



2017



Mikasa Achievement Awards  
& Hall of Fame Banquet

Saturday, June 24, 2017



## Mikasa Achievement Awards & Hall of Fame Banquet

Westin Hotel, Edmonton

Saturday, June 24, 2017

Reception: 6:30 p.m.

Dinner: 7:00 p.m.

Awards: 8:00 p.m.

## 2017 Award Recipients

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### Mikasa Achievement Awards

#### 2016 Beach Season

Female Beach Athlete .....Journey Flewell

Male Beach Athlete.....Jesse Elser

#### 2017 Indoor Season

Volunteer.....Nicole Mathews

Referee.....Jenna Nichol

#### Coaches

Development Coach.....Andre Turgeon

Development Coach .....Tayler Marra

Performance Coach.....Jon Goldie

Performance Coach.....Nathan Kern

#### Athletes

16U Female.....Parker Austin

16U Male.....Carter Hills

18U Female.....Madison Marshall

18U Male.....Mitchell Newman

#### **Hall of Fame Awards**

Athlete.....Suzette Cooke

Builder .....Wes King-Hunter

## Mikasa Achievement Awards

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### Female Beach Athlete

#### Journey Flewell



Journey Flewell had an exceptional summer on the beach in 2016. As a 16U athlete she not only excelled in her own age class but also had several great results playing up in the 18U age class. Her beach season started off on a winning note as she captured gold at the Volleyball Alberta Senior High School Provincials in Edmonton. In the first VA youth tournament Journey won her 16U age class, but was also able to finish with a silver medal in the 18U division. Journey participated in the indoor provincial team program, which kept her off the beach for the second youth tournament of the summer, but she didn't miss a beat as she returned to the sand winning gold in the 16U and 18U age divisions at the third VA beach tournament. The winning continued in August as Journey and partner Edyn Aasman captured the 16U provincial title. From there they headed out to Toronto and participated at the 2016 Youth Beach National Championships. Journey had a very strong showing against some of the best teams in Canada, and ended the summer with a 5<sup>th</sup> place finish in Tier 1. Congratulations, Journey Flewell, on being named Volleyball Alberta's first Female beach athlete of the year.

## Mikasa Achievement Awards

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### Male Beach Athlete

#### Jesse Elser



Jesse was a relative newcomer to beach volleyball this summer, but that didn't stop him from having a very successful beach season. He was selected to the 18U Team Alberta Beach Provincial team program in June and from there he went on to win the first Volleyball Alberta beach tournament with partner Max Elgert. Jesse, also a very talented indoor player was a member of the Volleyball Canada Youth National

Development Program which took him off the sand for most of the month of July. After his summer indoor program finished he came back to the beach with the provincial team training program, and was able to finish with a silver medal at 18U provincials. At Youth Beach Nationals in Toronto, Jesse had an exceptional tournament. After dropping a match on the first day of competition Jesse and Max went on to win their remaining matches claiming the gold medal. As the team's full time blocker Jesse was a presence at the net all tournament. Provincial Team coach Zach Brown was very impressed with the improvement Jesse showed throughout the summer, "From day one Jesse was one of the hardest workers I have ever seen. He was unfamiliar with the beach game but through his hard work he had an incredibly steep learning curve throughout the summer. I'm proud of how quickly Jesse picked up the game of beach volleyball and was able to translate what he learned into great results on the court". Congratulations, Jesse Elser, on being named Volleyball Alberta's first Male beach athlete of the year.

## Mikasa Achievement Awards

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### Volunteer

#### Nicole Mathews



In 2013, the Ravens Volleyball Club was on the verge of closing its doors, potentially leaving several athletes in the Spruce Grove area without a place to play and develop. In the face of adversity, Nicole Mathews stepped up and took on the role of President, Vice

President, and Treasurer of the board, undoubtedly a daunting task. With a tireless effort, and countless hours, 3 years later the club is proud to be home to over 90 athletes, 7 certified coaches, and an Outdoor Beach League. The Ravens Volleyball Club now has a bright future.

Nicole is fiercely dedicated to the club's mission. Her commitment is contagious and has inspired many athletes and members of the community to work together to continue to build the love of volleyball and the development of young athletes in the Spruce Grove area.

Nicole serves as a mentor for the Ravens program. She works hard to ensure everyone involved in the program is clear on expectations and is a source of constant support. Nicole is dedicated to every aspect of the program, regularly checking in with coaches at practice, providing mentorship for athletes, as well as handling countless administrative responsibilities within the club. Despite not having children in the program for several

years, Nicole dedicates her time to the development of the club out of her love of the sport and desire to create a supportive environment for the communities' young athletes. To say she is selfless is simply an understatement.

Volleyball Alberta owes a great deal to all individuals who work to grow our sport and provide opportunities for athletes all across our province. Volleyball is an avenue in which we can encourage our young people to grow and learn invaluable skills that will help them succeed in life, this wouldn't be possible without the dedication of selfless volunteers like Nicole. Thank you for all that you do. We are honored to call you our 2017 Volunteer of the Year.

