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# AXEWOMEN RUGBY

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**ACADIA AXEWOMEN RUGBY**  
**550 Main Street - Acadia University**  
**Wolfville, NS B4P 2R6**  
**Phone: (902) 585-1412 / 585-1204**

#### Quick Facts

Name: Acadia University  
Location: Wolfville, Nova Scotia  
Founded: 1838  
Enrollement: 3400  
Nickname: Axemen / Axewomen  
Colours: Garnet and Blue  
Stadium: Raymond Field  
Capacity: 1200 seated, 2000 standing  
Conference: Atlantic University Sport  
President: Dr. Peter Ricketts  
Chancellor: Bruce Galloway  
Director, Athletics: Brian Finnis

#### Axewomen Rugby Staff

Head Coach: Matt Durant 902-585-1412 (o) / 902-679-9445 (c)  
Assistant Coaches: Gillian Bergsma, Sarah Boudreau, Ashley Brooker, Dave Foley  
Team Manager: Maddie MacKenzie  
Strength & Conditioning Coach: Shawn Preston  
S&C Student Interns: Marya Khpury, Erica Lutz, Nick Pilichos  
Head Athletic Therapist: Curtis Arsenault  
Student Therapy Assistants: Caitlyn Gerry, Lauren Molenhuis

#### Department Office Staff:

Facility / Operations:	Richard Johnson	902-585-1614	
Communications:	Eric Cederberg	902-585-1465	902-698-2090 (c)
Events:	Kim Wallace	902-585-1879	
Development / Sponsorship	Len Hawley	902-585-1044	
Athletic Services:	Krista Robertson	902-585-1552	
Box Office Manager:	Brenda Bigelow	902-585-1628	

#### Contact Information:

Varsity Athletic Office: 902-585-1552  
Box Office: 1-800-542-8425 or 902-542-5500  
Email: [sports@acadiau.ca](mailto:sports@acadiau.ca)  
Website: [www.acadiaathletics.ca](http://www.acadiaathletics.ca)  
Twitter: @AcadiaAthletics @axewomenrugby  
Instagram: @acadiaathletics @axewomenrugby



## 2021 ACADIA AXEWOMEN ROSTER - NUMERICAL

Roster numbers from AUS Championship game

No.	First name	Last name	Pos.	Elig.	Degree	Yr.	Hometown	Prov.	Last team
1	Taryn	McLachlan	Prop	4	BKin	5	Batawa	ON	Rugby Ontario
2	Kaitlyn	Jinda	Hooker	1	BA	2	Campbell River	BC	Comox Valley Rugby Summer Touch League
3	Keisha	Kane	8-man	3	BKin	5	Kings County	NS	Valley Rugby Union - NS
4	Harley	Tucker	Lock	5	BKin	6	Black Diamond	AB	U20 Canada Tri Nations
5	Shea	Hickey	Lock	1	BA	2	Saint John	NB	Saint Johns Trojans Club
6	Sarah	Palfy	Flanker	2	BKin	3	Sexsmith	AB	Sirens, Edmonton Rugby Union
7	Kenzie	Cecchetto	Flanker	3	BKin	4	Newport	NS	Valley Rugby Union - NS
8	Laura	Pfleiderer	Centre	5	IND	6	Williams Lake	BC	Charlottetown Rugby Football Club
9	Katya	Dondi	Scrum-half	3	BBA	4	Caledon	ON	Valley Rugby Union - NS
10	Annie	Kennedy	Flyhalf	5	BEd.	2	Kingston	ON	U20 Team Canada
11	Mychael	Paris	Centre	1	BSc	1	Halifax	NS	
12	Sara	Grant	Centre	1	BSc	1	Melrose	NB	Team NB U18(19) Women's Rugby
13	Emilie	Merilainen	Centre	4	BKin	5	Batawa	ON	Valley Rugby Union - NS
14	Amanda	Jardine	Winger	3	BA	4	Greenwood	NS	RNS Women's Club League (VBRFC)
15	Grace	Pinch	Winger	1	BKin	2	Port Williams	NS	NS Keltics Summer
16	Sophie	Pickard	Prop	3	IND	1	St. John's	NL	Valley Rugby Union - NS
17	Lauren	Deal	Lock	1	BCD	1	Valley	NS	Cobequid Educational Centre Rugby
18	Kylie	Manser	Flyhalf	2	BKin	3	Okotoks	AB	Valley Rugby Union - NS
19	Emilie	Gautreau	Back	3	BKin	4	Dieppe	NB	Moncton Black Tide Rugby
20	Chloe	Buckingham	Flanker	2	BSc	3	Moncton	NB	Acadia Axewomen
21	Caelan	Van Meekeren	Flanker	1	BA	2	Coldbrook	NS	Valley Rugby Union - NS
22	Juliette	Matsukubo	Scrum-half	1	BSc	1	Ottawa	ON	Glebe Collegiate Institute Rugby
23	Shaely	Moodie	Winger	1	BSc	2	Sexsmith	AB	Grande Prairie Sirens Rugby
24	Jillian	Turko	Flanker	1	BCD	1	Smithers	BC	Shawnigan Lake Girls U18 Ice Hockey
25	Emma	Banfield	Lock	1	BSc	2	Oakhill	NS	
	Laurie	Beaupre	Winger	1	BKin	2	Cochrane	AB	Acadia Axewomen
	Allyson	Betyna	Back	1	BSc	1	Dartmouth	NS	United Dartmouth Football Club, U18AA
	Amanda	Boudreau	Back	1	BKin	3	Moncton	NB	Senior women's black tide rugby
	Lucinda	Breau	Scrum-half	1	BA	1	Moncton	NB	U19 Spruce Rugby
	Monique	Coffey	Fullback	5	IND	6	Ethelbert	MB	Valley Rugby Union - NS
	Catherine	Dauphinee	Fullback	1	BA	1	Mount Uniacke	NS	Valley Rugby Union - NS
	Liz	Francis	Prop	1	BA	1	Trenton	NS	NS Keltics
	Madison	Higgins	Prop	1	BKin	2	Sackville	NB	Moncton Black Tide Rugby
	Kaitlyn	Landry	Hooker	1	BKin	1	Riverview	NB	Moncton Black Tide Rugby
	Isabelle	Oestreich	Flanker	1	BA	2	Whitehorse	YT	Shawnigan Lake school Rugby
	Monica	Oliver	Lock	1	BKin	1	Dartmouth	NS	Rugby NS U19 Womens
	Ebehiremen	Otoikhine	Prop	1	BKin	2	Calgary	AB	Calgary Rams Rugby Club
	Morgan	Rogers	Lock	2	BKin	4	Chester	NS	University of Ottawa Gee Gees, RSEQ



