

Alberta Volleyball Hall of Fame- Athlete Category

Glen McKay (inducted 2010)

Glen was a native of Manitoba whose path through the volleyball world started off very similar to most, as a player. During his initial time in the game, it became apparent that Glen was not destined to continue playing past a certain point, therefore, with a little encouragement, he was convinced to stay involved as an official.

As an official, Glen's intelligence, understanding and love for the game made him a natural. With the guidance of senior officials such as Wezer Bridle and Ed Toews, this natural talent was refined and Glen's progression through the officiating ranks was very rapid. Glen achieved his National certification in 1970, and five short years later he qualified as an International Referee. Throughout the years, Glen had the opportunity to work at every level of competition. Domestically, he was an active participant in many Supervalley tournaments, National Open championships and CIAU championships.

On an international stage, Glen worked tirelessly with the National team and travelled with them quite regularly. He also represented Canada extensively at NORCECA zone competitions, World Cup events and World Championships. By all standards, this would be a very commendable list of distinctive assignments, but some might suggest the highlight of Glen's career came only a year after achieving his International standing.

In 1976, Glen was awarded the prestigious role of major official at the Montreal Olympics. He received four Olympic assignments, two as a second referee and two as a first referee. In the second set of the Brazil/Italy match, Glen made his mark on the history books by becoming the first official in Olympic history to apply a yellow card (the FIVB had only introduced the sanctioning system one year earlier).

Looking beyond his own achievements, Glen was very highly regarded for his desire and willingness to give back to the game. Considered to be more than just an official, Glen was regarded as a teacher and mentor. He carried a confident and calm air about him and over the years developed the respect of the players, coaches and officials with whom he came into contact. Glen's skill, integrity, good humour and love for the game preceded him wherever he went.

The greatest gift that Glen may have left with us was that he shared his knowledge and experiences with up-and-coming officials. Always teaching and working to improve those who would follow him, Glen was the ultimate role model.

In March of 2009, Glen passed on after a battle with cancer. His wife, Debbie and son, Dayton, survive him.