## Mikasa Achievement Awards

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### Referee

#### Jenna Nichol



Jenna began refereeing at the age of 15 years old in Nanaimo, British Columbia where she also played at the high school and club levels. She continued refereeing until she moved

to Windsor, Ontario to pursue her post-secondary education in Human Kinetics at the University of Windsor. She took time away from volleyball to play varsity fast pitch and led her team as Captain for her final two years. Upon graduating, Jenna moved back to Vancouver Island and lived in Victoria where she attended Camosun College for Athletic Therapy and began refereeing again. Jenna moved to Calgary in the Spring of 2011 to complete her Advanced Certificate in Athletic Therapy and while studying, completed her Level 3 in officiating. She has had the opportunity to work multiple International matches as part of the referee corps including World League matches featuring Team Canada. Jenna is also a Certified Athletic Therapist in Calgary practicing out of Alpine Sport Therapy Centre as well as providing field coverage for multiple teams throughout the city.

Within the Calgary zone Jenna is one of the most active referees; she regularly works matches at all levels providing support to other younger officials. She is also one of the individuals responsible for referee development. Jenna mentors new referees at multiple levels and is a solid role model for all

developing volleyball officials not only in Calgary but throughout Alberta and across the country. Most recently, Jenna attained her Level 4 National certification with the hopes of pursuing an International level in the future. Her commitment to professionalism, excellence in performance and the sport of volleyball are reasons why she is being recognized as our Volleyball Alberta Official of the year for 2017.

## Mikasa Achievement Awards

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### Development Coach of the Year

#### Andre Turgeon



Andre Turgeon's coaching resume is vast, having coached teams at every possible level throughout his tenure – he began his coaching career in 1982 with a Junior Boys team at Quebec Seminary and eventually made his way up to the CCAA. Andre's commitment to the sport of volleyball is truly admirable. He played a crucial role in the growth and rise of volleyball in northern Alberta. He has had a hand in the development of some of our province's, and our nation's, top individual athletes for over a decade. He has acted as a mentor to fellow coaches and a role model to many athletes. He is revered in his community and admired for the countless hours dedicated to the development of youth and his passion for volleyball. The founder of SPVC (South Peace Volleyball Club) in 2011, Andre, saw a need to provide more athletes the opportunity to play club. His program has grown from two teams to four, while also introducing a mini program for those as young as 10 years old. His passion is volleyball but his vision is to simply encourage kids to stay active and have fun. He is a master coach and volunteers hundred of hours to his players and his program. Andre takes great pride and satisfaction in seeing dedicated players improve and go on to play at a higher level. To him, that makes it all worthwhile.

Recognized by his peers as an ambassador of the sport he is described as "mentor, colleague, and a friend" by Brandon University Head Coach, Lee Carter. "He loves to talk coaching and I still seek him out at any opportunity to pick his brain". He is a master at game play analytics and uses these skills to motivate, teach, and inspire those around him. He shows great patience and kindness to those in his program and he creates a space for each individual to develop in a positive way. "Andre is a rare individual who has really made a difference to the lives of volleyball athletes in Alberta", says fellow coach, Owen Loos. Andre goes above and beyond to serve his community and the sport that he loves. He has given so much to the sport of volleyball and has remained admirably humble throughout the years.

We are thankful to have such an incredible leader and role model as a member of our community. Congratulations to Andre on receiving the 2017 Development Coach of the Year award.

## Mikasa Achievement Awards

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### Development Coach of the Year

#### Taylor Marra



Taylor Marra is an exceptional role model for her young athletes on her Canuck Pulse 14U team. She works hard to create an environment of development and fun for her young athletes. She recognizes the importance of inclusion and team building and works tirelessly to assure that each individual feels acknowledged and appreciated. She is willing to do anything

for her team, including losing her voice cheering her team on during the National Championship tournament. "Taylor is consistent, patient, compassionate, tough, fair, hardworking, honest, and thoroughly ethical in all aspects of conduct", says parent, Helen Leung. "Not only has she taught the girls the fundamentals of the game but she has also taught them to be self-disciplined and self-managing".

Taylor is committed to promoting excellence on and off the court and serves as an incredible role model for the young women on her team. She encourages them to be hardworking and disciplined and is truly empowering them through sport. She is approachable and open to answering any and all questions from both parents and players. She works hard to create an inclusive environment for all those involved in the program and created a very positive experience for both players

and parents. Taylor embodies everything you could hope for in a coach. She is attentive, respectful, and always shows care and support for the members of her program. "Taylor was a very enthusiastic and encouraging coach", says Canuck 14U player, Kiera Bradley. "I like how she treated the team like a mom would". It is obvious that Taylor is loved and respected by all members of her program, parents and players alike, and her hard work did not go unrecognized.

Everything she does is a display of her commitment to her athletes and her desire to see them succeed. She is fun, focused, and professional in her role as a coach. She always challenges her team and encourages them to grow in a safe environment. Her energy helped to create an incredible introduction to volleyball for many of the athletes on her team. Taylor is an exemplary role model and coach and Volleyball Alberta is privileged to have her in our community. Congratulations on your nomination and selection to receive one of Volleyball Alberta's 2017 Development Coach of the year awards!



