grab a lot of eyes, so that's going to be exciting. But at a personal level, I'm just really looking forward to hosting a lot of these teams and people. Despite archery being quite a large international community, it's pretty close-knit in culture."

Archery is a smaller sport in Manitoba, but it has gained interest through its inclusion in the Manitoba and Canada Games, as well as its status as an Olympic pathway sport.

"There's a pretty impressive athlete development pathway here of athletes that successfully go to the international stage and compete and, in the past, have won as well," said Van Berkel.

Three Manitobans are on Team Canada for the World Archery Youth Championships: Khushreet Sandhu in the U18 Compound Women's division, Acadia Flockton as an alternate, and Bailey Mathers in the U21 Compound category.

Dramatic win follows Calgary's social media cheapshot

Sea Bears make Surge pay

TAYLOR ALLEN

IT was personal for the Winnipeg Sea Bears. Last week, the Calgary Surge social media team made an Instagram post poking fun at the Sea Bears for having four players from its 2023 roster: Simi Shittu, Trevon Scott, Maurice Calloo and Jordy Tshimanga.

"At this point y'all aren't building a roster — you're building a fan page. See you Sunday," wrote the Surge prior to Sunday's showdown.

When the dust settled in Calgary, it was Winnipeg that had the last laugh as they prevailed 79-78 in dramatic fashion. After scoring the game-winning bucket off a nice dish by forward Emmanuel Akot, Shittu slammed the basketball over the Calgary bench and into the crowd before celebrating with teammates.

"It wasn't something that was on our mind, but I mean, we saw it. They went out of their way to tag us. I'm like, it's funny, ha, ha, ha, but like, grow up," said Scott on Tuesday.

"We got real estate in their head over there. They just miss us, that's all that it means."

They certainly miss Shittu as the Canadian centre ate their lunch. He finished with 28 points, 15 points and three blocks. His biggest rejection came late when he swatted away a Sean Miller-Moore layup from behind that would've given the Surge the win.

"When you talk about rundown blocks, everyone thinks about LeBron in (Game 7 of the 2016 NBA Finals on Golden State guard Andre Iguodala) and you think of these fantastic athletic plays, and that was right on par with it," said Sea Bears head coach Mike Taylor.

"For Simi to make that play, it was something special. It was like an exclamation point that we're ready to come back."

Calgary had a dozen chances to hit the winning score and the Sea Bears trailed by as much as eight in Target Score Time before somehow pulling it out.

The Sea Bears are now 8-11 while the Surge, who were riding a four-game winning streak, fell to 13-6. It's the first time Winnipeg has left Cowtown with a win.

"There was a little tension going on there, and that (post) really what sparked it," said Shittu.

"It was just a tough game against a good team, a



Simi Shittu was making big plays at both ends of the court in the Sea Bears victory over the Surge.

physical game, and you know, I think everyone on our team wanted to win that game."

Sunday also marked the debut of import guard Jarron Cumberland. The 27-year-old, who appeared in three games with the NBA's Portland Trail Blazers in 2021-22, signed Friday. He played 16 minutes and picked up three points, three rebounds and three assists.

Cumberland — the MVP of the NBA G League's Winter Showcase in 2021 — has never suited up in the CEBL but played four seasons at the University

of Cincinnati alongside Scott.

"When Mike told me he was thinking of bringing him in, I was all for it. That's my brother. We're super close and had great chemistry in college," said Scott.

"(He brings) a lot of versatility on both sides of the ball, a lot of playmaking, a lot of scoring, a lot of everything. He's an all-around player and he affects the game in every category. It's most definitely a positive for us."

Adding Cumberland was necessary since point guard Terry Roberts, who left the team to play in the NBA Summer League in Las Vegas with the Brooklyn Nets, has not returned to Winnipeg. Cumberland's arrival gives the Sea Bears five imports, meaning one needs to sit out every game. Forward Jaylin Williams was the odd man out Sunday.

Players need to be on the active roster for at least three games to be eligible for post-season play.

"Everyone welcomed me, and I was appreciative. I felt good coming here," said Cumberland, who was most recently in the NBA G League with the Delaware Blue Coats.

"Guys can feel some type of way (about someone now having to sit out), and I mean, it's a job... People sacrifice being away from their family and everything, so I understand if they feel some type of way. But the guys put their feelings aside and want the team to win."

The Sea Bears have made five signings this month. With the CEBL's transaction window now closed, bringing aboard an extra import was key in case they lose one before hosting championship weekend (Aug. 22-24).

"There's been a lot of roster moves, but it's all been with a purpose," said Taylor.

"We got respect for all our players, we love all our players. Last game it was Jaylin (sitting), but we'll see. We've got to make game time decisions. We need to get to stability. We need to get the roster settled before we get to championship weekend. We want to kind of have an idea of the roles and team structure before we get to that point."

The Sea Bears host the Saskatchewan Rattlers (5-14) Friday at 7:30 p.m.

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