

## 2009 Alberta Volleyball Hall of Fame Award

**Category: Athlete**

**Inductee: Kent Greves**

When Glenn Hoag, the current head coach of the Canadian National Men's team, was asked about Kent Greves he had lots to say but the summary of it all was that "Kent is the best setter Canada has ever produced".

From his brief collegiate career at Mount Royal College where he was named All-Canadian in 1987-1988, Kent went directly to our National team where he represented Canada at the 1992 Barcelona Olympics. In a remarkable three years Kent went from playing college volleyball to being the starting setter for Team Canada at an Olympic Games. For a dozen years he led the National team; "The guy is a magician" states fifteen year National Team veteran Paul Duerden. "He is easily the best setter I've ever played with... anyone who ever had a chance to see him play should consider themselves lucky." Considering Duerden also spent 13 seasons playing professional volleyball in Europe with many of the top pros from around the world, his opinion carries a lot of weight.

Kent played eleven seasons of professional volleyball in Europe. In the span of just five years, he led the Paris Volley Team to an unmatched 10 major titles; a feat that can not be duplicated by many volleyball players, especially in such a short time period. As Paris Volley's head coach beginning in 1999, Hoag had a lot of opportunity to work with Kent and noted that, in addition to many physical attributes, "(Kent) was totally devoted to the team and understood the need to lead the group... He led by example in practice and in games."

In his time at Paris Volleyball, Kent's teams set many records. In 2000, Paris Volley was the first team in France's volleyball history to win a triple crown: Winning the French Cup, European Champions Cup, and French Championship. The following year they then topped their own record by becoming the first team in French Sport History to win a quadruple crown by winning the Triple Crown, and Champions League Cup.

"His sense of the game, his patience and his control under pressure situations can be compared with the best in the world. The way he was able to create a mental imagery of the history of the match and create big plays at the right time can be compared to the best in the world" commented Hoag.

The most succinct statement of Kent's career does not come from any single result, but in the fact that he was "a father, a team mate, and a genius of the game... His humble approach to the game was his greatest quality."