## Mikasa Achievement Awards

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### Performance Coach of the Year

#### Jon Goldie



Jon Goldie has been a respected member of the Volleyball Alberta community for several years, coaching with Team Alberta and Mount Royal University. The 2017 season saw new challenges for Jon as he took on his first ever youth women's team.

Jon entered the season with curiosity and a willingness to learn, and it became evident early on that he would undoubtedly create something special with this group of young women.

Jon created an environment where the athletes could learn, make mistakes and grow as players. He had high expectations and wanted the players to work hard but he was also encouraging and allowed their self-confidence to grow. They knew that when they stepped out on the court Jon was behind them and it gave them confidence to trust and try what he was teaching them. He patiently reinforced the fundamentals with the players, giving them the tools to accomplish their personal goals as well as the team goals. Jon's commitment to process and positivity led the Cougars 16U program to a very successful year. The team consistently fought to be in the top 8 in the Volleyball Alberta Premier tournaments finishing 5<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>; eventually earning themselves a Provincial Championship silver medal. The Cougars 16U team followed up their 2<sup>nd</sup> place finish with an incredible showing at the 16U West Volleyball Canada

Nationals, losing a nail-biting Division I semi final 20-18. The girls would then go on to finish 4<sup>th</sup> overall making them the highest ranked Alberta team in the tournament and giving the Cougars Volleyball Club their best-ever finish!

Jon had an overwhelming amount of support from his player, parents, and program directors at the Cougars Volleyball Club, making it nearly impossible to narrow it down to one quote. It is clear that his hard work is both acknowledged and greatly appreciated. Current Cougars 16U athlete Halla Kharfan says, "Jon was an amazing coach. His approachability and confidence in each individual player really helped us work and come together as a team early on in the season. His passion for the game really shone through in his coaching as he constantly encouraged us and supported us through our journey to improve. Jon constantly goes out of his way to create a worry free and welcoming environment and this was not only shown in practices but during tournaments as well. He put the team first numerous times and sacrificed his personal time to be with our team and to share his passion for the game. He has helped develop friendships and memories through an amazing successful club season".

Jon did an incredible job of creating an environment of growth and vulnerability that allowed the team to feel confident in their development and most importantly, to love the game of volleyball. Jon is a tremendous role model and we are thankful for his dedication and willingness to share his passion for the game. Congratulations on a well deserved Performance Coach of the Year award!

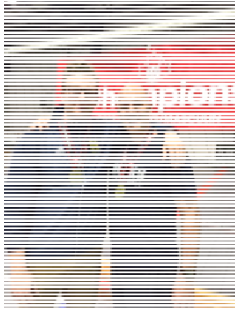


## Mikasa Achievement Awards

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### Performance Coach of the Year

#### Nathan Kern



It is clear that Nathan Kern is an exceptional volleyball coach. He holds his teams to a high standard and creates an environment of high performance and commitment to the process; his results simply speak for themselves. Nathan has earned many championships with his teams over the years and has earned the respect of many of his peers. "Nathan is always open to sharing ideas, philosophies, and even some tactical strategies in the spirit of developing himself and his athletes," says Canuck Dinos Coach, Ian Halliday. "It was very clear to us that advanced game concepts were being introduced and the athletes were challenged to try new things and push themselves to play a higher level of game". His 17U NOOKS team competed consistently throughout the season in the very competitive 17/18U Volleyball Alberta division. If you had the opportunity to watch Nathan's team play it was very evident they are rooted in fundamentals and committed to the process. This commitment to development earned them 2 bronze and 1 silver medal finish in the Volleyball Alberta Premier tournaments, as well as a 17U Provincial Championship and a 17U National Championship. With each tournament they grew stronger and became more consistent in their technical execution and ability to play as a team. Nathan showed great patience and managed to maintain a calm and

constructive demeanour throughout the tournament in order to keep his athletes focused on the process and the next point, eventually resulting in a 17U National Championship title.

Outside of his many accomplishments as a head coach, Nathan has also done an exceptional job as club president of the NOOKS Volleyball Club, growing the program from 7 to 15 teams in the past 4 years. His dedication to the growth of the program has allowed nearly 100 more athletes and coaches from the Edmonton area the ability to grow their passion. He has created an excitement for the game through his commendable leadership and vision for the program. It is obvious that Nathan brings his love of the game to the court and to his program every day. His passion amongst the athletes is infectious and it truly elevates the NOOKS club and all those involved. Nathan is a true ambassador of our sport. Thank you, Nathan, for your tireless dedication to excellence in the community and the sport of volleyball. Volleyball Alberta is privileged to call you our 2017 Performance Coach of the Year.

