

2008 Alberta Volleyball Hall of Fame Awards

Category: Player

Inductee: Randy Gingera

Randy was a very charismatic player who played with an incredible amount of intensity and competitive desire, someone who hated to lose more than anyone. A crowd favorite due to an incredible vertical and a natural flair to his game that made it a lot of fun to watch him play. Randy was easily the most naturally athletic and gifted player in his era and combined with his personality and passion made him the one to watch especially when the match was close and Canada needed a sideout or a point.

One of Randy's greatest strengths was his ability to elevate his game to the next level of play in a fraction of the time it took most players. Randy graduated from Lord Beaverbrook High School in 1985 and immediately joined the University of Calgary Dinos squad. While at the U of C the Dino's were very successful in large part due to his consistently high level of play. Between 1985 and 1989 Randy was a 3 time Canada West All-Star, a CIAU All-Canadian, and in 1989 Randy was the Canada West and CIAU Player of the Year. In the 1989 campaign Randy led the Dinos to a CIS National Championship finishing the season with a record of 57-1, including 27-0 against Canadian competition.

For three summers (1985-1987) Randy also played with Canada's Junior Men's National Team and in 1987 Randy was selected as a Second Team All-Star at the Junior World Championships in Bahrain. In 1988 Randy played for Team Canada's Universiade team at the World University Games and then started a long and distinguished career playing for Team Canada when he was selected for the "A" team in 1989. Randy was the anchor on the right side for Team Canada, a position he dominated internationally, competing in 2 World Championships (1990 & 1994) and the Barcelona Olympic Games in 1992. Randy continued playing with Team Canada between professional seasons until his retirement in 1999.

Randy began his professional career in Belgium in 1992 after the Olympics where his team won the Belgian league twice and finished 3rd and 4th in the European Champions League. He followed his Belgium experience with a 2 year stint in Osaka Japan twice finishing second in the V-league and being selected the 2nd best server both years. In 1996 Randy joined Tourcoing-Lille Metropole in Tourcoing, France where he led his team to a 4th in European Cup Qualification. In his final year in professional volleyball Randy joined Stade-Poittevan Volleyball in Poitiers, France and contributed to a 3rd place finish in the European Cup qualification.

Randy can best be described as an intense competitor whose ability to fly through the air and crush the ball brought fans to their feet and raised the decibel level in the gym; while his teammates remember him as the consummate team player who brought everyone's play up a level due to his incredible desire to win. Randy is the definition of a true champion and his success at every level proves that.