## 2021 ACADIA AXEWOMEN ROSTER - ALPHABETICAL

Roster numbers from AUS Championship game

No.	First name	Last name	Pos.	Elig.	Degree	Yr.	Hometown	Prov.	Last team
25	Emma	Banfield	Lock	1	BSc	2	Oakhill	NS	
	Laurie	Beaupre	Winger	1	BKin	2	Cochrane	AB	Acadia Axewomen
	Allyson	Betyna	Back	1	BSc	1	Dartmouth	NS	United Dartmouth Football Club, U18AA
	Amanda	Boudreau	Back	1	BKin	3	Moncton	NB	Senior women's black tide rugby
	Lucinda	Breau	Scrum-half	1	BA	1	Moncton	NB	U19 Spruce Rugby
20	Chloe	Buckingham	Flanker	2	BSc	3	Moncton	NB	Acadia Axewomen
7	Kenzie	Cecchetto	Flanker	3	BKin	4	Newport	NS	Valley Rugby Union - NS
	Monique	Coffey	Fullback	5	IND	6	Ethelbert	MB	Valley Rugby Union - NS
	Catherine	Dauphinee	Fullback	1	BA	1	Mount Uniacke	NS	Valley Rugby Union - NS
17	Lauren	Deal	Lock	1	BCD	1	Valley	NS	Cobequid Educational Centre Rugby
9	Katya	Dondi	Scrum-half	3	BBA	4	Caledon	ON	Valley Rugby Union - NS
	Liz	Francis	Prop	1	BA	1	Trenton	NS	NS Keltics
19	Emilie	Gautreau	Back	3	BKin	4	Dieppe	NB	Moncton Black Tide Rugby
12	Sara	Grant	Centre	1	BSc	1	Melrose	NB	Team NB U18(19) Women's Rugby
5	Shea	Hickey	Lock	1	BA	2	Saint John	NB	Saint Johns Trojans Club
	Madison	Higgins	Prop	1	BKin	2	Sackville	NB	Moncton Black Tide Rugby
14	Amanda	Jardine	Winger	3	BA	4	Greenwood	NS	RNS Women's Club League (VBRFC)
2	Kaitlyn	Jinda	Hooker	1	BA	2	Campbell River	BC	Comox Valley Rugby Summer Touch League
3	Keisha	Kane	8-man	3	BKin	5	Kings County	NS	Valley Rugby Union - NS
10	Annie	Kennedy	Flyhalf	5	BEEd.	2	Kingston	ON	U20 Team Canada
	Kaitlyn	Landry	Hooker	1	BKin	1	Riverview	NB	Moncton Black Tide Rugby
18	Kylie	Manser	Flyhalf	2	BKin	3	Okotoks	AB	Valley Rugby Union - NS
22	Juliette	Matsukubo	Scrum-half	1	BSc	1	Ottawa	ON	Glebe Collegiate Institute Rugby
1	Taryn	McLachlan	Prop	4	BKin	5	Batawa	ON	Rugby Ontario
13	Emilie	Merilainen	Centre	4	BKin	5	Batawa	ON	Valley Rugby Union - NS
23	Shaely	Moodie	Winger	1	BSc	2	Sexsmith	AB	Grande Prairie Sirens Rugby
	Isabelle	Oestreich	Flanker	1	BA	2	Whitehorse	YT	Shawnigan Lake school Rugby
	Monica	Oliver	Lock	1	BKin	1	Dartmouth	NS	Rugby NS U19 Womens
	Ebehiremen	Otoikhine	Prop	1	BKin	2	Calgary	AB	Calgary Rams Rugby Club
6	Sarah	Palfy	Flanker	2	BKin	3	Sexsmith	AB	Sirens, Edmonton Rugby Union
11	Mychael	Paris	Centre	1	BSc	1	Halifax	NS	
8	Laura	Pfleiderer	Centre	5	IND	6	Williams Lake	BC	Charlottetown Rugby Football Club
16	Sophie	Pickard	Prop	3	IND	1	St. John's	NL	Valley Rugby Union - NS
15	Grace	Pinch	Winger	1	BKin	2	Port Williams	NS	NS Keltics Summer
	Morgan	Rogers	Lock	2	BKin	4	Chester	NS	University of Ottawa Gee Gees, RSEQ
4	Harley	Tucker	Lock	5	BKin	6	Black Diamond	AB	U20 Canada Tri Nations
24	Jillian	Turko	Flanker	1	BCD	1	Smithers	BC	Shawnigan Lake Girls U18 Ice Hockey
21	Caelan	Van Meekeren	Flanker	1	BA	2	Coldbrook	NS	Valley Rugby Union - NS



# 2021 SEASON RECAP



## 2021 SEASON IN REVIEW:

With “unfinished business” for many of the graduating seniors from the 2020 COVID season where no AUS Championship or games were played, a handful of veterans returned for what would be the first season in recent history that the Axewomen posted an undefeated season.

