



Manitoba Soccer Association Inc.

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TWO MORE MANITOBA PLAYERS CALLED TO NATIONAL TEAM

The Manitoba Soccer Association (MSA) is delighted to announce that Alison Clarke and Anisha Kinnarath have been selected to the U17 National Team. National Team Coach, Ian Bridge, who was recently in Winnipeg scouting the U16 Club Nationals, is very pleased with the play of both players. The U16 National Team will be hosting a camp this upcoming week in Quebec.

MSA Technical Director, Rob Gale, indicated, "I am delighted that once again two players from Manitoba have made a national team squad. This is the second time this year and is great for Manitoba soccer and everyone involved. Alison has been determined and focused on making a national team for the past three years. Her hard work and commitment to improve should be an example for all players and shows if you want something bad enough you can achieve it. We are pleased Anisha came back into the Provincial Program last year and we were able to showcase her talents at National All Stars this past summer. Anisha is technically one of the best forwards in the country and we are delighted she has proved this to the national team staff."

Kinnarath expressed her joy in her selection by commenting, "Being invited to the U17 National camp is a great honor. I am one of very few Canadian athletes that has this opportunity and I am not going to take it for granted. Hopefully when I come back from Quebec I come back as a U17 Canadian National Team Player."

Meanwhile, Clarke, is equally excited to join the National Team, as she mentioned, "This is a very exciting opportunity for me and one I have worked very hard for. I want to go to Quebec and do my best, represent my province and my club the way I know I can. I would like to thank all of my coaches and fellow players who have pushed me to get this far and hopefully this is just the beginning."

This latest selection of Manitoba players to the National Teams takes the number of Manitoba players having represented Canada in the last three years to nine. In addition to Kinnarath and Clarke, the following players are part of this prestigious group:

Erin McNulty and Desiree Scott played at the U20 Women's World Cup in 2007. Erin McNulty again played for Canada in 2009. Amy Harrison captained the U17 Women's



team and played in the World Cup in New Zealand in 2009. Chelsea Stewart, from The Pas, Manitoba, also played in the U17 World Cup in New Zealand and this year made the U20 National Team. Amos Ganyea made the U16 Male National Team in the summer of 2007. Mujtaba Sharifi played for the U17 Male National Team in 2009 and Ezequiel Lubocki played for the U17 Male National Team in 2008 and in 2009 represented Canada in World Cup Qualifying matches.

MSA Executive Director, Héctor Vergara, mentions that, “The number of players earning a spot in the National Team is a clear indication that Manitoba has talented players that with the right training, dedication and commitment can also excel on the National stage.”

For Anisha and Alison it will be an opportunity to earn a spot for the upcoming World Cup Qualifying that begins in Costa Rica in March. We look forward to seeing more Manitoba players playing in World Cups in 2010 and beyond.

For more information please contact the Manitoba Soccer Association at (204) 925-5752 or visit the website at www.manitobasoccer.ca