## Mikasa Achievement Awards

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### 16U Female Athlete of the Year

#### Parker Austin



Parker Austin is one of the premier athletes of her 16U age class. She is a tremendous leader on her 16U Pandas team, helping them win three Volleyball Alberta premier gold medals. Parker is a fierce competitor and a force to be reckoned with. As a 6' 3" athlete, her physical presence is undeniable

but it is her ability as a young leader that makes her so worthy of this award. She shows determination and a commitment to excellence that is often unmatched. Her passion for the game and love for her teammates shows in everything that she does. Parker works hard to create an environment for her teammates that encourages them to achieve their best. She shows maturity beyond her years and is truly a remarkable leader.

Not only is Parker an ambassador on the court, she is also an exceptional student, earning herself Honours with Distinction from 2012-2016. She is a true leader in all aspects of her life and is always pushing herself and the people around her to be their best. In addition to her team achievements, Parker's individual accolades include several tournaments MVP's, a Metro Edmonton All Star award as well as a 2016 team MVP on her DS Mackenzie Jr. High team. Parker represented Alberta on the 16U women's Provincial team in 2016 – winning an NTCC Bronze. She will spend the summer of 2017 with the Team

Canada Youth National team; one of only 14 athletes selected from across the country.

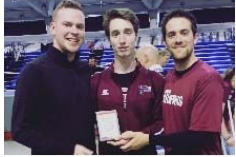
Parker continues to prove herself to be a remarkable player and noteworthy young leader, leaving her mark on both a provincial and national team level. Her ambitions as an athlete are matched with her incredible work ethic and willingness to push her boundaries on a daily basis. Parker's future is bright and we are honored to be a part of her journey. Congratulations Parker on a well deserved 16U Female Athlete of the Year award; we can't wait to see what the future has in store for you.

## Mikasa Achievement Awards

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### 16U Male Athlete of the Year

#### Carter Hills



To say that Carter Hills is a worthy recipient of the 16U Male Athlete of the Year award is an understatement. This athlete embodies everything a coach could ask for in a player. He is talented, hardworking, willing to learn and most importantly has an enthusiasm for the game that is undeniable. Anyone who has the opportunity to watch Carter play can clearly see he loves what he does. His energy is contagious and it makes everyone around him. It goes without saying that Carter is an exceptional volleyball player. He is a well-rounded athlete with the ability to perform in all aspects of the game and is a go-to player for his NAVC 16U Black team. He consistently performs under pressure and when the game is on the line, you know you can count on Carter. Outside of his physical abilities, Carter is the ultimate leader. Head Coach, Ken McLaughlin had nothing but praise for Carter and what he brings to his NAVC team. "He conducts himself - day in and day out - with a high level of professionalism that served as a beacon for our team this year. His resume of work this season is the byproduct of a young man that understands you need to go all in with what you love to do, truly the hardest working athlete I have come across in my young coaching career".

It is clear that Carter is an invaluable member of the NAVC program, and it is a privilege to have an athlete that contributes to the success of the program both on-and-off the court. Coaches often elude to athlete intangibles; it is obvious that Carter's investment in the process of his team's development elevates the people around him. His dedication undoubtedly contributed to NAVC's very successful year, resulting in a Volleyball Alberta Provincial Championship. Carter also earned himself an All Star title at both the Best of the West tournament and the 2017 Volleyball Canada 16U West Nationals. Carter's ability to perform at a consistently high level throughout the season resulted in him earning a spot on the 2017 Team Canada Youth National Team. Volleyball Alberta is proud to have a young athlete like Carter in our program and we are looking forward to his exciting career in athletics. Congratulations, Carter Hill, on being named the 2017 16U Male Athlete of the Year.

## Mikasa Achievement Awards

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### 18U Female Athlete of the Year

#### Madison Marshall



Maddy Marshall is a special type of athlete. One that boasts great athletic ability but does so with a humble demeanor that makes those around her feel valued and supported. She is a great leader who will always put her teammates before herself and has an energy that is simply magnetic. Maddy is the type of athlete any coach would be proud to have on their team. She works incredibly hard and is extremely dedicated to her development, spending many of her evenings driving 1.5 hours from Brooks to Coaldale to practice with her 18U Panthers team.

She is a player everyone on her team knows they can count on. The Panthers have athletes of various age groups on their team and Maddy has proven to be an exceptional role model for the younger players in the program. "Maddy can handle the high-volume workload she receives each game. Even though most teams key on her, she still manages to score at will", says her Team Alberta coach Carolyn O'Dwyer. Her Panther 18U club team earned two Volleyball Alberta Premier silver medals as well as a Provincial Championship bronze medal finish.

Maddy has established herself as one of the top leftsides in the country, earning a Provincial All-star, MVP of her high school team, a spot on our Team Alberta roster the past two summers,

the Youth National Development Program in 2016 and most recently a spot on the 2017 Canada Games team that will compete this upcoming summer. Maddy plays with a quiet confidence and shows a mental fortitude far beyond her years. At any point in the match you can expect Maddy to be aggressive on both offensive and defensive, whether it's the first point or game-point. Despite her obvious athletic ability, Maddy doesn't just rely on her natural gifts. She works hard to develop her skills in all areas of the game and is constantly searching for the next challenge. It is clear that she is in pursuit of becoming a top Canadian athlete. Maddy is committed to the University of Montana for the 2017/2018 season; who competes in NCAA Division I. Volleyball Alberta is incredibly proud of this remarkable athlete and couldn't ask for a better young woman to represent our province. We will be cheering you on throughout this next chapter Maddy. Congratulations on a well deserved 18U Female Athlete of the Year award.