Opening the season with convincing wins against Saint Mary’s and UPEI at home, the Axewomen traveled to Antigonish, N.S. on September 25th against the perennial champion StFX X-Women.

In a stunning 38-31 win over the X-Women, Acadia was on their way to a season that would live in the hall of fame. Road trips to Saint Mary’s and UPEI would follow with, again, convincing wins.

The final game would be a rematch between rival StFX and Acadia, only this time at home on Raymond Field.

Another back-and-forth affair, the Axewomen would prevail with a 39-26 win and the right to host the AUS Championship game against the winner of StFX and UPEI. The win ended a faultless record of 6-0 and a sweep against the ever-strong X-Women.

At season’s end, Emilie Merilainen posted a conference-leading 11 tries, while freshman Sara Grant completed 14 conversions – second to StFX’s Danielle Franada.

For the 11th season in a row, the Axewomen and X-Women would battle for the boasting rights of AUS Champions.

In a game that was marred with torrential rain and wind, the X-Women pushed out to a 28-7 halftime lead, but Acadia fought back with the wind at their back to a 28-24 deficit by the 55th minute of the game. StFX would carry the day as AUS Champions.

First-year centre Sara Grant was named the AUS Rookie of the Year, while head coach Matt Durant won the AUS Coach of the Year for the third time in 11 seasons.

Acadia was honoured with five AUS all-stars including seniors Taryn McLachlan, Emilie Merilainen, and Laura Pfeiderer along with Shea Hickey and Grace Pinch.

Playoff Finish:	AUS Championship / Finalist
Regular season record:	6-0
Last U SPORTS Championship:	NA
Total U SPORTS Championships:	NA
Last Appearance:	2019 – Ottawa, ON
Last Appearance record:	1-2
Team offence average/game:	45.5 points per game
Team defense average/game:	15.0 points per game
Points Leaders (Top 3):	Emilie Merilainen 11 tries (55 pts.), Sara Gran 14 conversions (28 pts.), Laura Pfeiderer 4 tries, 4 conversions (28 pts.)
Tries Leader (Top 3):	Emilie Merilainen 11, Grace Pinch 5, Laura Pfeiderer, Mychael Paris, Taryn McLachlan 4
Conversions Leader:	Sara Grant 14

# ACADIA AXEWOMEN (AUS finalists)

Head Coach:	Matthew Durant (tenth season)
Head Coach Regular Season Career Record:	51-21
Head Coach Post Season Career Record (AUS)	11-10
Head Coach Post Season Career Record (U SPORTS)	1-13
2019 Regular season record:	6-0
2019 Regular season standing:	1st AUS
2019 Playoff record:	0-1
Playoff finish:	AUS Finalist
Top 10 final ranking (Nov. 2):	7th
Top 10 best ranking:	No. 3 (Week 2 & 5)
Top 10 number of weeks ranked (8 polls):	8
Conference award winners:	Matthew Durant - Coach of the Year Sara Grant - Rookie of the Year
Conference all-stars:	Taryn McLachlan, Laura Pfeiderer, Grace Pinch, Shea Hickey, Emilie Merilainen
U SPORTS championship appearances (including 2021):	8
U SPORTS championship all-time record:	1-13
U SPORTS championship best result:	6th Place (2021)
U SPORTS championship last appearance:	2019
U SPORTS championship sequence:	Sixth consecutive appearance

## Most Recent All-Canadians (2019)

Emilie Merilainen – 1st Team all-Canadian  
Taryn McLachlan – 2nd Team all-Canadian  
Shea Hickey – 2nd Team all-Canadian  
Laura Pfeiderer – 2nd Team all-Canadian



2021 senior Axewomen



### 2021 AUS Final Standings

	GP	W	L	T	F	A	PTS
xy-Acadia	6	6	0	0	273	96	12
*x-StFX	6	3	3	0	265	144	6
x-UPEI	6	3	3	0	169	130	6
Saint Mary's	6	0	6	0	37	374	0

SEPTEMBER	Away		Home	
Sat. September 11	Saint Mary's	10	Acadia	82
Sat. September 18	UPEI	5	Acadia	22
Sat. September 25	Acadia	38	StFX	31
OCTOBER				
Sun. October 3	Acadia	65	Saint Mary's	10
Sat. October 9	Acadia	27	UPEI	14
Fri. October 15	StFX	26	Acadia	39
Championship Game				
Sun. October 31	StFX	42	Acadia	24



