

## **2003 Tachikara Achievement Awards**

### **16 & Under Male “Player of the Year”**

*Colin Bell*

Colin is a 16 year old athlete who played with Canuck Xtreme this season. He is an excellent athlete able to play left-side, middle and right-side equally at a high level of performance. Colin is a smart, aggressive and electrifying attacker that can literally “wow the crowd”. He was selected to the All-Star team at the 2003 Provincial Championships.

In addition to his athletic abilities, Colin is the “Ultimate Team Player. He thrives on helping his team mates play to the best of their ability, refusing to allow anyone to get down after making errors. The consummate motivator, he was selected the team’s Captain and led by example both on and off the court always giving 100% to the team.

While injured during the season Colin attended every practice and actively cheered, shagged and participated in anyway possible. He played both Provincials and the Canadian Open in a considerable amount of pain; his tenacity is a true demonstration of leadership, commitment and grit. Colin’s attitude and skill makes him a joy to watch and coach.

### **16 & Under Female “Player of the Year”**

*Kristy Anderson*

Kristy Anderson is a talented setter with the Parkland Ravens 16 & under team. A gifted athlete, she shines in volleyball, basketball and several other sports. What she lacks in physical stature, she more than makes up for in skill.

Head Coach Steve Smith has had the pleasure of coaching Kristy for the past few seasons and is extremely impressed with how much she’s improved. Her willingness to work on “the little things” has truly developed her overall game. Kristy has learned a lot this past season and has an excellent understanding of how to run an effective offence; as a result she’s been selected to Team Alberta’s 16 & under Women’s team.

Kristy also demonstrated great leadership abilities by leading the Ravens to a silver medal at the 2003 Provincial Championships. An intense competitor, Kristy was able to lead her team through difficult situations. She is well respected by her team mates and coaches because of all the hard work and dedication she puts into whatever challenge she comes across.

## **18 & Under Male “Player of the Year”**

*Mark Thibeault*

During the High School season Mark led the Grande Prairie Composite High School Tomahawks to 5 straight tournament victories which included the 4A Provincial Title.

He played with the Grande Prairie Wolves 18 & under team for the 2003 club season; winning two Premier titles and the Provincial Championship. He's athletically gifted, excelling in the setting and libero positions, which has been noticed by Team Alberta's coaching staff; this will be Mark's second year playing with the 18 & Under Provincial team.

He consistently handles pressure and is able to execute under stressful situations. He has an excellent understanding of the game which is one of his many outstanding qualities. He drives and encourages those around him to be better, continually setting an example when it comes to work and determination. He's a “team centred” player who is well liked by his team mates and opponents equally.

At 5'8 he's small by volleyball standards; but is fearless in competition and despite his diminutive size, he plays like a giant. Apparently, no one told Mark you had to be tall to be successful in this sport!

## **18 & Under Female “Player of the Year”**

*Carolyn Macdonald*

Carolyn played her High School volleyball with the Dr. E.P. Scarlett Lancers and led her squad to a City Championship in 2002, and was named the team's Most Valuable Player.

Carolyn played for the 16 & Under Provincial Team in 2001 and has just recently been selected to Team Alberta's 18 & Under squad which will compete in the 2003 Western Canada Summer Games.

She has spent the past four years playing with Canuck Stuff Volleyball Club in Calgary. A standout with Canuck Enigma this season, Carolyn led her 18 & Under club to a Provincial Championship and was named to the All-Star Team. This fearless competitor was not yet finished with her tour of duty. On her 18<sup>th</sup> Birthday she was able to successfully lead her team to the promised land...a gold medal at the 2003 Canadian Open National Championships.

At the end of the tournament she was able to put another notch in her belt as she was selected as the Most Valuable Player. An extremely impressive and memorable season for this teenage sensation, everyone looks forward to see what she's going to do next in the years to come.

## **16 & Under Male Team “Coach of the Year”**

*Ian Kulmatycki*

Ian is a first year coach with the Grande Prairie Wolves Volleyball Club. He took over the coaching responsibilities of the 16 & Under Men's team after the two previous coaches resigned part way through the season, a true sign of dedication and loyalty to the athletes. Despite the late start, he led the team to two Premier victories before capturing the Provincial Championship. An extremely successful season for the rookie coach!

Along with his Assistant Coach (wife Morgan), Ian has been an excellent role model for the boys both on and off the court. As a former college player with the Grant MacEwan College Griffins, he has been able to offer an athlete's perspective to the team. Ian's been able to provide outstanding leadership to the boys and a great example of sportsmanship at all times.

As an exceptional motivator he's established a high sense of confidence in the team, which has been a major factor in their success. Ian has earned the respect of his team, club and the community of Grande Prairie for his tireless efforts with the Wolves Volleyball Club. Congratulations and keep up the great work!

## **16 & Under Female Team “Coach of the Year”**

*Heather McIntosh*

Heather McIntosh played volleyball for the UofA Pandas in her first year of University, and was named Most Improved Player on the team. The next season she switched over to field hockey where she completed the remaining years of her eligibility.

Heather started her coaching career brilliantly by leading the Samson Reserve Juvenile Women's team to a gold medal victory at the 1997 Indigenous Games in Victoria, B.C. Over the past six years she has coached every age-class with the Northern Alberta Volleyball Club and spent a summer with Team Alberta's 18 & Under Women's squad.

