

Tachikara Achievement Awards

16U Female Coach

Bob Gabruck

Killam Spartans

Bob Gabruck founded the Killam Spartans Volleyball Club back in 1988. With the Killam town population of only 1000 residents, Bob has been able to motivate hundreds of young men and women to participate in volleyball and several other sports. His passion, dedication and generous nature enhance the lives of all the athletes he has coached. He instills an enormous amount of determination as they play against much larger clubs and cities, but are always very competitive.

Bob's teams had a successful 2005 season with the 14U girls winning a bronze medal at Premier #1 and finished 5th out of 51 teams at the Provincial Championships; the 15U team placed top ten at every single tournament, and the 16U girls won the Division 2 gold medal at Premier #2. A teacher at Killam Public School, Bob has also coached badminton, basketball, golf, and track & field. His teams have won an untold number of County and Zone Championships, because Bob pushes his athletes to be mentally and physically prepared for practices and competition.

Often the Spartans would have up to 4 teams in their club with Bob coordinating and coaching them all, a true act of commitment and dedication to our sport. Mr. Gabruck sets high standards for his teams to follow, exemplifying the important principles of leadership and fair-play. Bob's relaxed demeanor makes for an easy learning and training environment, but is still able to get the most out of his athletes. His subtle humour is evident in the "Spartan" name, as it was not taken from the warriors of ancient Greece, but instead from the tasty apple. Bob is a respected member of the volleyball community, and the pinnacle of success and integrity that all coaches should strive for.

Tachikara Achievement Awards

16U Male Coach

Darryl Tetz

FOG Serve

Darryl Tetz coaches both the FOG Serve 16U and 18U teams, but will be inducted as Coach of the Year in the 16U category this evening. In addition to teaching school full-time, Darryl also plays volleyball on several teams and his ability to coach under these circumstances demonstrates a high level of commitment and excellent time management skills.

Darryl simply dedicates himself to the betterment of volleyball in the local Edmonton area and outlying regions of Alberta. He has weekly drop-in volleyball games at his home all summer long, open to anyone who would like to play. He runs a week long non-profit volleyball camp at his acreage every summer for 150 or more athletes. He and his wife Deb organize the camp, the volunteer coaches and the numerous details related to running a camp big enough that they use 25 outdoor nets.

Mr. Tetz instills the principals of fair play and sportsmanship in all his athletes. He has the uncanny ability to boost the confidence of players who need it the most, and is able to get the best out of his athletes both on and off the court. He never has to raise his voice, because his teams have such immense respect for him and are willing to do whatever it takes to be successful. Everyone plays when Darryl is coaching and he always has a plan for the development of the athletes and team as a whole.

During the indoor season Darryl does his best to keep club fees to a minimum allowing more athletes the opportunity to play. He does not ask or receive any payment whatsoever from his teams for his many hours of coaching. In fact he paid all of his own expenses when taking the 18U team to Moncton, New Brunswick. He drives athletes to practices and games when parents can't get them there, and arranges car pooling and homes for team members and parents to stay for free at out of town tournaments. Darryl has single-handedly instilled "the love of the game" in hundreds of young athletes with his enthusiasm, wisdom, kindness, and class and for this reason Darryl is being recognized as Alberta Volleyball's 16U Coach of the Year.

Tachikara Achievement Awards

16U Female Athlete Jaryn Ruether Wolves Red

Jaryn is a member of the Grande Prairie Wolves 16U Women's Red team. During the 2005 indoor season Jaryn led her team to a medal finish at every AVA tournament this year; the most important being a gold medal at the Provincial Championship where she was named a Division 1 All-Star.

She topped most statistical categories with her sheer athletic ability, which is a big reason she was selected to the 2004 16U Provincial Team as a fifteen year old. Jaryn is an excellent leader both on and off the court, always giving positive comments to her teammates when they need it the most. She is known as a clutch player elevating her game to the next level in big matches, which she definitely did in the gold medal game at the Provincial Championships.

Jaryn was also a stand-out throughout the high school season and was named an All-Star at several tournaments: Big Red (Grande Prairie), LCI Tournament (Lethbridge), POW WOW (Grande Prairie). She was also named to the Peace Region High School All-Star Team for her tremendous accomplishments.

Jaryn's strengths as a player include excellent skill, passion for the game, and a willingness to give 100%. She is a sponge, trying to soak up every bit of information and feedback her coaches provide. She's an athlete with an easy-going attitude that makes her a joy to be around for her coaches and teammates. We look forward to seeing her excel at the next level.

Tachikara Achievement Awards

16U Male Athlete Paul Lindemulder Cal-Air Jaguars

Paul Lindemulder is a member of the Cal-Air Jaguars 16U men's team. A leader both on and off the court, Paul brings a level of competitiveness, skill and determination to his team that is unmatched. His performance on the floor is like none other in this age-class, which is exemplified by his selection as an All-Star at the 2005 16U Canadian West Open Championship.

