



News Release

For Immediate Release

Collège Sturgeon Heights Collegiate Students Take on Pro/Amateur Athletes Event Series Supports Families in Need

December 2, 2022 (Winnipeg, MB) – For the first time since 2019, Collège Sturgeon Heights Collegiate students from the St. James-Assiniboia School Division (SJASD) are preparing to compete with professional/amateur athletes in the 12th annual *Pros vs. Joes* fundraising event series. The week-long competition supports families in need and involves current and former athletes from the Winnipeg Blue Bombers and other CFL teams, along with players from the University of Manitoba Bisons football and basketball teams and national and provincial Canadian dodgeball teams. Many pro/amateur athletes are alumni of Collège Sturgeon Heights Collegiate. *Pros vs. Joes* was cancelled in 2020 and 2021 due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

"This will be an exciting week-long event with our students—the 'Joes'—matching themselves against professional and amateur athletes—the 'Pros'—in a series of athletic feats, as well as some fun events," said Deborah Einarson Woods, Physical Education Teacher at Collège Sturgeon Heights Collegiate.

Professional/Amateur athletes take on Collège Sturgeon Heights Collegiate students starting on Monday, December 5 through to Friday, December 9, 2022. Competitions take place daily at 12:10 p.m. in the Collège Sturgeon Heights Collegiate gymnasium. To watch, students must bring in either two non-perishable food items or provide a \$2 donation per event. Donations will be used to create deluxe hampers for 45 SJASD families in need.

Event Lineup:

Monday, December 5: The Gauntlet and Powerball

Pros: Six University of Manitoba Bison football players including Collin Kornelson, Josh Robinson, Tyrece Viner-Cox, Jack Shaffer, Kaleb Mackie-McLeod and Owen Miller, as well as Anthony Coombs (former CFL player) and Mike Benson (Winnipeg Blue Bombers).

Tuesday, December 6: Dodgeball and Blindfolded Musical Chairs

Pros: Mike Benson (Winnipeg Blue Bombers) and 12 National and Provincial dodgeball players.

Wednesday, December 7: Basketball and Bump

Pros: Three Winnipeg Blue Bombers, including Nic Demski, Brandon Alexander and Willie Jefferson, former CFL player Anthony Coombs, as well as University of Manitoba basketball players Mason Kraus and Samuel Jensen.

Thursday, December 8: SJASD Rock Paper Scissors Championship Tournament

Pros: Members of the Winnipeg Police Service, as well as Nic Demski (Winnipeg Blue Bombers), University of Manitoba Bison football players Josh Robinson and Alex Djukic. *Students from nine SJASD schools will also take part.*

Friday December 9: Lip Sync Battle

SJASD is a progressive school division in west Winnipeg serving approximately 8,200 students across 26 schools. SJASD is committed to educational programs in which children can develop their natural abilities to their fullest extent, building upon personal strengths and the richness of our area's culturally diverse population. SJASD operates on the traditional lands of the Anishinaabe, Ininew and Dakota peoples, and on the homeland of the Red River Métis nation. SJASD respects the Treaties that were made on this territory. For more information: sjasd.ca.

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Media are welcome to attend these events.