

2008 Alberta Volleyball Hall of Fame Awards

Category: Coach

Inductee: Keith Hansen

Born and raised in Grimshaw, Keith developed a strong passion for many sports, but his main focus was volleyball. Keith had a very successful playing career moving to Grant MacEwan College after high school where he was part of the team that won a CCAA Silver medal in 1984. From there Keith moved to Red Deer college for two seasons (85-86, 86-87) winning a National Silver Medal in '86 and a bronze medal in '87 as well as being named an ACAC All-Star both years, and CCAA All-Star in 85-86.

In the 1987 ACAC championships Keith got his first taste of coaching due to the combination of his broken finger and head coach Gord Inglis not being able to attend due to the birth of his first son. Keith won his first three games as a coach while taking pain killers to get through the experience!

Keith coached the 1993 Alberta Canada Games team to a silver medal and spent 5 years as a provincial team coach. Keith was also the Technical Director for Alberta Volleyball for 4 years and spent 9 years as the club president for the Central Alberta Kings Volleyball Club. Keith has always been an integral part of volleyball in Alberta from playing and coaching to conducting NCCP clinics and passing on his knowledge to the next generation of coaches.

Internationally Keith served as an assistant coach for the Men's National team at the World Championships in 1995 and in 1999 he served as an assistant for the Men's Junior National team also at the World Championships. In 2005 Keith was appointed the position of head coach of the Team Canada men's team at the World Student Games in Turkey. He is the first and only CCAA coach to be selected to this prestigious position.

Keith greatest accomplishment as a coach is arguably the 9 CCAA National Championship titles he won while guiding the Red Deer College Kings, including 7 of the record 8 in a row the team won from 2000-2007. Keith missed one year of the streak while coaching professionally in Duren, Germany where he led his team to a second place finish in the first division. Along with his National titles Keith has been recognized as the ACAC Coach of the year 5 times, as well as the CCAA coach of the year on two separate occasions.

During all of this Keith has also had the time to maintain a family life, with his wife Julie, and their two children. Keith's contributions have made our sport stronger and the experience and knowledge he shares, with coaches and athletes alike, has had a significant impact on volleyball in Alberta and Canada.