

Alberta Volleyball Hall of Fame- Athlete Category

Kevin Boyles (inducted 2010)

Kevin Boyles was considered a bit of a project when he was chosen for the 1984 Alberta Provincial team. "I selected Kevin on the basis of the potential I saw, not the finished product," stated his coach Greg Ryan. "That summer, he spent more time taking pictures of the team than competing for the team." This quickly changed, as Kevin was named captain of his Crescent Heights High School team who won the City Championships that fall. When he returned to the Provincial Team program in the summer of 1985, Kevin was selected as the Captain of the team and led Team Alberta to a 4th place finish at the Canada Games - which at the time was the highest finish to date for any Alberta team.

He continued his athletic journey when he joined the University of Calgary Dinos Men's Volleyball program in 1985. Along with a number of his talented teammates, Kevin took the Dinos program from 'worst to first' in four seasons as the 1989 Dinos team went undefeated en route to the Canada West and CIAU championship. His leadership abilities were once again noted, as Kevin was the Captain of the Dinos team each year that he played. Kevin was individually recognized numerous times over his Dinos career; he not only was a four-time CIAU Royal Bank Academic All-Canadian, he also was a first or second-team conference all-star in each of his seasons with the Dinos and was an All-Canadian in 1989.

When Kevin tried out for the Canadian Universiade team in 1986/87, coaches Al Taylor and John Paulsen decided to keep him despite his shorter stature as a Middle player – when questioned about their reasons for doing this, they answered "We had to – Kevin would not be beat out by other players." When Kevin graduated to the National team in the fall of 1988, coaches Julien Boucher and Brian Watson encountered the same determination as he refused to be beaten out.

"One of my fondest memories of Kevin as a player was when we put him in the 4th set versus Cuba in a World League match at Maple Leaf Gardens in Toronto. He was late on his 1st set and got stuffed... but Kent Greves continued to feed him and we went on to beat Cuba in 5. His speed and quickness were his assets and he put all of them on the table for that match. That was the first time that Canada had ever beaten Cuba in International play and he was a huge part of it," reflected his coach Brian Watson. Kevin participated in over 250 international matches over the eight years he wore the maple leaf. In 1992, he was a Barcelona Olympian and contributed to the Canadian Men's team finishing in 10th place.

Kevin spent the 1992-93 season playing professionally for SCC Berlin where his team won the Division 1 German Championship. In 1993-94, he returned to the University of Calgary Dinos to pursue his Masters degree in Kinesiology. Again, Kevin was instrumental to his Dinos team as the team won the Canada West title and Boyles was once again named a conference All-Star and All-Canadian.

When his playing career ended, Boyles continued his involvement in the sport in both the administrative and coaching fields. He spent several years as Executive Director of the Alberta Volleyball Association (and later spent 6 years as the AVA President). From 1996-98, he was an Assistant Coach with the Canadian National Men's Team that won the NORCECA Zone Championship (interesting that this was the 2nd time ever that Canada has beaten Cuba Internationally) and qualified for the 1998 World Championships. Kevin was hired as the Head Coach of the Dinos women's volleyball team in 1999 and his hiring began a renaissance for the Dinos women, who quickly returned to the top of CIS volleyball. Between 1999 and 2008, his Dino's team won three Canada West championships, four CIS Bronze medals, and the 2004 CIS national title. He was a two-time Canada West Coach of the Year and the 2005 CIS Coach of the Year.

Kevin was named one of the University of Calgary's Top 40 Alumni in conjunction with the 40th Anniversary celebrations of 2006. He was also named to the list of the Top 40 Dinos athletes of all time the same year. Kevin currently holds the position of Director of Athletics at the University of Calgary.

Kevin's old coach and colleague, Greg Ryan, may have summarized Kevin's career best when he commented, "There are likely many athletes who had the potential that Kevin did, there are precious few that have realized that potential through hard work, persistence and dedication."

Alberta Volleyball is extremely proud to induct Kevin into the Alberta Volleyball Hall of Fame in the Athlete category.

