

2016 Volleyball Alberta Hall of Fame Award

Athlete

Tracy Mills



Tracy's active volleyball career spanned over twenty-five years. She began playing volleyball in grade 9 at McKernan Jr. High School in Edmonton under coach and U of A HOF recipient Liz McBlain. She then moved on to Strathcona Composite high school (1978-80) and the Spartans VB club where she was a major factor in powering them to the highest competitive levels. Her skill, competitiveness, and commitment to continued improvement were recognized as she was selected to a number of Alberta Volleyball Select and Provincial teams.

In 1980 she attended the Junior National Tournament in Calgary and was selected to the National Junior Volleyball team tryout camp. From 1980-1982 she spent her summers with the Junior National Program and the winter months playing for the University of Alberta and the Friars Volleyball Club. In 1980 her dedication was rewarded when the Jr. National Team won the Gold Medal at the Norceca Championships, beating Cuba for the first time in Canadian history. In 2015, Tracy and her teammates from the 1980 Norceca Gold Medal Team under Michel Gagnon were recognized for their achievement and inducted into the Volleyball Canada Hall of Fame.

From 1982-1986 she trained full time with the National Team in Regina Saskatchewan under Lorne Sawula. This Team Canada team qualified for and played in the 1984 Los Angeles Olympic Games and the 1986 World Championships in Czechoslovakia.

Tracy left the National team to play professional volleyball in Italy and Switzerland (1986-1989). On returning to Canada she continued to play, but this time on the Jose Cuervo beach tour with Barb Broen. She later played in a FIVB qualifying event in Sao Paulo, Brazil. Her last tournament was in 2005 at the World Masters Games where she, her sister Lise Mills, and her high-school teammate Donna Assaly, won gold.

Tracy continues to be involved in her community and volleyball. Most recently she was active in setting goals and time lines in the recent Volleyball BC bid to bring the National Women's Team to British Columbia. Teammates from the 1980s are important in Tracy's life and she stays in touch with them on a regular basis. The qualities exhibited in her volleyball career resulted in a successful career in materials and operations management and more recently in founding a cohousing initiative on Vancouver Island. She is married to Richard and they have one daughter, Maren who also may follow as an athlete in her mother's footsteps.

As a native Albertan who achieved the highest levels of volleyball, we are proud to welcome Tracy into the Alberta Volleyball Hall of Fame.