



CHARACTER CORNER



November was a month where our Mountaineers heard powerful stories, met inspiring leaders and rolled up their sleeves to give back. From mental health advocacy to anti-bullying education, leadership development, and hands-on community service, our student-athletes had countless opportunities to grow as teammates, leaders and people.

Mental health advocate [Justin Brien](#) shared his personal journey about mental illness, substance misuse and suicidality with honesty and vulnerability. Speaking to our Grade 9–12 student-athletes, Justin reminded us of the importance of finding our “why,” checking in on each other, and recognizing that strength often begins with asking for help.

Our junior high student-athletes welcomed the [Anti-Bullying Society](#), an organization committed to actively preventing bullying before it has serious long-term effects. The session left our students with a powerful takeaway: kindness is leadership, courage is strength, and every voice can make a difference in creating safer, more inclusive spaces.

Leadership development continued when Rob Kerr met with our U17 Prep and U18 Prep teams to introduce the 10-20-30 Project – a framework built around competing with character, leading with respect, and building stronger teams on and off the ice. Rob also introduced the U17 Prep and U18 Prep teams to a community engagement partnership with [Brown Bagging for Calgary’s Kids](#), encouraging athletes to look beyond performance and consider their impact on the world around them.

That spirit of service was experienced by the U18 Prep program first, who spent an evening volunteering in the Brown Bagging kitchen last week. Together, our Mountaineers supported nearly 2,000 lunches for Calgary students – a likely record-breaking effort for an evening production, according to the BB4CK team. In just two hours, the U18s rolled more than 1,000 energy balls, made over 240 sandwiches, and prepared school snack bins for 20 Calgary schools. The Brown Bagging staff shared that the group was hardworking, adaptable and a joy to host.

From learning, listening and reflecting, to stepping up and serving, November gave our Mountaineers countless reminders of what character looks like in action.



November High Five Award Recognition



Our high-five award recognition has a monthly draw for all students who received a high five in that month. The winner of our November draw is Nash Klimpke!

"Nash has been an exemplary leader off the ice. Examples would be staying back after meals to help clean tables and push in chairs, as well as keeping the bus clean during travel. He goes above and beyond as our captain off ice." – Coach Alec Miller, U15

Congratulations on being our November high-five draw winner, Nash!

Killoran Represents Canada at World Championships

Cearaphena Killoran was one of just two Albertans selected to represent Team Canada at the IDO World Championships for Acro Dance in Milan, Italy in late November. Acro dance blends power tumbling with artistry.

Cearaphena finished the World Championships with an eight place finish in her age group.

At just 16, she's chasing her dream of one day performing acro with Cirque du Soleil – and this was a huge step on that journey. Way to go, Cearaphena!



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Seven and Counting: Post-Secondary Commitments Start Rolling In

We are proud to celebrate seven outstanding student-athletes – five from our Female U18 Prep hockey team and two from our golf program – who have announced their commitments to continue their academic and athletic careers at the post-secondary level. These athletes have been central to our culture, leadership, and competitive success, embodying the Edge 3-sphere model of Academics, Athletics, and Character. We are thrilled to see them take the next step in their journeys as they prepare to compete at the collegiate level next year:

Hockey

- **Samantha Baker – University of Alberta (U SPORTS)**

Across three seasons with Edge, Sam has registered 54 points in 78 CSSHL games and brings a strong two-way presence to the lineup. She also represented Team Alberta at the 2025 National Aboriginal Hockey Championships.

- **Lila Deis – University of Minnesota, Mankato (NCAA Division I)**

A dynamic forward, Lila has recorded 29 points in 45 CSSHL games. She represented Team Alberta at both the 2024 and 2025 U18 Women's National Championships.