Paul is no stranger to the awards podium; he was named the Most Valuable Player at the 2003 14U Canadian West Open in Calgary and has been named an All-Star in almost every tournament he's played in since then. His teammates look to Paul to bring them out of difficult stretches in a match and almost always take over the game to win. This year he helped the Jaguars to a gold medal at the Alberta Volleyball Premier #3 Series in Grande Prairie and a bronze medal at the Provincial Championships.

What he can be most proud of this year was leading the Jaguars to the finals of the 16U Canadian West Open, the most competitive tournament of its kind in Canada. The Jaguars left the Championship with a silver medal and a tremendous amount of experience. Paul gained further confidence from participating in the Open which will provide him with the necessary tools to excel with the 16U Provincial Team Program this summer.

More important than Paul's talent is his leadership and uplifting attitude he demonstrates to his teammates. He's not only an outstanding player but an athlete that led his team with an impressive work ethic, keenness and ability to come through for his team. Many other athletes, classmates and friends see Paul as an icon of volleyball which he exhibits in a positive way.

Tachikara Achievement Awards

18U Female Athlete

Raynell Lavertu

18U Dino's Volleyball Club

"Ray" has shown exceptional talent and ability throughout her young career, which has been recognized by both Alberta Volleyball and Volleyball Canada. She has been named to multiple Provincial Teams at the 16U level and is also the only 17 year old on the 2005 Alberta Summer Games Team. She was also selected to the 2004 Youth Women's National Team, Alberta's only female athlete chosen.

She played for Central Memorial this past High School season and led her team to the City Finals. In 2004 she was named a tournament All-Star at the 16U Canadian Western Elite Championships for Team Alberta. Her athletic ability and commitment to volleyball has certainly been demonstrated by the success she's been able to achieve.

This past club season Ray led her 18U team to gold medal finishes at the every single AVA Premier Tournament and at the Provincial Championships. She was named a Tournament All-Star at Provincials over several other deserving candidates. What has set Ray apart from the rest of the field is her ability to make a critical hit or dig when the game is on the line, which has been a key ingredient to her team's success.

In addition to playing with her 18U Dinos club team, Raynell played up a division to help the Dinos 20U team capture a silver medal at the 2005 20U Canadian Open National Championships in Winnipeg.

Ray is a natural leader who demands the best from herself, which encourages her teammates to strive for the same success. She is very coachable and approaches every practice with the purpose of excelling at the selected skill. She has a maturity level beyond her years, which leads her to be dependable and extremely reliable as a player, and individual off the court. Raynell has a great future ahead, and will soon play a key role when she begins her post-secondary career for the University of Calgary Dinos.

Tachikara Achievement Awards

18U Male Athlete

Thomas Jarmoc

Canuck YQM

Thomas has played for the Canuck Volleyball Club for the past 5 years, where he's been trained by some of Alberta's best coaches. During his time at Canuck, Thomas was trained by former National Team members Don Saxton and Richard McDonald. Under Don's tutelage, Thomas learned good habits and fundamental skills as a first year Bantam player. This foundation was integral for his future development as an elite athlete.

The turning point in building his skills and confidence came when Thomas was chosen as the only Grade 11 player on the 2004 Canuck Tug Provincial Championship team. He was forced to work extremely hard, as the youngest player, to earn a spot on the line-up. This was a huge year for his growth physically and mentally. He learned to be competitive in many different situations, while learning from a good group of leaders.

2005 has been an exceptional year for Thomas, with his team winning the Provincial and National Championships. Thomas was named an All-Star at Provincials, and the Most Valuable Player at Nationals. His skill and athletic ability has been identified by Team Canada's Youth National Team, and is a member of the Alberta Canada Games team. He has developed into a total package of excellence and consistency, which has attracted the interest of several post-secondary institutions.

Thomas has committed to play for the National Champion University of Alberta Golden Bears for the upcoming season. His skill, leadership and intelligent play will soon make him an impact player at the University level. Thomas has proven that he can take his game to the next level, and his past experience is sure to help him improve both as a player and individual. We look forward to seeing what else Thomas will accomplish in the years to come.

Tachikara Achievement Awards

18U Female Coach

Rob Lindberg

Dino's Volleyball Club

Rob brings an exceptional level of enthusiasm, knowledge and experience to the 18U Dino's women's volleyball team. Rob was a member of the coaching staff for Canada's FISU games teams in 1997 and 2003. He has been an Assistant Coach with the University of Calgary Women's and Men's programs for the past 14 years in charge of daily practices, player evaluation, video analysis, and recruitment. During this time his teams won 2 CIS bronze medals (2001, 2005) and a CIS Championship in 1993.

This season Rob was able to bring the same success to the 18U women's squad, leading them to gold medal finishes at the Premier #1 and #3 tournaments, the Alberta Open, and the Provincial Championships. His squad also performed admirably at the National Championships, losing a close marathon match in the quarter-finals against the Bison 25-22, 23-25, & 17-19. What he can be most proud of is the overall development of his athletes, with most of his senior players already committing to play at the college or university level next year.

