

2006 Alberta Volleyball Hall of Fame Awards

Category: Athlete

Inductee: Kathy Tough

Kathy Tough has been an inspiration to watch for many years and it all started when she began playing in the club volleyball system when she was in Grade 9. Playing with Elite West helped develop Kathy's skills to the extent that once she graduated from High School she was asked to participate on the Junior National Team in 1986. That same year Kathy began playing for the University of Calgary until 1989, when in her final year they won the CIAU National Championships and she was selected the tournament MVP.

After Kathy graduated from the University of Calgary she began playing for the Senior National Team until 1996. Kathy was honored to be named team captain for Canada's Olympic Volleyball team and went on to compete at the 1996 Atlanta Olympics. It was the first time in history for a Canadian team to qualify for the Olympic Games and win a match. This was definitely the highlight in Kathy's 13-year indoor volleyball career and in 1997 she was recognized for her accomplishments by being inducted in the University of Calgary's Hall of Fame.

1997 would be the start of a new volleyball path as Kathy competed on the Canadian National Beach Team. In 1998, Tough and her partner finished 1st at all the Labatt's Blue Pro Series Events in Canada; they had 2 top 10 world finishes on the International World Series and Kathy received a Special Achievement Award for Outstanding Performance in Sport. 1998 was also the first year that Kathy and her partner became National Champions, a title that would stay with them until 2000 and earn Kathy an MVP on the Canadian Beach Tour. She retired after her gold medal performance at the Francophone Games in 2001 but Kathy stays heavily involved as a coach and administrator in the sport of Beach Volleyball at the grass roots level as well as on the National stage.

Currently she is one of the beach directors at the Maximum Beach club in Calgary, providing support and programs to several young athletes. In the past, Tough has coached Alberta's Provincial Beach teams in preparation for the 16U Western Canadian Beach Elite Championships. Kathy is also acting as the Western High Performance Beach Manager for Volleyball Canada; identifying young athletes with the potential to enter the National beach program. Kathy is also heavily involved as a personal coach for many youth and adult athletes pursuing their dreams in beach volleyball. Whether they are competing on the FIVB tour or just starting out with the basics; Kathy is there to provide instruction, support and inspiration.