

2004 Alberta Volleyball Hall of Fame Awards

Category: Coach

Inductee: Brian Watson

“Watts” received his Level 1 technical certification in 1975 and has been involved with volleyball in various capacities ever since. A player, coach, administrator and builder, Brian has been involved in coaching and developing our sport from the grass roots right up to the Olympic Games.

Today Brian is being inducted as a Coach where his greatest accomplishments have been achieved. He began his coaching career with the B.C. Olympics club (BCO) where his teams won gold and 2 silver medals at the National Open Championships over a 3 year span between 1977 and 1979. In 1980 Brian moved to the University of Alberta and won another National Championship, this time in the Junior age category. In 1981 Brian led the Golden Bears team past the Manitoba Bison’s in 5 sets to claim yet another National Championship, this time at the CIAU level.

After a very successful stint as a University coach, Brian joined Team Canada as an Assistant coach to Ken Maeda for the 1984 Los Angeles Olympic Games. Canada finished 4th at those games which is still the best showing by a Canadian Team at the Olympics. In 1985 Watts became the full-time head coach of Team Canada taking over a team in transition with many of the stars of 1984 moving on to professional volleyball leagues in Europe.

A fifth set loss to Sweden in a 1988 qualifying tournament in Italy kept Canada out of the Seoul Olympics and this setback further intensified Brian’s resolve and commitment to the team and athletes to qualify for the 1992 Olympics. With the inclusion of Canada into the World League in 1991, a mix of veterans and youth and a renewed emphasis on high intensity practice and competition was the formula Brian used to successfully qualify Canada for the 1992 Olympics in Barcelona, Spain where the team finished 10th.

Brian continued on with Team Canada as the High Performance Director until 1995 when he moved to Germany to coach in the Premier Division of the Bundesliga. In addition to his club team Brian was the assistant coach with the German National Team through the summer off seasons. Brian spent 3 years with SCC Berlin where his teams won the German Cup and were the Vice-Champion of the Bundesliga in 2000.

Brian has since retired from coaching in Germany, has moved back to Calgary and we hope to see him back out coaching in the club ranks and passing on his years of experience and knowledge to a new crop of athletes.