Sara Grant - AUS Rookie of the Year





## 2021 AUS Individual Scoring

Player	School	GP	Trys	Conv.	PG	DG	Pts
Danielle Franada	StFX	6	4	28	0	0	76
Emilie Merilainen	Acadia	6	11	0	0	0	55
Hannah Ellis	StFX	6	8	0	0	0	40
Mia Fradsham	UPEI	6	2	11	2	0	38
Sarah Hoerig	StFX	6	6	0	0	0	30
Sara Grant	Acadia	6	0	14	0	0	28
Laura Pfeleiderer	Acadia	5	4	4	0	0	28
Grace Pinch	Acadia	6	5	0	0	0	25
Kendal Brooks	UPEI	6	4	1	0	0	22
Mychael Paris	Acadia	6	4	0	0	0	20
Taryn McLachlan	Acadia	5	4	0	0	0	20
Maddie Harroun	StFX	5	4	0	0	0	20
Madison MacInnis	StFX	6	3	0	0	0	15
Claudia Fulton	StFX	5	3	0	0	0	15
Brinten Comeau	UPEI	6	3	0	0	0	15
MacKenzie Hale	UPEI	6	3	0	0	0	15
Annika Wadlegger	UPEI	5	3	0	0	0	15
Maddy Ross	StFX	6	2	2	0	0	14
Elish Redshaw	Saint Mary's	6	2	1	0	0	12
Juliette Matsukubo	Acadia	6	2	0	0	0	10
Katya Dondi	Acadia	6	2	0	0	0	10
Kenzie Cecchetto	Acadia	6	2	0	0	0	10
Sophie Pickard	Acadia	6	2	0	0	0	10
Keisha Kane	Acadia	5	2	0	0	0	10
Monique Coffey	Acadia	3	2	0	0	0	10
Annie McMullon	StFX	6	2	0	0	0	10
Katherine Culligan	StFX	6	2	0	0	0	10
Kathleen Dolan	StFX	2	2	0	0	0	10
Sophie Carragher	UPEI	6	2	0	0	0	10
Tessa Hood	UPEI	6	2	0	0	0	10
Chloe Buckingham	Acadia	6	1	0	0	0	5
Kaitlyn Jinda	Acadia	6	1	0	0	0	5
Amanda Jardine	Acadia	5	1	0	0	0	5
Kylie Manser	Acadia	5	1	0	0	0	5
Liz Francis	Acadia	5	1	0	0	0	5
Ebe Otoikhine	Acadia	4	1	0	0	0	5
Shaely Moodie	Acadia	3	1	0	0	0	5
Katherine Fairbrother	Saint Mary's	6	1	0	0	0	5
Queenel Lumbamba	Saint Mary's	6	1	0	0	0	5
Brianna Clowater	Saint Mary's	5	1	0	0	0	5
Brianna Willis	Saint Mary's	5	1	0	0	0	5



## 2021 Acadia Individual Scoring

Player	School	GP	Trys	Conv.	PG	DG	Pts
Emilie Merilainen	Acadia	6	11	0	0	0	55
Sara Grant	Acadia	6	0	14	0	0	28
Laura Pfeleiderer	Acadia	5	4	4	0	0	28
Grace Pinch	Acadia	6	5	0	0	0	25
Mychael Paris	Acadia	6	4	0	0	0	20
Taryn McLachlan	Acadia	5	4	0	0	0	20
Juliette Matsukubo	Acadia	6	2	0	0	0	10
Katya Dondi	Acadia	6	2	0	0	0	10
Kenzie Cecchetto	Acadia	6	2	0	0	0	10
Sophie Pickard	Acadia	6	2	0	0	0	10
Keisha Kane	Acadia	5	2	0	0	0	10
Monique Coffey	Acadia	3	2	0	0	0	10
Chloe Buckingham	Acadia	6	1	0	0	0	5
Kaitlyn Jinda	Acadia	6	1	0	0	0	5
Amanda Jardine	Acadia	5	1	0	0	0	5
Kylie Manser	Acadia	5	1	0	0	0	5
Liz Francis	Acadia	5	1	0	0	0	5
Ebe Otoikhine	Acadia	4	1	0	0	0	5
Shaely Moodie	Acadia	3	1	0	0	0	5
Annie Kennedy	Acadia	5	0	1	0	0	2
Haley MacMillan	Acadia	4	0	1	0	0	2



Matthew Durant  
AUS Coach of the Year



## 2021 Coaching Staff:



*Matthew Durant*

Matthew Durant, who is currently an Associate Professor in the School of Nutrition and Dietetics at Acadia University, has an extensive background in Rugby as a player and administrator along with coaching duties.

For the first time in Acadia rugby recent history, the Axewomen were undefeated this season with a 6-0 record. Matt was named the AUS Coach of the Year in 2021 - the third time in his twelve years as head coach of the Axewomen.

Durant's Axewomen finished the 2017 and 2018 AUS regular season with 4-2 records and were AUS finalists. The Axewomen have attended the U SPORTS championship for five consecutive seasons beginning in 2015 and have attended six since 2012. In 2018, the Axewomen were the host of the U SPORTS championship for the first time in team history.

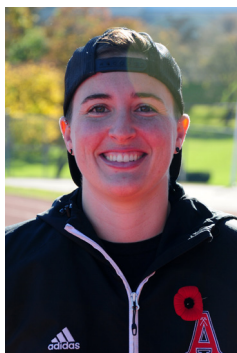
In 2015, Durant led the Axewomen to their first AUS title after knocking off the 17-year reigning champion StFX in Antigonish in a convincing 34-17 win for Acadia's first women's rugby AUS championship.

Matt, who is in his twelfth season as head coach of the Axewomen, was named the 2010 and 2013 AUS Coach of the Year and was also honoured as the 2013 National CIS Coach of the Year after guiding his Axewomen to a first-place finish in the AUS standings, ahead of the StFX X-Women who have won the title 16 consecutive seasons at the time. The Axewomen finished the 2013 season with a 7-1 record and lost an overtime championship game to StFX.

