

Tachikara Achievement Awards

16U Female Athlete of the Year

Camille Saxton

Canuck Spice

Camille was first introduced to volleyball when she was still in her mother's womb and from day one has loved the sport. She learned a lot from her older siblings and from tagging along to watch and shag when her mom coached the likes of Amanda Moppett and Joanna Niemzewska both future CIS stars for the U of C. Camille could play a pretty good game of pepper by the time she was 8 or 9 and could hardly wait to start playing on an organized team.

At age ten she was finally old enough to join the Canuck Stuff Club. In her second year of club volleyball, her team captured the 13U Provincial Championship and she earned her first All-Star award. She followed that up the next year with a 14U Provincial title and another All-Star award with her team Canuck Wut? During the 2005 club season she played for two teams, 14U Canuck Kabam and 15U Canuck Nemesis. Camille and Nemesis had a solid year; however Kabam was a dominating team winning Provincials and the National title. Camille received another all-star at Provincials and the MVP award at Nationals.

Camille (with her partner Madison McDonald) also began to excel on the beach last summer as 14 year olds competing in the 16U division. They finished 1st at the AVA Beach Provincials, 2nd in Western Canadians Beach Elites and 3rd at Nationals, despite being two years younger than most of their opposition.

This indoor club season Camille led her Canuck Spice team to a 2nd place finish at Provincials and 10th at Nationals in the 16U category, even though she and the majority of her teammates are 15 year olds. Volleyball is still the ultimate activity for Camille and it brings out the best in her. One of her most admirable attributes is she loves when her teammates are performing to the best of their abilities. She has a wonderful knack for shrugging off mistakes and helping her team to move on to the next play if someone has made an error. Camille's latest honor is that she has been selected to one of the 16U Provincial teams and is very much looking forward to the experience. We know she will make the most of it and expect she will put a few smiles on the faces of her teammates as well.

Tachikara Achievement Awards

16U Male Athlete of the Year

Jarroff Offereins

Elite West “Bam”

Jarroff Offereins was named team captain of the Elite West “Bam” 16U men’s team for numerous reasons. A leader both on and off the court, Jarroff brings a high level of competitiveness, skill and determination to his team. His performance on the floor demonstrates a willingness to do whatever it takes to excel, which is exemplified by his All-Star selections at the 2006 Provincial and Canadian West Open Championships.

Jarroff was a dominant player in both the AVA club season and at the Canadian Open; he has the ability to rally his teammates behind him and change the momentum of a match. This year he led “Bam” to a gold medal at all the Premier Tournaments they attended, including the Provincial Championships. What he can be most proud of this season was leading Elite West to the finals of the San Juan International Invitational & the 16U Canadian West Open in Calgary. “Bam” left San Juan with a gold medal and Calgary with silver, but most importantly with a tremendous experience. Jarroff gained confidence participating in those events which will provide him with the necessary tools to excel with the 16U Provincial Team this summer.

More important than Jarroff’s talent is his leadership and uplifting attitude; he can change a person’s demeanor with a simple look or quick word. 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. As prominent of a player as Jarroff was this past season, perhaps his biggest asset is the fact that his overall game is still improving, allowing for a bright future in the sport.

Tachikara Achievement Awards

18U Male Athlete of the Year

Tanner Nault

Park U18

Tanner is a very gifted setter for the Park U18 club team. He is a natural leader because of his competitive spirit and ability to raise the level of his game and the players around him. Tactically he is very strong and in every important match this year played exceptionally well. The consummate “team guy”, he keeps his teammates focused and primed for practices and games; but more importantly is able to make them better players on the court.

2006 has been an exceptional year for Tanner, with his team winning the Provincial and National Championships. Tanner was named an All-Star at Provincials, and the Most Valuable Player at Nationals. His skill and athletic ability has been identified by the Provincial Team coaches and this will be the second year he’s been chosen as a member of Team Alberta. Tanner’s high school team made it all the way to the 4A Provincial Championship and was named an all-star at a number of prominent high school tournaments. He has developed into a total package of excellence and consistency, which has attracted the interest of several post-secondary institutions.

Tanner has not yet committed to a college or university team for the upcoming season. However his skill, leadership and intelligent play will make him an impact player wherever he plans to attend. Tanner 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. Several coaches have commented he is one of the best setters in his age-class in Canada. We now look forward to seeing what else Tanner will accomplish in the years to come.

Tachikara Achievement Awards

18U Female Athlete of the Year

Tiffany Proudfoot

Dinos 18

”Tiff” has shown exceptional talent and ability throughout her young career and has been recognized both provincially and nationally. She’s been named to multiple Provincial Teams and was also selected to the 2005 Junior Women’s National Team that placed third in the USA Volleyball High Performance National Championships.

Tiffany played for Central Memorial this past High School season and led her team throughout the season. She continued her success with her club team, Dinos 18, all the way to a 2006 Provincial Championship; the Dino’s also placed fifth at the National Championship in Abbotsford, B.C. She was also the recipient of the prestigious 2006 University of Alberta Wall of Fame Scholarship. Her athletic ability and commitment to volleyball has been demonstrated by the success she’s been able to achieve.