## Mikasa Achievement Awards

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### 18U Male Athlete of the Year

#### Mitchell Newman



Mitch is a fierce competitor that constantly demands the best of himself as well as his teammates. He worked hard this season to grow into a supportive leader who helped create a culture of positive accountability amongst his team and coaching staff. Mitch is the type of player that is open and willing to

do whatever it takes to better himself and his teammates. He is undoubtedly a large contributing factor in the success of his Canuck Dinos 18U team who finished the Volleyball Alberta season with a Premier bronze medal, two Premier gold medals and a Provincial Championship.

As an athlete who has the ability to excel as both a setter and a leftside, Mitch was an incredible asset to his team. Although being in this position isn't always an easy one for an athlete, his willingness to work hard, regardless of the position he was in, proved to be a large contributor in the overall success of the team. "He fully embraced this challenge and worked hard in practices to continue to develop in both positions, constantly pushing himself to be better both technically and tactically", boasts Canuck Dinos 18U Head Coach, Ian Halliday. "As a coaching staff, we were very fortunate to have this versatility in our lineup an often use Mitch in multiple roles during practices

and games to help the team achieve both our training and competitions goals".

Mitch has gained a lot of valuable experience over the years, competing with some of the best athletes in the province and the country, representing Team Alberta Indoor, Team Alberta Beach as well as the Team Canada Youth Selects. Most recently, Mitch has been selected as one of three Western Canada 18U athletes that have been invited to train in Gatineau with the Team Canada Men's FTC training group. An incredible opportunity for a young athlete and there is no doubt we can keep our eye out for Mitch on the world stage later on in his career.

He will be representing Alberta as a member of our 2017 Canada Games team this summer and he will be joining the Mount Royal University men's volleyball programming this upcoming fall. As an elite, well-rounded athlete who is ready and willing to embrace the challenges of leadership, we are incredibly proud to call this young man our 18U Male Athlete of the year. We look forward to continuing to watch him grow and can't wait to see what the next chapter has in store.

## Hall of Fame Award

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### Athlete

#### Suzi Cooke (nee Suzette Smith)



Suzi grew up in Calgary attending Bishop Carroll High School and the University of Calgary. As a high school student she helped her team to the city championship and a provincial gold medal. Her play earned her a spot on the Alberta Provincial team, which earned silver and bronze medals during that time. Suzi's competitive attitude and dedication to improving, led her to be identified as one of the elite female athletes of

the time.

She played with the U of C Dino women for 2 years while playing for the Canadian Junior Women's National Team in the summer. Suzi was then invited to move to join the Senior National Team in Regina and competed in many international tournaments including the 1984 Olympic Games. An all round player, she, had a nickname of 'Keener', which totally described her efforts on the court. Her contributions to her team were in the training environment and on the court because of the 'keen' sense of drive and determination that she portrayed.

After 5 years with the National Team, Suzi played with the University of Winnipeg Wesmen, a team with an undefeated match record that season (55-0) culminating with the C.I.S Championship.

Suzi then transitioned to professional coaching. She served as the Alberta Summer Games Coach in 1987 and as head coach of the University of Alberta Pandas from 1986-91. She was named Canadian University Coach of the Year in 1988.

Suzi continued to play club volleyball until she embarked on medical school and residency, marriage and having two children. She returned to the game in 2005 by playing Master's Volleyball in the US Open Championships, winning gold on four occasions, silver three times, and one bronze. She also participated in the World Master's Games in 2013 in Torino, Italy where the Canada Master's Women's team won GOLD!

Suzi has made a tremendous impact as an athlete in the Alberta Volleyball arena, but believes in sharing her love of the game and her technical expertise with young athletes and has rejoined the coaching ranks. She began coaching with the Canuck Volleyball club in 2013-2014 and was named Volleyball Alberta 15U Women's Indoor Coach of the Year in 2014-2015.

Her continuum from an athlete to a coach serves as an excellent model to these young athletes. She is able to transfer the expertise she learned on the court to others who aspire to be athletic and take this first step in their young volleyball careers. Her playing and life accomplishments are evident in her leadership and she strives to instill the skills and attitudes necessary to succeed in volleyball in a manner that can be applied to any endeavor her players choose to follow.

Suzi is indeed a worthy inductee into the Volleyball Alberta Hall of Fame.



## Hall of Fame Award

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### Builder

#### Wes King Hunter



Wes King-Hunter is a very worthy recipient of the Volleyball Alberta Hall of Fame Builder award. Few individuals across Canada have contributed of themselves for the development of volleyball as Wes King-Hunter.