Matt was the AUS coach of the year in his first season at the helm, and over his twelve years as head coach, Matt has posted a 46-18 regular season record and a 10-9 post season record, paying visits to the AUS finals in all his eleven seasons.

Administratively, Matt Durant was the President of the Valley Bulldogs RFC for seven years prior to his appointment as President of Rugby Nova Scotia in 2007.

## 2019 Assistant Coaches and Staff:



*Maddie MacKenzie  
Manager*



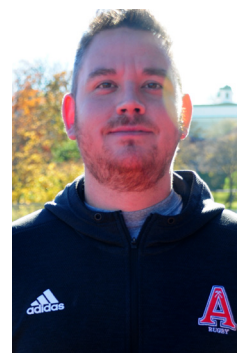
*Gillian Bergsma  
Assistant Coach*



*Sarah Boudreau  
Assistant Coach*



*Ashley Brooker  
Assistant Coach*



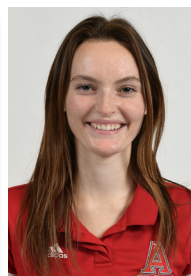
*Dave Foley  
Assistant Coach*



*Curtis Arsenaault  
Head Therapist*



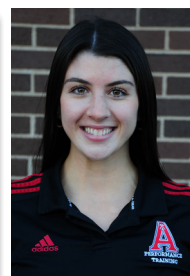
*Caitlyn Gerry  
Student Assistant*



*Lauren Molenhuise  
Student Assistant*



*Shawn Preston  
Performance  
Manager*



*Marya Khoury  
S&C Student*



*Erica Lutz  
S&C Student*



*Nick Pilichos  
S&C Student*

## 2021 - Five Key Players



**Name:** Taryn McLachlan  
**Position:** Prop  
**Program:** Bachelor of Kinesiology  
**Hometown:** Batawa, ON  
**Year of Eligibility:** Fourth  
**Accolades:** 2021 AUS All-Star, 2021 2nd Team all-Canadian

**Coach's Comments:**

*"An incredibly fast and dynamic front row player. Taryn is a strong ball carrier and finds work at the breakdown."*

**Name:** Keisha Kane  
**Position:** 8th Man  
**Program:** Bachelor of Kinesiology  
**Hometown:** Kings County, NS  
**Year of Eligibility:** 3

**Coach's Comments:**

*"Keisha is a very athletic forward. She's a strong North/South runner and is a leader with our forwards."*



**Name:** Emilie Merilainen  
**Position:** Centre  
**Program:** Bachelor of Kinesiology  
**Hometown:** Batawa, ON  
**Year of Eligibility:** Fourth  
**Accolades:** 2019 AUS All-Star, 2021 AUS All-Star, 1st Team all-Canadian

**Coach's Comments:**

*"Emilie is an explosive offensive player on attack. She needs only a small gap to break the line and can finish from anywhere on the field. A strong defender and an experienced leader who sees the field well."*

## 2021 - Five Key Players



**Name:** Laura Pfeleiderer  
**Position:** Flanker  
**Program;** Bachelor of Kinesiology  
**Hometown:** Williams Lake, BC  
**Year of Eligibility:** Fifth  
**Accolades:** 2018 AUS MVP, 2019 AUS All-Star, 2019 all-Canadian, 2021 AUS All-Star, 2021 all-Canadian

**Coach's Comments:**

*"She incredible at the breakdown, both securing our ball as well as poaching opposition ball. She is a force in the ruck. She is an insanely intense and physical presence on the pitch at flanker. She has the skills and athleticism to play in both the forwards and the backs and she leads by example every minute she's on the pitch."*

**Name:** Annie Kennedy  
**Position:** Flyhalf  
**Program:** Bachelor of Education  
**Hometown:** Batawa, ON  
**Year of Eligibility:** Fifth  
**Accolades:** 2016 All-Star  
*Played for the U20 Canada team that played in th Tri-Nations Cup in 2018 August*

**Coach's Comments:**

*"Annie is a remarkably creative fly-half who has a knack for making those she plays with better. She sees the field well and plays with an unequalled level of heart."*



First Home Game in the COVID-19 era.  
(l to r) Robert Summerby-Murray, Elish Redshaw, Annie Kennedy and Dr. Peter Ricketts



**Emma Banfield**



**Laurie Beaupre**



**Amanda Boudreau**



**Lucinda Breau**



**Chloe Buckingham**



**Kenzie Cecchetto**



**Monique Coffey**



**Catherine Dauphinee**



**Lauren Deal**



**Katya Dondi**



**Liz Francis**



**Emilie Gautreau**



**Sara Grant**



**Shea Hickey**



**Madison Higgins**



**Amanda Jardine**



**Kaitlyn Jinda**



**Keisha Kane**



**Annie Kennedy**



**Kaitlyn Landry**



**Kylie Manser**



**Juliette Matsukubo**



**Taryn McLachlan**



**Emilie Merilainen**



**Shaely Moodie**



**Isabelle Oestreich**



**Monica Oliver**



**Ebehireme Otokhine**



**Sarah Palfy**



**Mychael Paris**



**Laura Pfeiderer**



**Sophie Pickard**



Grace Pinch



Morgan Rogers



Harley Tucker



Jillian Turko



## AUS Major Awards and All-Stars

MOST VALUABLE PLAYER: Danielle Franada, StFX

ROOKIE OF THE YEAR: Sara Grant, Acadia Axewomen

COACH OF THE YEAR: Matthew Durant, Acadia

STUDENT-ATHLETE COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD: Nicole Davies, UPEI

**Front row/Prop: Taryn McLachlan, Acadia (4th year—Batavia, ON)**

Front row/Prop: Emily Duffy, UPEI (2nd year— Saint John, N.B.)