- **Alexis Ehrman – St. Cloud State University (NCAA Division I)**

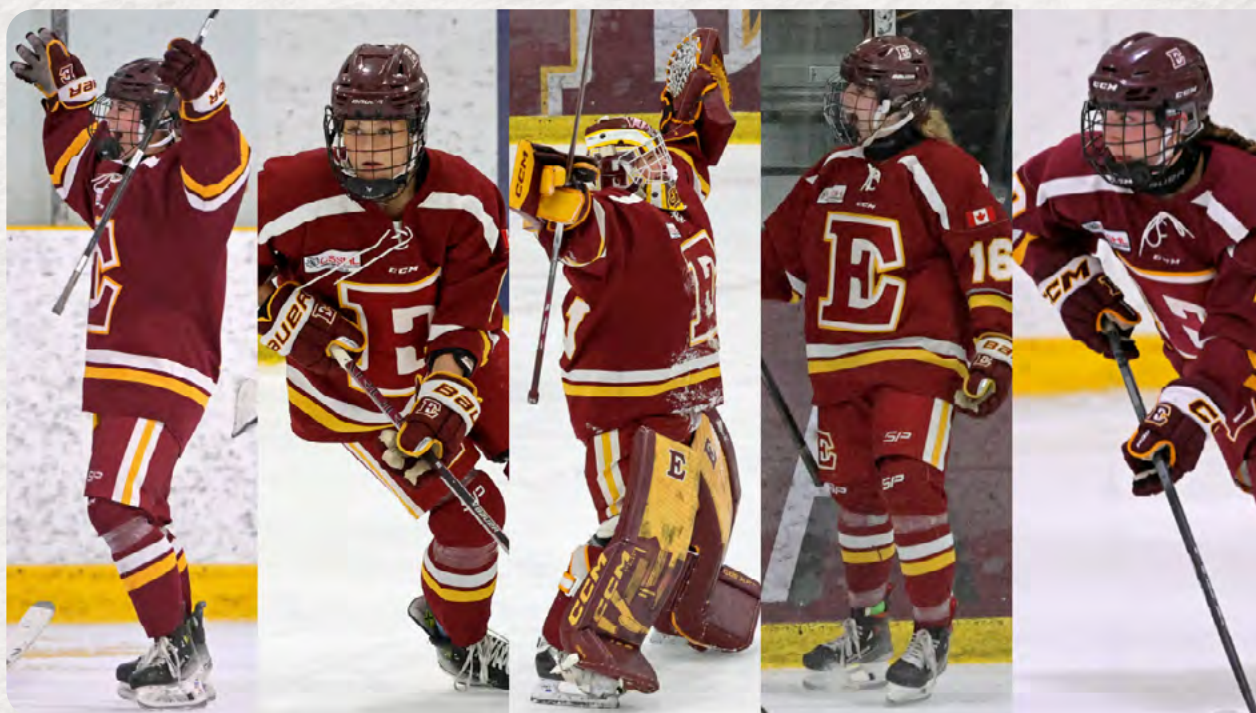
A steady force in net, Alexis has backstopped Edge to a 21-17-2 CSSHL regular season record with a 2.67 GAA and .919 save percentage. A 2024/25 CSSHL Top Goaltender finalist, she also represented Team Alberta at the 2025 U18 Women's National Championship.

- **Avaya McCann – Trinity Western University (U SPORTS)**

A three-year member of the U18 Prep program, Avaya has tallied 38 points in 73 CSSHL games. Known for her versatility and athleticism, she also competes in high-level box lacrosse and has represented Team Alberta.

- **Cassia Severin – University of Alberta (U SPORTS)**

Cassia has been a reliable contributor over her three seasons with the program, collecting 31 points in 58 CSSHL games and consistently anchoring play at both ends of the ice.



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Golf

- **Niya Friesen – Seattle University (NCAA Division I)**

From the moment she arrived – on one of the coldest days of the year when training couldn't even move outdoors – Niya has shown exceptional determination. Her relentless attitude, raw competitive spirit, and commitment to improvement have driven her development and earned her a well-deserved place at the NCAA Division I level. Congratulations to Coach Marc and the Redhawks program on the addition of a talented and motivated golfer who is ready to take on top-tier collegiate competition.

- **Ian Bavis – Calvin University (NCAA Division III)**

Ian joined the program just over a year ago from Dead Man's Flats, arriving with a strong recommendation from affiliated coach Chris Schatzmann – one that proved absolutely true. From day one, Ian embodied the values of our program, demonstrating respect, coachability, work ethic and character. Through perseverance and steady dedication, he has developed into one of the most respected players in our golf academy. Congratulations to Coach Bolt and the Knights on signing a driven and team-first athlete who will make an immediate impact.