Wes created a philosophy of providing programs that stressed fun and skill development, while also providing a competitive experience for kids of all ages. Under the leadership of Wes King-Hunter, the South East Alberta Volleyball Club's (SEAVC) was established in 1989. Wes spent countless hours recruiting, training and mentoring coaches for SEAVC (pronounced *see-vick*). Wes drew on a vast array of individuals from all regions of the Medicine Hat community; educators, business individuals, health care professionals, farming members, former alumni, family and others were persuaded to help in establishing one of the most respected volleyball clubs in the province. Their expertise, strengths, and passion for volleyball were called upon to organized marquee volleyball events such as the ASAA 4A Provincial Championships as well as the Summer and Winter Games.

Wes is a tireless worker and organizer. It was not uncommon to see Wes coach non-stop throughout an entire calendar year. He would often be involved with 2-3 teams at the same time. He would always say, "they are such a nice group of kids, how could I say No?" His spirit of generosity, selflessness, ability to listen and instruct positively, gave each athlete a sense of purpose. Wes selflessly donated years of time running

this club, all while working as a teacher and school administrator. He has also been involved with groups and events such as the Southern Alberta Summer Games, Alberta Schools Athletic Association, Various Palliser Health initiatives, First Nations Métis Inuit Education Programs, an Interchange on Canadian Studies and the Canadian National Women's and Men's exhibition matches.

Wes King-Hunter is a relationship builder. He authentically made an effort to get to know every person he supported and coached. Mr. King-Hunter is an exceptional listener and consistently modeled how shared values and desired outcomes should guide appropriate actions and interventions.

Wes started coaching in Medicine Hat in 1988 with the grade 9 girls volleyball team and then took over the Girls senior programs in 1989-2010. In 1989 Wes and Scott Robinson started SEAVC with 1 boys team and 2 girls teams. In 2004, the club grew to 3 boys teams and 9 girls teams. By 2017, SEAVC had 11 girls teams (13U-16U), with the 17-18U girls and boys programs having already transitioned to the MHC Rattlers Academy program to manage player development, facility usage and club size. For the past number of years, SEAVC has offered FUNdamental & Developmental Program during club season for 60-80 athletes, ages 7-16. The SEAVC program was, and still is, designed to incorporate "FUN" into the development of individual and team orientated volleyball skills offering competitive team opportunities as well as individual Developmental Programs & FUNdamentals.

For over 20 years Wes has been instrumental in organizing trips to the NCAA women's coaching symposiums and Final Four competitions. It started out with 4 individuals going (Wes, Rudi Tschritter, Sharon Stuber and Tim Krassman) and grew to over 20 participants from all across the province. Wes always had his trusted friend Rudi by his side. There was no end to the pranks and laughs when Rudi and Wes were along.



Wes served as an executive member of Volleyball Alberta, is a former coach at Medicine Hat College and Medicine Hat High School, and a former coach of high performance teams at the provincial, regional, and national level. This commitment helped in increasing the capacity of the SEAVC club to continue to meet the needs of the volleyball community in Medicine Hat and surrounding areas.

Wes King-Hunter is a modest individual. He never presented himself ahead of others. His personal accomplishments as a builder, coach and teacher are however, outstanding. He is a NCCP Level 3 Coach in Volleyball. He received the HPEC Certificate of Commendation and has been a presenter. He received the CHAT Standing Ovation Award, was the Founder & Director for the South East Alberta Volleyball Club. He is a 2-Time ACAC Coach of the Year and 3-Time Marion Irwin Sportsmanship Award in Volleyball - 4A ASAA Provincials and the recipient of the American Association Coaches Award for match wins numerous times.

Wes created opportunities for kids of all ages and abilities to grow, develop, and enjoy the sport of volleyball in Alberta. The characteristics that Wes emulates encourages kids, parents, and coaches around him to be exemplary people first and then exceptional athletes in the sport of volleyball.

Wes King-Hunter is truly a very deserving recipient of the Volleyball Alberta Hall of Fame Builder Award.

# Mikasa Award Recipients

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## 2017 Mikasa Award Recipients:

Female Beach Athlete- Journey Flewell  
 Male Beach Athlete – Jesse Elser  
 16UF Athlete of the Year – Parker Austin  
 16UM Athlete of the Year – Carter Hills  
 18UF Athlete of the Year – Madison Marshall  
 18UM Athlete of the Year – Mitch Newman  
 Development Coach of the Year – Andre Turgeon  
 Development Coach of the Year – Tayler Marra  
 Performance Coach of the Year – Jon Goldie  
 Performance Coach of the Year – Nathan Kern  
 Volunteer of the Year – Nicole Mathews  
 Official of the Year – Jenna Nichol

## 2016 Mikasa Award Recipients:

16UF Athlete of the Year – Kara Crittall  
 16UM Athlete of the Year – Hunter Stewart  
 18UF Athlete of the Year – Sara McCreary  
 18UM Athlete of the Year – Max Elgert  
 Development Coach of the Year – Grachella Garcia  
 Development Coach of the Year – Michele Hunt  
 Performance Coach of the Year – Greg Elgert  
 Performance Coach of the Year – Tracy Keats  
 Volunteer of the Year – Trish Holterhus  
 Official of the Year – Pat Chizek

