

# Water Ski Community to Remember Krystal Arvisais

By Dan Wolfenden and Sara Dorken

On December 4<sup>th</sup>, 2007 the Arvisais family, the water ski community and countless others suffered an unthinkable loss. In a tragic accident, Krystal Arvisais, daughter, sister, friend, university student and international level water skier, lost her life.

In spite of her tender age, the Val-des-Monts, Quebec native had already achieved so much and had made a positive impact among many. After reeling in shock and sadness, Water Ski and Wakeboard Canada is ready to celebrate and remember in perpetuity the life of one of Canada's best young water skiers.

Water Ski Team Coach, Steve Bush. "A quick wit, contagious smile and no nonsense – a 'Get 'er done' approach. She was a team player, a really good competitor, and a friend to everyone. Krystal was passionate about water skiing; she enjoyed being with the team and connecting with athletes from other countries".

Krystal was an extremely motivated athlete with a laugh that could make anyone smile. Matt Rini, who had coached Ms. Arvisais since she was about 14 years old, said she was enthusiastic and was "the loudest laughter in the crowd."

While those who knew Krystal through the sport can attest to her admirable attributes, it is her mother, Dee Dee Brunet-Arvisais who best witnessed her daughter's growth within and fondness for water skiing. "Krystal loved the sport, the camaraderie, and the practice for all three



events, especially tricks", she recently remarked, six months since the tragic accident, but no less removed from the painful loss.

"Krystal loved the competition. The sport opened doors for her, including her education, and she got to travel to many places. Her fondest water skiing memory would likely be what she gave to upcoming athletes that she got to coach."

When asked how she wished for her daughter to be thought of, Dee Dee paused quietly, and emotionally offered, "I'd like for Krystal to be remembered as a dedicated athlete, and a great ambassador for the sport". The small, tightly-knit water ski community shares that memory.

In memoriam of Krystal and as a tribute to her passion for water skiing, Water Ski and Wakeboard Canada has created an annual award in her name. The Krystal Arvisais Award will be awarded to a male or female, three event skier who demonstrates a love for the sport, reflects the true social and family aspects of water skiing, and who shows a commitment to continue their education while training and competing. The award will bear Krystal's personal motto, "SKI HARD, SMILE ALWAYS!"

The inaugural awarding of this honour will take place at the closing banquet of the 2008 Canadian Water Ski Championships, in Newmarket, Ontario on August 16.



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Krystal competed internationally for Canada, winning two medals at the 2005 Can Am Challenge in Texas and placing fourth in the trick event at the 2006 Pan-American Water Ski Championships held in Mexico. She was a 12-time medallist at the Canadian Water Ski Championships, holds the Women's I and Girls III slalom records in Québec, and was the reigning Québec Champion.

She was days short of writing her final exams that would have seen her graduate from the University of Ottawa, where she had transferred to after a year of studying and skiing inter-collegiately at Arizona State University. She was already well into planning for further studies and water skiing, having been accepted into teacher's college in Sydney, Australia, and where she could continue to train on-water round.

Those who knew Krystal best remember her for the kind of person she was. "I really liked being around Krystal", said National



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