Congratulations to the seven of you – we look forward to cheering you all on next year as you continue your careers at the post-secondary level.



Know an Edge alum who might want to attend Homecoming?

Our 2025 Homecoming is happening on Thursday, Dec. 18, and we'd love to welcome all Edge alumni back on campus.

[Click here for full event details.](#)



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Back-to-Back National Titles for Olivia Johnson

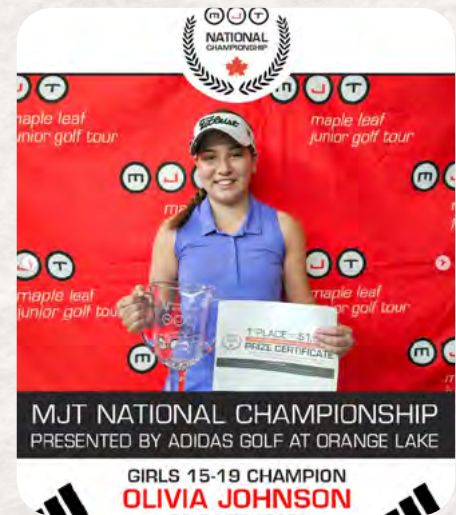
Olivia Johnson has once again proven herself among the nation's best, capturing her second consecutive Maple Leaf Junior Tour (MJT) Girls 15–19 National Championship.

The event brought together 112 of Canada's top young golfers at the 2025 MJT National Championship, held November 7–9 on the Legends Course at Orange Lake Golf Resort in Florida.

Olivia shot rounds of 72, 74, and 72 (218) – including eight birdies – to secure the national title for the second straight year.

Reflecting on her back-to-back victory, she shared, "I think just taking it one shot at a time and staying calm."

Congratulations Olivia on another incredible championship performance!



12 Mountaineers Repeat as Cwench Cup Champions

Edge hockey skill academy students on the 2013 AAA Sauce Hockey Team repeated as Cwench Cup Champions in Delta, BC in dominating fashion – taking the final 5-0 against the Washington Wolverines. Bennett Tice recorded two shutouts in three games played and Kase Lindberg led the tournament in scoring with 12 points (6 G, 6 A) in six games.

Congratulations goes out to:

- Eric Bowhay
- Parker Christianson
- Hudson Cullen
- Dougie Deschamps
- Enzo Fournier
- Eli Horb
- Kase Lindberg
- Levi Pomeroy
- Carter Seabrook
- Eli Shimonov
- Keaton Skinner
- Bennett Tice



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Tristen Nielsen Makes NHL Debut

Tristan Nielsen's hockey journey has been a testament to relentless effort, perseverance and belief in the process.

After logging 267 games in the WHL and 278 in the AHL, where he captured the 2025 Calder Cup with the Abbotsford Canucks, Tristen officially reached the game's highest level – making his NHL debut with the Colorado Avalanche on Nov. 4, 2025 against the Tampa Bay Lightning.

Known for his work ethic and determination both on and off the ice, Tristen has continually earned every opportunity along the way. His journey from the Edge School hockey program to professional hockey is an incredible example for current Mountaineers of what's possible through commitment and resilience.

With his debut, Tristen becomes the 13th Edge School alum to play in an NHL game.

Congratulations, Tristen – we couldn't be prouder.



Five Mountaineers Capture Gold at U17 World Challenge



A huge congratulations to our five U18 Prep Mountaineers from last season for winning gold at the U17 World Challenge! Brock England, Joaquin Gervais, Leif Oaten, Mirco Dufour and Owen Hayden were all on the Team Canada Red roster that came out on top at the conclusion of the tournament.

Across five tournament games, Brock England led all Edge alumni with seven points (2G, 5A), while Mirco Dufour added five points (4G, 1A). Between the pipes, Leif Oaten played in four games, posting a 2.95 GAA and 0.905 SV%, earning recognition as the only goaltender named to the tournament All-Star team.

Incredible performances all around – congratulations to the five of you!