Front row/Hooker: Claudia Fulton, StFX (4th year—Aylesford, N.S.)

Second row/Lock: Queenel Lubamba, Saint Mary's (3rd year—Edmonton, AB)

**Second row/Lock: Shea Hickey, Acadia (1st year— Saint John, N.B.)**

Back row/Flanker: Brinten Comeau, UPEI (3rd year—Halifax, N.S.)

**Back row/Flanker: Laura Pfeiderer, Acadia (5th year—William's Lake, BC)**

Back row/#8: Julia Freeburn, UPEI (2nd year, Lake Verde, P.E.I.)

Scrum Half: Madison Ross, StFX (2nd year—Coldbrook, N.S.)

Fly Half/Stand Off: Hannah Ellis, StFX (4th year— Halifax, N.S.)

**Center: Emilie Merilainen, Acadia (4th year – Batavia, Ont.)**

Center: Sarah Hoerig, StFX (4th year – Whitby, Ont.)

**Winger: Grace Pinch, Acadia (1st year— Port Williams, N.S.)**

Winger: Elish Redshaw, Saint Mary's (4th year, Sydney River, N.S.)

Fullback: Danielle Franada, StFX (4th year, Grand Prairie, AB)



Caelan Van Meekeren



## 2021 AUS women's rugby major award winners

(HALIFAX, N.S.) Atlantic University Sport is pleased to announce the 2021 women's rugby major award winners and all-stars as selected by the conference's four head coaches following the regular season.

Fourth-year StFX fullback Danielle Franada has been named the Atlantic University Sport most valuable player while Acadia centre Sara Grant has been named the AUS rookie of the year.

This year's recipient of the AUS student-athlete community service award is fourth-year UPEI Panther, Nicole Davies of Stratford, P.E.I.

And in his 12th season at the helm of the Acadia rugby program, coach Matthew Durant has been named the AUS coach of the year for the third time in his career after leading his Axewomen to a 6-0 season.

### **MOST VALUABLE PLAYER**

Atlantic University Sport women's rugby's most valuable player for 2021 is Danielle Franada, of the AUS No. 2 and U SPORTS No. 6-ranked StFX X-Women. In addition to being named AUS MVP, Franada was also named to the AUS all-star team today.

A fourth-year business student from Grand Prairie, Alberta., Franada played in all six regular-season games for the X-Women, who finished in second place with a 3-3 record. In her one post-season game, she helped lead StFX to a 35-15 semifinal victory over UPEI's Panthers, contributing a 40-yard try and five conversions in the win.

During the regular season, Franada scored four tries and booted 28 conversions for 76 points, bumping her into fourth-place in the AUS record book for most career points scored with 273. With 28 conversions in the 2021 season, and 104 throughout her career, she is also tied for the most career conversions in AUS history.

As the AUS MVP, she becomes this year's Atlantic conference nominee for the U SPORTS most valuable player award. Former StFX X-Women standout Ghislaine Landry is the only AUS student-athlete to have won the national award, earning the accolade in both 2007 and 2008.

### **ROOKIE OF THE YEAR**

Sara Grant from the Acadia Axewomen has been named the 2021 Atlantic University Sport women's rugby rookie of the year. This marks the fifth time an Acadia player has been named AUS Rookie of the Year.

A first-year Bachelor of Science student from Melrose, New Brunswick, Grant played in all six regular-season games for the Axewomen this season. With 14 conversions and 28 points to her name in her debut season, she made an immediate impact for Acadia, closing regular-season play tied for sixth in the AUS for points scored in 2021.

Acadia finished the regular season with a 39-26 win over the StFX X-Women and after adding two conversions to that Axewomen effort, Grant was awarded Subway Player of the Game

With her AUS rookie of the year win, Grant becomes the Atlantic conference nominee for the U SPORTS rookie of the year award. The most recent AUS player to earn the national honour was StFX's Ghislaine Landry who took home the award in 2006 before being named U SPORTS MVP in 2007 and 2008.

### **COACH OF THE YEAR**

For the third time in his 12-year career as head coach of the Acadia Axewomen rugby program, Matthew Durant has been chosen by his peers as the Atlantic University Sport women's rugby coach of the year.

Durant previously won the award in 2010—his first season with the Axewomen—and again in 2013. He was also named CIS (now U SPORTS) coach of the year in 2013 after leading his Axewomen to a first-place regular-season finish in the AUS over the then 15-time champion X-Women. In 2015, Durant led the Axewomen to their first AUS title, ending a 17-year winning streak for StFX.

This year, Durant led the U SPORTS No. 3-ranked Acadia Axewomen to a perfect 6-0 season, finishing first place in the AUS for the first time since 2013. The undefeated Axewomen allowed the fewest points against in six regular-season games this year with 96.

Durant's career record now stands at 50-20 in AUS regular season play. He has guided the Axewomen to five U SPORTS championship appearances since 2012, four consecutively since 2015. Acadia was host to the national championship in 2018 for the first time in team history.

With this nod, Acadia's Durant now becomes the Atlantic conference nominee for U SPORTS Coach of the Year. He is also the most recent AUS coach to win the national award.