She led her 18U team to gold medal finishes at the every single AVA Premier Tournament, and has been recruited by all of the top universities in Canada. She was named a Tournament All-Star at the Provincial Championships over several other deserving candidates. What has set Tiff apart from the rest of the field is her ability to make critical plays during big matches, which has been a key ingredient to the Dino’s success.

Tiffany has a great attitude and a solid work ethic, and encourages her teammates to strive for the same success. She’s always willing to lend a helping hand whether it’s giving them rides to and from practice or billeting out her teammates. She is a very mature player and can be relied upon to take key responsibilities both on off the court. Tiffany has a great potential in the future, and will soon play a key role when she begins her post-secondary career for the University of Alberta Pandas.

Tachikara Achievement Awards

16U Female Coach

Alex Melnyk

Vegreville Invasion

Alex Melnyk began coaching volleyball in 1990 at the high school and club level. In 1998 he started a club in Vegreville and has coached a team each year since its inception. He instills an enormous amount of determination in his teams as they play against much larger clubs and cities, but are always very competitive. His passion and dedication has driven many athletes to pursue and achieve their goals of playing at higher levels.

Alex's 16U Vegreville Invasion girls had a very successful 2006 season placing top ten in three Alberta Volleyball tournaments and fourth out of forty-five teams in the Provincial Championships. A teacher by trade, Alex has also successfully coached several high school teams. Over the years his teams have won six Alberta Schools Athletic Association Provincial Championships because Alex pushes his athletes to be mentally and physically prepared for competition.

Mr. Melnyk sets high standards for his teams to follow, exemplifying the important principles of leadership and fair-play. His most notable trait is the ability to get the most out of his athletes which is exemplified by his success at all levels. In 1998, his boy's team won an Alberta Summer Games gold medal. A few years later he was named coach of the girl's Provincial team that won the Western Canadian 16U Elite Championships. The following season he moved up to coach Team Alberta's 18U girls and went on to win the bronze medal at the National Championships.

There are very few people who spend as much time as Alex does working with his athletes to be better players. He has always been able to maintain a great relationship with players and parents. His athlete-centered focus has contributed to their growth as people in addition to developing their skills. Alex is a respected member of the volleyball community and continues to produce some of the best athletes in the Province. We are excited to see what he has in store for the 2007 club season.

Tachikara Achievement Awards

16U Male Team Coach of the Year

Dale Gullekson

Griffins

Dale started a boy's volleyball club in Sherwood Park, in the late eighties, as an extension of the Bev Facey High School volleyball program. The teams experienced immediate success with a 16U Canadian West Open Championship and a 4A Provincial gold medal. After a decade long hiatus from the sport, he returned to coach at Ardrossan Jr./Sr. High School and the Park volleyball club following his son up through the 14U and 15U club seasons.

In the 2006 season he coached the Sherwood Park Volleyball Club Griffins through the Premier Series, where they were consistently in the top flight of 16U teams. With a combination of "old school" technical and progressive mental techniques, he recently led the 28th seeded Griffins to a Division One bronze medal at the 16U Canadian West Open Championships in Calgary. He works full-time for Elk Island Public Schools in the Resource Development department and his willingness to volunteer his coaching services demonstrates a high level of commitment to the sport and excellent time management skills.

Dale dedicates himself to the betterment of volleyball in the local Sherwood Park area and outlying regions. He instills principals of fair play and sportsmanship in all his athletes. He has the 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. His teams have a lot of respect for him and are willing to do whatever it takes to be successful. Dale is well organized and always has a plan for the development of the athletes and team. He constantly encourages his players to seek out the best in themselves and each other.

Tachikara Achievement Awards

18U Female Team Coach of the Year

Chris Wandler

Queens Volleyball Club

Chris is one of the hardest working coaches in Central Alberta and possibly the whole Province. In a typical year, Chris will coach a high school men's team, a women's club team, help out with the College team 4-6 nights a week, and finally during his summer vacation coach a Provincial team! This doesn't include the extra volleyball stuff that he does: video sessions, physical training programs, individual work, and watching volleyball games at every level.

Chris brings an exceptional level of enthusiasm, knowledge and experience to the 18U Queens Extreme volleyball team. This season those talents helped bring an incredible amount of success to the 18U women's squad, leading them to silver medal finishes at the Alberta Open, Premier #2 and #3 tournaments and a bronze medal at the Provincial Championships. His squad also performed admirably at the National Championships, losing a close marathon match in the Tier 3 finals against the Coquitlam Ducks. What he can be most proud of is the overall development of his athletes, with three of his players making a Provincial Team and another four committing to play at the college or university level next year.

Chris works as a full-time school teacher and still finds the energy to bring a positive attitude to the gym every day. Along with motivating his athletes he is also open to try new ideas that will benefit his players. Chris's athletes and fellow coaches will tell you that he's not only a great coach but that he's an amazing guy as well. He has the ability to make the game fun, where you enjoy the competition and know you will be a better person at the end of the day. Thanks again for all you have done for volleyball in Alberta, and congratulations on this outstanding acknowledgement of your coaching success.

