

2014 Volleyball Alberta Hall of Fame Award

Coach

Greg Ryan

In his 35-year volleyball career, Greg Ryan has achieved coaching excellence in theory and practice. His work as an educator, life-long learner and leader both on and off the court have made substantial contributions to the development of volleyball in Alberta and beyond.

Greg was born and raised in Calgary, earning his education degree in 1979. After graduation, he signed on with the Calgary Board of Education, where he served for eight years as a social studies teacher. At the same time that Greg launched his educational career, he began work as an assistant coach for the University of Calgary women's volleyball team – a position he held from 1980 to 1984 before becoming the team's head coach in 1985. The following year, Greg became head coach of the U of C men's volleyball team. During his twenty years in this role, he earned five western Canadian coach-of-the-year awards and one national coach-of-the-year award. Greg went on to serve as a head coach for Montana State University-Northern from 2006 to 2008. Also on Greg's international resume are coaching and management positions for the World Student Games and assistant coaching positions for two FISU Games.

Over the course of his career, Greg earned a Level 5 NCCP coaching certification and a Master Coach designation from the National Coaches Institute, among other coaching credentials. He has been recognized as a Chartered Professional Coach since 1995. Greg can be described as a coach of coaches for his work as a student, teacher and leader of his profession. In 1992, he earned a Master's degree in Kinesiology from the University of Calgary in the Art and Science of Coaching. His research on coaching has appeared in provincial, national and international volleyball coaching publications and has been presented at many coaching clinics and symposiums. Greg is currently working toward his PhD in Physical Education, researching the field of coaching motivation. He also serves as Director of Athletics and Campus Recreation for the University of Alberta-Augustana.

Off the court, Greg has devoted many hours to community leadership both inside and outside the realm of sport. He currently sits on the board of directors for Sport Alberta and recently served as a member of the NACMA Small Schools Initiatives Committee. From 1991 to 1993 he served as Player Development Chairman for Volleyball Alberta, then the Alberta Volleyball Association.

A colleague of Greg's described him as "a long-time icon in the world of Alberta volleyball." As a coach, he has led his players to many championships and medals, and has been instrumental helping athletes move on to professional careers in North America and Europe. As a leader in the field of coaching, he has made significant contributions to the development of volleyball in the province of Alberta. For these and other achievements, Volleyball Alberta is pleased to induct Greg into its 2014 Hall of Fame.