### **STUDENT-ATHLETE COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD**

The 2021 student-athlete community service award recipient is Nicole Davies of the UPEI Panthers.

A fourth-year player and Bachelor of Education student from Stratford, PEI, Davies —a Panthers co-captain—is lauded as a hardworking leader both on and off-campus. As a student, Davies has been named a U SPORTS Academic All-Canadian for three consecutive seasons. She's also been named to UPEI's Dean's List from 2017 through 2020.

Off-campus, Davies is a dedicated coach, lending her expertise as both an athlete and educator to various programs in Charlottetown. For five years, she's coached youth basketball, working with athletes from ages 4 to 17 at the community, school and provincial levels. During this time, Davies has helped lead the Charlottetown Rural High School AAA women's team to four provincial championships. This year, she also coached with the Charlottetown Rural AAA women's rugby team.

Davies is the fourth player from the Panthers to be honoured with this award since its inception in 2009. Most recently, UPEI's Sidney Corrigan earned the honour in 2017. She now becomes the Atlantic conference nominee for the national award.



### Most Valuable Player

Year	Player	Year	Player
2000	Deanna Bennett, StFX	2009	Ghislaine Landry, StFX
2001	Shannon Atkins-Gillis, UPEI*	2010	Tyson Beukeboom, StFX
	Brenley Bennett, Mt. Allison*	2011	Tyson Beukeboom, StFX
2002	Danielle Goulet, StFX	2012	Tyson Beukeboom, StFX
2003	Genevieve Gay, Saint Mary's	2013	Emilie Chiasson, Acadia
2004	Andrea Burk, Acadia	2014	Emma Taylor, StFX
2005	Andrea Burk, Acadia	2015	Joanna Alphonso, StFX
2006	Ghislaine Landry, StFX	2016	Joanna Alphonso, StFX
2007	Ghislaine Landry, StFX	2017	Joanna Alphonso, StFX
2008	Chislaine Landry, StFX	2018	Laura Pfeiderer, Acadia
*co-winners		2019	Monique Coffey, Acadia
		2021	Danielle Franada, StFX

### Rookie of the Year

Year	Player	Year	Player
2000	Jody Powell, StFX	2010	Magali Harvey, StFX
2001	Vanessa Pike, Saint Mary's	2011	Deidre Rees, Acadia
2002	Jill Payne, StFX	2012	Maddie MacKenzie, Acadia
2003	Ashley Ward, StFX	2013	Laura Klingenberg, Acadia
2004	Ashley MacDonald, UPEI	2014	Joanna Alphonso, StFX
2005	Laura Foreman, StFX	2015	Anneke Dykerman, UPEI
2006	Ghislaine Landry, StFX	2016	Julie Naugler, Saint Mary's
2007	Amanda Bedard, StFX	2017	Danielle Franada, StFX
2008	Lisa Gauthier, StFX	2018	Brinten Comeau, UPEI
2009	Amanda Thornborough, StFX	2019	Sarah Palfy, Acadia
		2021	Sara Grant, Acadia

### Coach of the Year

Year	Coach	Year	Coach
2000	Dale MacLeod, UPEI	2010	Matthew Durant, Acadia
2001	Mike Cavanagh, StFX	2011	Mike Cavanagh, StFX
2002	Mike Cavanagh, StFX	2012	Mike Cavanagh, StFX
2003	Mike Cavanagh, StFX	2013	Matthew Durant, Acadia
2004	Dale MacLeod, UPEI	2014	Mike Cavanagh, StFX
2005	Dale MacLeod, UPEI	2015	Mike Cavanagh, StFX
2006	Dale MacLeod, UPEI	2016	John LaBoyne, UPEI
2007	Mike Cavanagh, StFX	2017	Mike Cavanagh, StFX
2008	Mike Cavanagh, StFX	2018	Mike Cavanagh, StFX
2009	Dawn MacDonald, Saint Mary's	2019	Mike Cavanagh, StFX
		2021	Matthew Durant, Acadia

### Student-Athlete Community Service Award

Year	Player	Year	Player
2009	Elizabeth Mooney, Saint Mary's	2015	Lauren Chamberlain, UPEI
2010	Jamee George, StFX	2015	Kelsey Brumm, Acadia
2011	Jessica Frenette, Saint Mary's	2016	Sidney Corrigan, UPEI
2012	Hannah Davies, St. Thomas	2017	Tomi McCarthy, Acadia
2013	Vanessa Duffley, StFX	2018	Maggie MacPhee, Saint Mary's
2014	Shanda Mosher-Gallant, UPEI	2019	Nicole Davies, UPEI

## U SPORTS Top Ten

	Wk 1	Wk 2	Wk3	Wk4	WK5	WK6	WK7
1	LVL	LVL	LVL	LVL	LVL	LVL	UBC
2	OTT	QNS	QNS	QNS	QNS	QNS	QNS
3	QNS	ACA	OTT	OTT	ACA	UBC	LVL
4	ACA	UBC	ACA	ACA	OTT	ACA	STFX
5	UBC	OTT	UBC	UBC	UBC	OTT	OTT
6	STFX	GUE	GUE	STFX	VIC	STFX	GUE
7	GUE	CON	STFX	VIC	GUE	GUE	ACA
8	LETH	CAL	VIC	GUE	STFX	VIC	VIC
9	CON	StFX	LETH	LETH	MCM	MCM	CAL
10	MCM	VIC	CON	MCC	UPEI	CAL	MCM



Axewomen Andrea Burke (left), Harley Tucker (middle) & Janna Slevinski - Two-time All-Canadians