As Head Coach of the NAVC Gold 16 & Under Women's team, McIntosh led her club patiently throughout the 2003 season. The team showed steady improvement throughout the first four tournaments finishing 6<sup>th</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> respectively in the first two events and capturing 1<sup>st</sup> in Premier #3 and the Provincial Championships.

She exemplifies all areas of fair play and sportsmanship while instilling a dedicated work ethic in the team. She's been an excellent role model and leader for her athletes and will be taking on a new role in December when she is expecting to give birth to her first child. Congratulations and good luck with the new addition to your family.

## **18 & Under Male Team “Coach of the Year”**

*Mike Lauzon*

Mike is a teacher at Peace Wapiti Academy where he coaches the women’s volleyball squad. He is also an assistant coach with the Grande Prairie Regional College women’s team.

Mike has coached with the Wolves Volleyball Club for several seasons, the last two with the 18 & Under Men’s team. Mike was able to lead the Wolves to a Provincial Championship after being ranked the top team in Alberta for most of the season. He’s developed several top athletes on his team, with many of them being named to the 18 & Under Provincial teams in Alberta and B.C.

He is a very dedicated coach and has the full respect of the boys both on and off the court. The parents have been very impressed with how he carries himself and handles the team. He’s determined to get the most out of his athletes during training and competition, which has proven to be his most successful attribute.

Mike is a very competitive person but always keeps things in perspective and models the principles of fair play. He is a true gentleman and role model for his athletes and students to follow.

## **18 & Under Female Team “Coach of the Year”**

*Craig Gattinger*

Craig has been successfully coaching the Senior Girls Volleyball Team at Springbank High School for the past four years. As Head Coach of the Canuck Enigma 18 & Under Women’s team, he strategically guided the girls to gold medal victories at the Provincial and National Championships. The team was able to win when it counted the most, as their best finish in the Alberta Premier Series was a silver medal in Lethbridge.

Craig is an inspirational coach and positive thinker. He made his players believe they could succeed from the beginning of the season until the very end, even when things didn’t appear to be going very well. He refused to allow the girls to give up on their dreams and goals of being Champions.

An excellent sportsman, Craig was always very gracious with officials, coaches and players in victory and defeat. His excellent interpersonal skills and ability to instil confidence in others makes him one of the most popular coaches with the Canuck Stuff Volleyball Club, and in Alberta.

### **Official of the Year - *Scott McLean***

Scott has been officiating since 1985 and has always been a huge contributor at many levels. Presently he is the only active International Level Official in our province and has represented Canada at many global Competitions. At his 'young' age, Scott is highly respected nationally and internationally as is evident in his appointment to a position on the Canada's International Committee this past March.

In the past years he has volunteered his time as Zone Officials Chair of the Calgary Zone and has represented our province as the Regional Officials Chair. For the 2002-2003 season he sat on the Level 4 Candidate Selection Committee in the province. This position takes a lengthy time commitment as members must travel across Alberta to evaluate officials and provide feedback. Scott has been heavily involved in assisting the Calgary Volleyball Official's Association and has worked as a member of the Executive. He has taken the time to evaluate most of Alberta's senior officials in an effort to make officiating more consistent.

On the stand, Scott is the official whom every coach would like to have and the role model for all other officials. His expertise of officiating is very evident when working a match. Scott is definitely a "Master" official and his easygoing manner off the court has helped him to establish a positive rapport with coaches, players, and other officials. His mentorship has assisted numerous officials in our province to become better and gain confidence in their own abilities. His service to the sport of volleyball is second to none and we wish him well with his aspirations of competing on the local Golf Cart Racing Circuit.

### **Volunteer of the Year - *Cathy Van Humbeck***

Cathy has been a major contributor to the volleyball community in Calgary and Alberta having volunteered for all of the major events for the past 8 years. She has worked on the Husky Dino Cup, the Canadian Midget Open as well as volunteering with the Dino Volleyball Club.

For each of the past 4 years Cathy has organized 150 volunteers to handle all of the scorekeeping duties for over 750 matches during the Canadian Open. This 3 day event is a logistical nightmare and she has been able to schedule each individual scorekeeper their matches for the day without conflicting with their ability to watch their own children compete in the event.

During the Canadian Open from 6am each and every morning until the last score sheet is recorded around 11pm Cathy can be found at her "Command Post" directing her volunteers and keeping everyone smiling! Cathy and her husband Frank also organize and teach a scorekeepers training session each year to ensure the Open runs smoothly from their end.

This past year Cathy has seamlessly moved the Canadian Open forward by organizing the transition to team supplied score keepers. With a team of supervisors and trainers she was able to provide a training session and information package to all of the 192 teams that came to compete. During the event her team helped new scorekeepers learn the ropes and even filled in where they were needed.

As a member of the Canadian Open organizing committee Cathy has volunteered thousands of hours of her time to ensure the Open continues to be the benchmark by which all other volleyball tournaments in Canada are measured. Cathy has a true passion for volleyball and it shows in her attention to detail and tireless commitment to volleyball in the province of Alberta.