

Three local athletes to be honored

TORONTO — Upwards of 800 athletes will receive athletic achievement awards at the 15th annual provincial sports awards dinner slated for May 7 at the Sheraton Centre in Toronto.

Among the recipients will be Jens Kraemer and Adam Piotrowski of St. Thoms who were members of last year's Canadian champion Ontario Under 18 Selects soccer team and Allen Jenskey, national junior boys' barebow champion.

In announcing the awards presentations, Tourism and Recreation Minister Reuben C. Baetz lauded the efforts during 1981 of Ontario's athletes who he described as "dedicated to excellence and the spirit of sportsmanship".

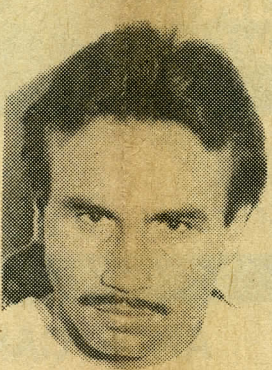
The awards are presented annually to Ontario amateur athletes who either individually, or through participation in a team sport won top honours in national, international or world competition.

"The achievements by our amateur athletes garnered sports page headlines across the coun-

try", the minister said, "and I am very proud that their successes point to the fact that Ontario's amateur sports program is on the right track."

A highlight of the evening will be the presentation of the Gladstone Sculpture to the province's outstanding athlete of the year, an honor which for the first time will be shared equally by the two world-class champions, downhill skier Steve Podborski of Don Mills and swimmer Alex Baumann of Sudbury.

It also marks the first time the same person has picked up the prized sculpture twice. Mr. Pod-



ADAM PIOTROWSKI

borski won the coveted award in 1980.

"Along with Steve and Alex, Ontarians should be extremely proud of the track record during 1981 of all our athletes who through dedication and sacrifice excelled in their respective sports to bring honor to themselves, their province and their country", Mr. Baetz said.

Mr. Baetz said many events over 1981 stand out in his memory, particularly the Canada Summer Games in Thunder Bay where Ontario placed first among the provinces collecting 52 gold, 28 silver



JENS KRAEMER

and 32 bronze medals.

"And of course there was the Canada Summer Games for Disabled Athletes, the Ontario Games for Physically Disabled Athletes, the 1981 Canada Summer Special Olympics and a host of other events just too numerous to mention, in which Ontario athletes competed, and competed with distinction", the minister said.

Along with the athletic awards, 21 amateur sport volunteers and 27 Ontario corporations will be recognized at the banquet.

The 21 individuals will

receive the special achievement award, symbolic of dedicated involvement in their respective sport. The corporations selected will receive the province's corporate sector citation, the third year the award has been presented to corporations who generously gave both financial as well as human resource support to amateur sport.

Mr. Baetz complimented the broad-based volunteer contribution to amateur sport in Ontario and noted the tremendous value amateur sport development programs were having in teaching skills to young athletes.

"Spurred by confidence rooted in sound coaching and administrative techniques, and fueled by the athletes' determination and dedication, amateur sport in Ontario grows healthier every year", he said.

"Also, because of the high ideals and dedication to sportsmanship which is the common thread running throughout amateur sport programs in this province, we are developing not only good athletes, but good citizens", he said.



AL JENSKY