### Past Acadia Players named as All-Canadians

2019	Monique Coffey Laura Pfeleiderer
2018	Gillian Bergsma Laura Pfeleiderer Sarah Boudreau Alysha Corrigan
2017	Harley Tucker Danielle Wisen Lauren Melanson
2016	Annie Kennedy Harley Tucker
2015	Veronique Russell Maddie MacKenze
2014	Janna Slevinski
2013	Fly - Emilie Chiasson Back - Janna Slevinsk
2011	Lock - Allison Jordan
2005	Andrea Burke
2004	Andrea Burke
2000	Annie Barber
1998	Jane Mitchell, Acadia



**2012 AUS Women's Rugby Standings**

	GP	W	L	T	F	A	PTS
StFX	8	8	0	0	657	3	16
Acadia	8	5	3	0	282	203	10
Saint Mary's	8	4	4	0	149	282	8
UPEI	8	3	5	0	123	290	6
St. Thomas	8	0	8	0	46	479	0

**2013 AUS Women's Rugby Standings**

	GP	W	L	T	F	A	PTS
Acadia	8	7	1	0	581	47	14
StFX	8	7	1	0	616	61	14
Saint Mary's	8	4	4	0	222	377	8
UPEI	8	2	6	0	129	465	4
St. Thomas	8	0	8	0	37	635	0

**2014 AUS Women's Rugby Standings**

	GP	W	L	T	F	A	PTS
StFX	6	6	0	0	404	34	12
Acadia	6	4	2	0	331	115	8
UPEI	6	2	4	0	124	259	4
Saint Mary's	6	0	6	0	44	495	0

**2015 AUS Women's Rugby Standings**

	GP	W	L	T	F	A	PTS
StFX	6	5	1	0	297	52	10
Acadia	6	5	1	0	326	80	10
UPEI	6	2	4	0	106	204	4
Saint Mary's	6	0	6	0	29	422	0

**2016 AUS Women's Rugby Standings**

	GP	W	L	T	F	A	PTS
StFX	6	6	0	0	371	41	12
Acadia	6	4	2	0	258	94	8
UPEI	6	2	4	0	164	173	4
Saint Mary's	6	0	6	0	12	497	0

**2017 AUS Women's Rugby Standings**

	GP	W	L	T	F	A	PTS
x-StFX	6	6	0	0	485	33	12
x-Acadia	6	4	2	0	304	140	8
x-UPEI	6	2	4	0	120	324	4
Saint Mary's	6	0	6	0	47	459	0

**AUS Final Standings - 2018**

	GP	W	L	T	F	A	PTS
StFX	6	6	0	0	372	59	12
Acadia	6	4	2	0	353	99	8
UPEI	6	2	4	0	121	351	4
Saint Mary's	6	0	6	0	55	392	0

**2019 AUS Final Standings**

	GP	W	L	T	F	A	PTS
StFX	6	6	0	0	363	43	12
Acadia	6	4	2	0	266	129	8
UPEI	6	2	4	0	150	238	4
Saint Mary's	6	0	6	0	36	405	0

**Andrea Burk**  
**Athlete - Rugby**  
**Inducted into the Acadia Sports Hall of Fame in 2021**

Initially recruited for the Acadia women's soccer team from North Vancouver, B.C., Andrea Burk arrived on campus in 2000 and played three seasons of soccer before following her passion and making the jump to rugby. This jump would prove successful as Burk quickly became a perennial AUS rugby all-star.

Growing up, Burk considered herself as a "jock" who was involved in various sports, but she excelled at soccer and rugby. Soccer became her primary, mainstream sport and she was selected for the National team development pool in her late teens. But rugby was always a passion and she excelled in both sports in the provincial system.

After three years of soccer at Acadia, she decided to dedicate more time to rugby. While playing soccer, she was also involved with the Axewomen rugby club during the winter sessions before eventually making the transition to university rugby.

She made the move to AUS rugby officially in 2004 and her choice quickly paid off.

In 2004, Burk was named the Atlantic University Sport's Most Valuable Rugby Player and she repeated the feat in 2005. Burk was the first Axewoman Rugby player to be honoured as an all-Canadian two years in a row – 2004 and 2005. Burk's rugby prowess and remarkable athletic abilities were further recognized by being named Acadia's Female Athlete of the Year in 2005 and 2006.

Her success in university rugby launched her career that followed with Canada's women's national rugby team – both 15s and 7s.

In 2011, Burk was named British Columbia's Female Rugby Player of the Year, and following her representation of Canada in rugby union at the 2014 Women's Rugby World Cup she was named the Gillian Florence Award winner, given to a "player who best represents the qualities of Canadian rugby as voted by her teammates."

After being part of the Canadian team that brought home a World Cup silver medal, Burk was named to the Women's Rugby World Cup Dream team in 2014. Burk was also a finalist for the Rugby Canada Player of the Year in 2016.

Since her playing days with the National team, Burk has become a motivational speaker and a rugby TV announcer, including for the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation (CBC) during the 2016 Olympic Games in Rio de Janeiro and most recent 2021 Tokyo Olympics.

As a motivational speaker, Burk developed her expertise in building team cultures that thrive in highly competitive environments, resiliency, and high-level achievement through her personal experiences while earning a masters degree in Leadership at Royal Roads University, Victoria, British Columbia.

Her accomplishments while at Acadia and in the circles of international rugby competition is second to none to our many well-accomplished inductees of the Acadia Sports Hall of Fame.