Tachikara Achievement Awards

18U Male Team Coach of the Year

Gord Boccock

Park U18

This is Gord's second year coaching the Park Volleyball Club and he has had an extraordinary impact on the 18U men's team. Throughout the club season Park performed very well taking gold, silver and bronze medals at three Premier Tournaments. However, Gord is most impressed with the way his team performed at the Provincial and National Championships; going undefeated in both events and winning the second straight National Championship for an Alberta 18U Men's team.

Gord's previous coaching stints with university and national teams gave him credibility in the beginning; however he earned his players respect as they had a chance to learn from his extensive knowledge and experience. His training sessions are tough and Gord demands a lot from his players. Instead of discouraging athletes with his candid approach, he just gained more respect. In 2005, the team consisted of seventeen year olds; at which time Gord laid down the foundation for his team to achieve success and reach goals. That team finished fourth at the Provincial and National Championships, very impressive results for a young team.

One of Gord's strengths is his ability to develop individual athletes. His attention to detail with skills, mental training, leadership, and sportsmanship prepares athletes to go to the next level. Players and parents admire Gord for not only doing what's best for the team, but also for each individual. They recognize volleyball may not be a part of all these athletes' lives forever but the lessons of honesty, loyalty, hard work, and how to help others are principles that will be with them for a lifetime.

Gord also spends a lot of time with the development of coaches in Alberta as a Learning Facilitator; he instructs level 1 & 2 coaching clinics in addition to mentoring level 3 candidates. Gord has also been a presenter at the Alberta Volleyball Coaches Symposium, sharing his vast technical knowledge to help improve coaches' strategies and techniques. We can only hope that Gord carries on coaching at the club level to continue molding Alberta's young athletes into great competitors and individuals.

Tachikara Achievement Awards

Official of the Year

Tammy McNally

Alberta Volleyball Officials Association

Tammy has been a referee in the Grande Prairie area for the past 16 years and in that time achieved her Regional Official's badge. This year Tammy has taken on the role of assignor for the North West Zone, which takes an incredible amount of time and dedication. She willingly does this in addition to her normal officiating responsibilities.

She is very conscientious and successful at the job of assigning and always manages to cover multiple junior high, high school, club, and college matches with certified officials. She has also taken it upon herself to recruit and encourage individuals to get involved in officiating, helping to fill a void in that zone. Tammy is the first person to step forward and run a Level 1 or 2 official's clinic without hesitation. She always spends extra time with young officials assisting them with the finer details of the game, instilling a higher level of confidence in them.

On top of her assigning duties, she has managed to officiate an unprecedented number of matches this season throughout the province and beyond. She was the only official from Alberta to referee at the Arctic Winter Games in Alaska, a testament to her skill and attention to detail. She also traveled to Abbotsford to work the 17U & 18U Canadian Open Championships and this was her sixth year refereeing the 15U & 16U Canadian West Open in Calgary. This demonstrates a tremendous commitment to the sport; she does this while being a mother to two teenagers, one of whom has a physical disability. Tammy also has International experience, working as a second referee in a women's exhibition match between Canada and Japan.

Her enthusiasm and professionalism has garnered the respect of her fellow officials, players and coaches throughout the volleyball ranks. Tammy has had a significant impact on the future of the Alberta Volleyball Officials Association by recruiting and developing so many young officials. She interacts extremely well with athletes, always willing to help educate young participants with the rules and protocols of our sport. Tammy 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.

Tachikara Achievement Awards

2006 Volunteer of the Year

Terry Noble

South East Alberta Volleyball Club

Terry has selflessly dedicated endless hours of time to the South East Alberta Volleyball Club (SEAVC) over the course of the club's history. He has served in numerous roles, always encouraging athletes and promoting volleyball to anyone willing to listen. Terry has served as a liaison and central contact for the club and community of Medicine Hat for several years. He has routinely promoted the sport encouraging more athletes to play and former players to start coaching.

He has been involved as a coach for at least 2 SEAVC teams each season over the past 10 years. In addition to his coaching duties at the club level, Terry has volunteered as a manager and assistant coach for numerous junior/senior high school and college teams. During the school season, Terry is routinely running from one gym to another helping out with practices and taping wrists, ankles and fingers, tending to every athlete's injury. He has also volunteered his time to help out with a number of Alberta Volleyball Provincial Identification Camps and offered his services as a manager with Team Alberta squads for three different summers. While Terry may not remember all the athletes and coaches' names he worked with, they certainly will remember him and the support he provided throughout their time together.

When SEAVC has hosted international events, Terry was always the guy who helped make it all happen. Not only did he take care of facilities and equipment, he helped announce these events and threw prizes to the crowd, promoting a festive atmosphere. He has also volunteered his time to assist at the Canadian West Open Championships in Calgary, and has driven all the way to Edmonton to help with Alberta Volleyball's casino. Terry continues to extend himself for the betterment of volleyball and all the participants involved. He actively promotes the sport without fanfare or financial compensation; he just does it for the benefit of young athletes and for the love of the game.