## 2015 Mikasa Award Recipients:

16UF Athlete of the Year - Lexi Peart  
 16UM Athlete of the Year - Jaxson Thys  
 18UF Athlete of the Year - Natasha Gordey  
 18UM Athlete of the Year - Jacob Kern  
 16UF Coach of the Year - Suzi Cooke  
 16UM Coach of the Year - Nathan Kern  
 18UF Coach of the Year - Rhonda Schmuland  
 18UM Coach of the Year - Ian Halliday  
 Volunteer of the Year - Denis Delemont  
 Official of the Year - Shawn Shepherd

## 2014 Mikasa Award Recipients:

16UF Athlete of the Year - Hilary Howe  
 16UM Athlete of the Year - Shane Verkland  
 18UF Athlete of the Year - Ciara Hanly  
 18UM Athlete of the Year - Tanner Greves  
 16UF Coach of the Year - Rod Hebert  
 16UM Coach of the Year - Greg Elgert  
 18UF Coach of the Year - Sandra Lamb  
 18UM Coach of the Year - Kerry MacDonald  
 Volunteer of the Year - MaryBeth Meeuwisse  
 Official of the Year - Everette Dionne

## 2013 Mikasa Award Recipients:

16UM Athlete of the Year – Carter McIntyre  
 16UF Athlete of the Year – Tessa Hill  
 18UM Athlete of the Year – Levi Wolthuis  
 18UF Athlete of the Year – Mariah Walsh  
 16UM Coach of the Year – Allan Coulter  
 16UF Coach of the Year – Raynell Lavertu  
 18UM Coach of the Year – Jace Barros  
 18UF Coach of the Year – Lindsay Jones  
 Official of the Year – Karl Hiebert  
 Volunteer of the Year – Janet Kawchuk

## 2012 Mikasa Award Recipients:

16UM Athlete of the Year - Derek Meeuwisse  
 16UF Athlete of the Year - Beth Vinnell  
 18UM Athlete of the Year - Brett Walsh  
 18UF Athlete of the Year - Alexa Gray  
 16UM Coach of the Year - Jace Barros  
 16UF Coach of the Year - Reid Brodie  
 18UM Coach of the Year - Mark Maris  
 18UF Coach of the Year - Jamie Bach  
 Official of the Year - Pam Rintoul  
 Volunteer of the Year - Laura Vaillant

## 2011 Mikasa Award Recipients:

16UM Athlete of the Year - Ryan Nickifor  
 16UF Athlete of the Year - Courtney Yoo  
 18UM Athlete of the Year - Blake Hinchey  
 18UF Athlete of the Year - Alissa Coulter  
 16UM Coach of the Year - Candace Greves  
 16UF Coach of the Year - Dusty Freimark  
 18UM Coach of the Year - Howard Gelderman  
 18UF Coach of the Year - Rob Ellis  
 Official of the Year - Mike Malowany  
 Volunteer of the Year - Brenda Jones

## 2010 Tachikara Award Recipients:

16UM Athlete of the Year - Brett Walsh  
 16UF Athlete of the Year - Kacey Otto  
 18UM Athlete of the Year - Zach Brown  
 18UF Athlete of the Year - Carly Hamilton  
 16UM Coach of the Year - Mark Maris  
 16UF Coach of the Year - Linda Richter  
 18UM Coach of the Year - Tyler Myroniuk  
 18UF Coach of the Year - Tracy Keats  
 Official of the Year - Ashley Fox  
 Volunteer of the Year - Sai Wong

# Mikasa Award Recipients

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## 2009 Tachikara Award Recipients:

16UM Athlete of the Year - Jackson Maris  
 16UF Athlete of the Year - Kyjsa Brkich  
 18UM Athlete of the Year - Jarron Mueller  
 18UF Athlete of the Year - Camille Saxton  
 16UM Coach of the Year - David Jones  
 16UF Coach of the Year - LeAnn Kinvig  
 18UM Coach of the Year - Jeremy Deeks  
 18UF Coach of the Year - Reid Brodie  
 Official of the Year - Arch Beck  
 Volunteer of the Year - Heather Wishlow

## 008 Tachikara Award Recipients:

16UM Athlete of the Year - Branden Schmidt  
 16UF Athlete of the Year - Jordhynn Guy  
 18UM Athlete of the Year - Jeremy Potter  
 18UF Athlete of the Year - Kaylene Ehret  
 16UM Coach of the Year - Steve Weinbeer  
 16UF Coach of the Year - Tracy Keats  
 18UM Coach of the Year - Brad Poplawski  
 18UF Coach of the Year - Don Saxton  
 Official of the Year – JP Desaulniers  
 Volunteer of the Year - Candice Sylvester  
 Volunteer of the Year - Candice Sylvester

