

## *Players*

*Sarah Hayhurst- I went to Nationals in 2006 in Saskatoon and 2008 in Winnipeg. It was the best weeks of my life! I had so much fun there bonding with the team, meeting new people from different provinces, then meeting up with them 2 years later! Nationals in Winnipeg was the best experience of my life, Marjorie and Tim make it so much fun! We had way to much fun this year and I didn't want to go home! I miss you all so much & can't wait to see you in March!*

*Carrie Hayhurst- I went to Nationals in 2006 in Saskatoon, I had so much fun, even though I lost my sister's purse in the cab. I had so much fun hanging with all the girls and the guys who went that year. I can't wait to try and make it again because it's such a great experience to go through and it's so much fun.*

*Kaitlyn Saunders: Nationals 2008 - The experience was a lot of fun and challenging.*

*I'm hoping to make it on the team again. I met a lot of great people. Even though everyone on the team was older than me, we all got along very well.*

*Thank you for all the coaching and help.*

## *Parents & Spectators*

*Karin Thomas - This was our first experience with the National Dart tournament. To be completely honest, I didn't really know that there was life after Provincials. We were first introduced to Provincials when our son was a tyke and our daughter was a junior. Kai played as a junior that year even though he wasn't old enough. As a family, we just looked at the trip to St. Catharines as an adventure and a place to have fun. We had no idea that it was a stepping stone to something as big as a National Dart Tournament. Of course, we heard people talking about THE event. We heard stories in passing about who was sick at Nationals, who was afraid that they would 'freeze' at the board...but we really didn't know what it was all about. In March 2008, when Kai took his final shot and his dart leader started shaking my shoulder, I thought she was just plain giddy with excitement that he had won his game...and then she said, "Winnipeg, here we come! Kai's going to the Nationals!" Like a whirlwind, Marjorie was calling the kids to the stage to get all the information and I just followed along not knowing what to expect. I was sure she was going to sh-sh-shew us off the stage and talk to the people that actually had a clue what was going on! But, clueless as we were, Marjorie assured us that we needed to stay there to hear what would come next.*

*Almost two months later, we were on a plane to Winnipeg (or 'Windy-peg' as we came to know it), sent off with well-wishes from our community, family and friends. Marjorie guided us every step of the way. We had well thought out agendas, information packages that told us where and when to be present and Marjorie, along with Tim, Paul and Allen, were always there to answer any questions. Together, they chaperoned our children, coached them into their best dart playing and most importantly, made them feel worthwhile and important. I was AMAZED at how well eight kids got along, looked out for each other and included each other in every victory and every disappointment. They laughed together, strategized together and lived together and when all was said and done, eight kids who are opponents at the Provincial level were a true team at the Nationals. When we had to part from each others' company at the airport, Kai had to choke back the emotions. Ontario is a big place and the friends he made don't live next door. Some of the senior kids will be moving out of Youth Darts so I can't even tell him there will always be next year.*

*The Nationals was so much more than just a dart tournament. It was an experience. As a mother looking in, I know my son grew to be a better person in those five days.*

*The hotel was an excellent venue, the proceedings were very formal and professional, direction was clear, & the banquet was well-planned and tasty.*

*Glen & Susan Hayhurst- We loved how well organized the whole trip was, and how much fun everyone had meeting so many new people. Marjorie makes it so much fun for the kids and it wouldn't be the same without her, Tim and Paul. We appreciate all the dedication and hard work.*

*Nat & Noella Saunders - Nat and I found it amazing how all the kids on the team got along very well and supported each other fully. It was a lot of fun to watch all of the kids do very well and it was nice to see how they bonded as a team.*

*The Studman's ( Maria, Kevin and Jeff)*

*What can I say the Nationals were awesome. The hospitality in Winnipeg was second to none and I still can't believe what a wonderful website the Manitoba Darts Association has, with so many great photos even before I had a chance to download mine. It is too bad that everyone can't experience such an event and to witness firsthand the level of play that our youth can achieve. We'd like once again to thank your team Ontario leaders and especially yourself for the devotion and support you all showed our players. We will sure miss you all now that Jeff has graduated out of the youth program.*

*Miss you all.*