Mr. Lindberg brings a positive attitude to the gym every day that his team feeds off of to motivate each other. Along with motivating his athletes he is also open to try new ideas that will benefit his athletes. Rob's ability to relate to his players created a powerful team bond which was a major reason for their success all year long. We look forward to seeing Rob continue to develop elite athletes with Alberta's 16U Women's Provincial Team later this summer.

Tachikara Achievement Awards

**18U Male Coach
Ryan Marsden
Canuck YQM**

Ryan is in his second year of coaching with the Canuck Stuff Volleyball Club and has made a remarkable impact with their 2005 18U men's team, Canuck YQM. Throughout the AVA Premier Series, YQM performed proficiently taking the gold medal at the Alberta Open, Premier #3 and Provincial Championships. What Ryan is most pleased with is the way his team performed at the National Championships in Moncton.

YQM would face some stiff competition in New Brunswick, which started in the round robin. They picked up momentum on day 2 breezing through teams with little resistance; the playoffs would prove to be much more challenging. YQM would have to battle through two grueling quarter and semi-final encounters, before reaching the finals against the Grande Prairie Wolves. However the Wolves didn't have the energy to beat their nemesis from Calgary and went down in straight sets, with YQM bringing home the gold medal and National supremacy.

Ryan's experience working with college and provincial teams, gave him the necessary tools and experience to follow his game plan right through to the gold medal match at Nationals. His practices were tough, yet fun, and he was always honest with his players from the first try-out. Instead of turning players away with his candid approach, he just gained more respect. Players and parents admire Ryan for always doing what's best for the team, but also for each individual as well. Even when battling a life threatening illness this spring he was still trying to figure out how to help the team succeed in their goals, an unbelievably selfless act which demonstrated his perseverance and commitment to his team.

Ryan is a true leader and follows a life path of integrity which he pursues in coaching. One notable act this season was when Ryan did not want to win a game on a mistaken backline call by a volunteer linesperson in the third set of a match. He purposely put his team out of rotation and informed the referee, costing his team a point to put the game at 16-16. He is a role model for his team, club, family, and all other players/coaches within Alberta Volleyball. He is an excellent example of a coach, father and leader in our community.

Tachikara Achievement Awards

Volunteer of the Year
Matt Stayner
Dino Women's Volleyball Club

Matt Stayner has been a major contributor to the sport of volleyball in Alberta. As the founder of "Tigers" Volleyball Club, Matt converted a warehouse bay at his own expense and built a single court facility for the club. This season, Matt initiated the alignment of his club with the Dino's, in order to work towards the primary goal of identifying and developing elite athletes for the University of Calgary and other post-secondary institutions in Alberta and abroad.

Matt is not only concerned with his own club's success, but has also made major commitments to the volleyball community as a whole. He has provided and installed the new floors in the Volleydome, sponsored the Rally Pointe's fundraising efforts with the donation of silent auction items and prizes, and financially supported the Canadian Junior National Men's team program training in BC and Alberta.

Ever since the inception of the Canadian Open, Matt has been a dedicated volunteer coordinator, sponsor and tournament organizer to ensure the event runs smoothly. Matt has been a fixture at the "Open" even buying donuts and muffins for the volunteers and officials to get everyone started each morning! Matt has generously donated an hour each week to drive and help facilitate the travel needs of Stephan Weist, one of the club's most promising young players. This commitment has allowed Stephanie the opportunity to play at a higher level and to attend both the Juvenile and Midget National Championships as a member of the Dino's Club.

Matt provides scholarship opportunities for athletes moving on to the University and College levels, and has sponsored numerous athletes in their endeavors to play for the Canadian National Team. The Dino Women's Volleyball Club and the volleyball community in Alberta are fortunate to have this exceptional individual take such a keen interest in our sport.

Tachikara Achievement Awards

Official of the Year

Sherri Weed

Alberta Volleyball Officials Association

Sherri has been a referee in Calgary for the past 8 years and has quickly achieved the status of a Level 3 official due to her ability, commitment and attention to detail. For the past six years Sherri has been the High School Tournament assignor in the Calgary area, which takes an incredible amount of time and dedication.

She is very conscientious and successful at the job of assigning and always manages to cover the well attended tournaments with certified officials. She is a teacher by profession and not only has the time to teach her classes, but is also one of the first people to step up and run a Level 1 or 2 official's clinic without hesitation. She always spends extra time with young officials to make them better instilling a higher level of confidence in them.

On top of her assigning duties, she managed to officiate over 175 matches this past high school year, which demonstrates an unprecedented amount of dedication to the sport. Her positive attitude and professionalism has garnered the respect of her fellow officials, players and coaches throughout the volleyball ranks. Sherri has had a tremendous impact on the future of the Alberta Volleyball Officials Association by developing many young officials in the Calgary and surrounding area.

She interacts extremely well with coaches and athletes, always willing to help educate young participants with the rules and protocols of our sport. Sherri continues to be one of the most involved officials in Alberta and her dedicated work ethic is greatly appreciated by the volleyball community and a major reason why she is being recognized as Official of the Year.