

CHRISTINE SINCLAIR

When an international sport governing body recognizes an athlete as “The Best,” it should be no surprise when a provincial sport organization also chooses to honour that same individual as its “Best.” So it is that Burnaby soccer legend Christine has been selected as our Best of B.C. at the 55th Annual Athlete of the Year Awards.

In January 2022 FIFA, soccer’s world governing body, presented Sinclair with the “FIFA Special The Best Award” as tribute to her becoming the game’s highest-scoring player of any gender in the history of international soccer. Sinclair, whose tally stood at 188 goals at the time of the award, called the honour “a once in a lifetime recognition.”

Since receiving the award Sinclair continued to increase her international goal cache, which now stands at 190 after a successful strike gained in Canada’s 6-0 win over Trinidad and Tobago in a July CONCACAF match. Sinclair, a longtime captain of Canada’s national women’s team, also enjoyed success in 2022 with her pro club Portland Thorns, scoring five goals in the team’s campaign that culminated with the Thorns winning a third NWSL championship in October.

The Best of B.C. Award is presented annually to an individual or team deemed to have best represented B.C. in national or international competition, in a professional or amateur sport. Sinclair, 39, was also given the Best of B.C. Award in 2017 and recognized as the province’s top female athlete in 2002, 2005 and 2006. In August she was appointed to the Order of British Columbia.

Sinclair made her international debut in 2000 and has since accumulated 317 international caps, second only to the 354 held by American Kristine Lilley. Over her long and stellar career Sinclair has twice been named Canada’s Athlete of the Year, an Officer of the Order of Canada and a 14-time Canadian Soccer Player of the Year. She also led the Canadian women’s soccer team to Olympic gold at Tokyo 2020, adding to her collection of two Olympic bronze medals earned in 2012 and 2016.