## 2007 Tachikara Award Recipients:

16UM Athlete of the Year - Jarron Mueller  
 16UF Athlete of the Year - Dione Lang  
 18UM Athlete of the Year - Ciaran McGovern  
 18UF Athlete of the Year - Jamie Thibeault  
 16UM Coach of the Year - Howard Gelderman  
 16UF Coach of the Year - Pat Pyne  
 18UM Coach of the Year - Ian Bennett  
 18UF Coach of the Year - Gisele Kreuger  
 Official of the Year - Neal Konowalyk  
 Volunteer of the Year - Don Hutton

## 2006 Tachikara Award Recipients:

16UM Athlete of the Year - Jarrod Offereins  
 16UF Athlete of the Year - Camille Saxton  
 18UM Athlete of the Year - Tanner Nault  
 18UF Athlete of the Year - Tiffany Proudfoot  
 16UM Coach of the Year - Dale Gullekson  
 16UF Coach of the Year - Alex Melnyk  
 18UM Coach of the Year - Gord Bocock  
 18UF Coach of the Year - Chris Wandler  
 Official of the Year - Tammy McNally  
 Volunteer of the Year - Terry Noble

## 2005 Tachikara Award Recipients:

16UM Athlete of the Year - Paul Lindemulder  
 16UF Athlete of the Year - Jaryn Ruether  
 18UM Athlete of the Year - Thomas Jarmoc  
 18UF Athlete of the Year - Raynell Lavertu  
 16UM Coach of the Year - Darryl Tetz  
 16UF Team Coach of the Year - Bob Gabruck  
 18UM Coach of the Year - Ryan Marsden  
 18UF Coach of the Year - Rob Lindberg  
 Official of the Year - Sherri Weed  
 Volunteer of the Year - Matt Stayner

## 2004 Tachikara Award Recipients:

16UM Athlete of the Year - Ben Saxton  
 16UF Athlete of the Year - Jackie Gagnon  
 18UF Athlete of the Year - Lauren Perry  
 18UM Athlete of the Year - none  
 16UM Coach of the Year - Art O'Dwyer  
 16UF Coach of the Year - Grace Scott  
 18UM Coach of the Year - Tyson Waters  
 18UF Coach of the Year - Linda Merrick  
 Official of the Year - Glenn Johnston  
 Volunteer of the Year - John Findlay

## 2003 Tachikara Award Recipients:

16UM Athlete of the Year - Colin Bell  
 16UF Athlete of the Year - Kristy Anderson  
 18UM Athlete of the Year - Mark Thibeault  
 18UF Athlete of the Year - Carolyn Macdonald  
 16UM Coach of the Year - Ian Kulmatycki  
 16UF Coach of the Year - Heather McIntosh  
 18UM Coach of the Year - Mike Lauzon  
 18UF Coach of the Year - Craig Gattinger  
 Official of the Year - Scott McLean  
 Volunteer of the Year - Kathy Van Humbeck

## Hall of Fame Inductees

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### 2017

Athlete Suzette Cooke  
Builder Wes King-Hunter

### 2016

Athlete Tracy Mills

### 2015

Athlete Bonnie MacRae-Kilb  
Athlete Murray Grapentine

### 2014

Athlete John Paulsen  
Team FOG Masters Women  
Coach Greg Ryan

### 2013

Builder Jan Patterson

### 2012

Athlete Christy Hansen  
Builder Bob Gabruck  
Coach Dave Johnson  
Official Harold Mori

### 2011

Athlete Jenny Cartmell  
Builder Dave & Doreen Ross

### 2010

Athlete Kevin Boyles  
Team Mount Royals College  
Cougars Men (1991-99)

### 2009

Athlete Kent Greves  
Team Red Deer Kings  
(1999-2007)  
Coach Howard Rasmussen  
Builder George Tokarsky  
Official Marilyn Bratton

### 2008

Athlete Randy Gingera  
Team FOG Senior Men  
Coach Keith Hansen  
Builder Al James

### 2007

Athlete Errol Miller  
Team Red Deer Queens  
(1982-1989)  
Coach Calvin Aubin  
Builder Myrna Empey  
Official Lynda Ward

### 2006

Athlete Kathy Tough  
Team Canuck Stuff Senior Men  
(1991-98)  
Coach Lance Adamson  
Builder John Pierre Baudin  
Official Basil Barnes

### 2005

Athlete Terry Danyluk  
Team NAVC Gold 18U Men  
(1995-2001)  
Coach Cor Ouwerkerk  
Builder Bob Bratton  
Official Larry Lerbekmo

### 2004

Athlete Barb Broen  
Athlete Al Taylor  
Team University of Alberta  
Pandas (1994-2000)  
Team Older but Wiser  
Coach Lorne Sawula  
Coach Brian Watson  
Builder Hugh Hoyles  
Builder Theresa Maxwell  
Official Bill Ward

  
MIKASA  
SPORTS  
CANADA

**Volleyball Alberta is proud to announce Mikasa as our sponsor for Indoor and Beach Volleyball**