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Budd Makes WHL Debut, Gets the Victory



On Nov. 21, Saskatoon Blades' prospect and former Edge U18 Prep goaltender, Ryley Budd, made his long-awaited Western Hockey League debut, starting in goal against the Swift Current Broncos.

Buddzy made 13 saves on 15 shots to earn a win in his debut.

"It was just such a relief. I didn't even know how much time was left, so I didn't even hear the horn, actually," Budd said in a post-game interview. "I've been watching on TV for the last few years, backed up a lot of games, and to actually be out there and being on there with them, it was really special. This was a pretty great night."

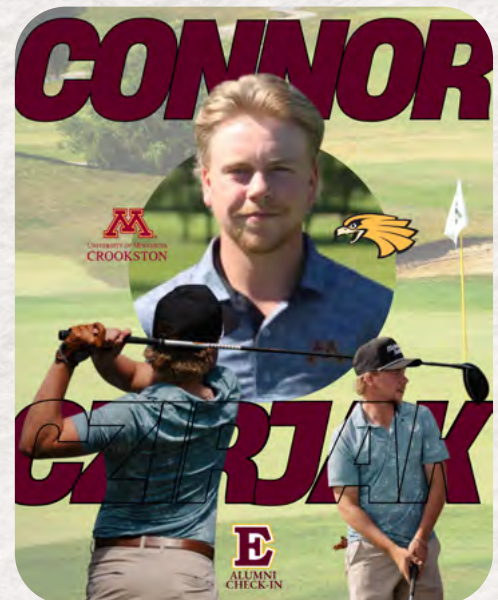
Congratulations, Buddzy!

Rising Mountaineer: Connor Czirjak

Now in his junior season at the University of Minnesota Crookston with the Golden Eagles golf program, Connor Czirjak continues to take his post-Edge game to new heights.

The class of 2023 grad had an incredible start to 25/26 with three top-20 finishes, a top-5 result and two team victories. The University of Minnesota Crookston men's team also ranks second in the NSIC after the fall season.

Proud to see our Mountaineers making waves beyond Edge – keep it up CC.



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Year-End Giving at Edge



Today is Giving Tuesday. This international philanthropic event is the world's largest generosity movement, recognized as the official kick off to the year-end giving season. We hope you will consider Edge School in your holiday giving to benefit our student-athletes.

At Edge School, we often refer to ourselves as a community – a family. We strive to ensure that every student-athlete has an exceptional academic, athletic and character building experience. We know that many of our Mountaineers continue to embody the values that they learn at Edge, and go on to positively impact their communities near and far.



“Edge has such a tight-knit community that makes it feel like more than just a school – it’s truly a family. I appreciated being surrounded by like-minded peers who pushed me to grow, not just as a student or athlete, but as a person. There’s a deep sense of belonging here – I always felt welcomed, included and supported. The teachers go above and beyond; they’re knowledgeable, but also genuinely caring and accommodating. It’s rare to be a part of an environment where everyone is so invested in each other’s success.” Brooklyn Deck – Class of 2025 Grad

Edge relies on the support and generosity of donors and sponsors to fulfill our mission. Government funding and tuition alone do not meet our ongoing needs, especially our capital needs. Throughout the month of December, we are raising funds to support our student-athletes.

Our goal is to raise \$20,000 to purchase much needed equipment for our Edge Youth Sports Therapy Clinic. This new equipment will allow clinic staff to expand their healing efforts, enabling our injured youth to get back to the sport they love.

We are reaching out to you because you are part of our community, and we hope you will help us achieve our goal to benefit our student-athletes. [Donations can be made here](#) – any amount is greatly appreciated and donations of \$20 or more are eligible for a 2025 tax receipt.

You also have the option of donating to one of two other programs. Our Financial Aid program helps student-athletes who would otherwise not be able to attend Edge School. You may also want to support the Edge School Endowment Fund, which will ensure our School’s future with sustainable funding.

Whatever area you choose to support, your gifts help us to provide exceptional learning and training experiences for all Edge student-athletes. Thank you for your incredible support.

We want to wish you and your family a happy holiday season and all the best throughout 2026!



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