

15th
annual

2018 ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

hall of Fame

SATURDAY, JUNE 23, 2018



HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES

YEAR	ATHLETE	BUILDER	COACH	TEAM	OFFICIAL
2018	Katrina von Sass	Bruce Edwards			
2017	Suzette Cooke	Wes King-Hunter			
2016	Tracy Mills				
2015	Bonnie MacRae-Kilb Murray Grapentine				
2014	John Paulsen		Greg Ryan	FOG Masters Women	
2013		Jan Patterson			
2012	Christy Hansen	Bob Gabruck	Dave Johnson		Harold Mori
2011	Jenny Cartmell	Dave Ross Doreen Ross			
2010	Kevin Boyles	Don Saxton		MRC Cougars Men (1991-99)	Glen McKay
2009	Kent Greves	George Tokarsky	Howard Rasmussen	Red Deer Kings (1999-2007)	Marilyn Bratton
2008	Randy Gingera	Al James	Keith Hansen	FOG Senior Men	
2007	Errol Miller	Myrna Empey	Calvin Aubin	Red Deer Queens (1982-1989)	Lynda Ward
2006	Kathy Tough	John Pierre Baudin	Lance Adamson	Canuck Stuff Senior Men (1991-98)	Basil Barnes
2005	Terry Danyluk	Bob Bratton	Cor Ouwerkerk	NAVC Gold 18U Men (1995-2001)	Larry Lerbekmo
2004	Barb Broen Al Taylor	Hugh Hoyles Theresa Maxwell	Lorne Sawula Brian Watson	U of A Pandas (1994-2000) Older but Wiser	Bill Ward



ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS
& HALL OF FAME BANQUET

Saturday, June 23, 2018

Westin Hotel

Reception.....6:30 pm

Dinner.....7:00 pm

Awards Ceremony.....8:00 pm

volleyball alberta

VOLLEYBALL ALBERTA 'TEAM'

VOLLEYBALL ALBERTA STAFF

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TECHNICAL DIRECTOR
Jim Plakas

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Aaron Heinemann
Michelle Whyte
Travis Rott

2018 AWARD RECIPIENTS

MIKASA achievement awards

2017 Beach Athletes

..... Carson Brennan
..... Kenzie Vaandering

2018 Indoor Season

Volunteer Sue Mohler
Referee (Development) Seth Goodswimmer-Ferguson
Referee (Performance) Travis Rott

Development Coaches

..... Rachel McKellar
..... Rick Boyes

Performance Coaches

..... Ron Thomson
..... Scott Miller

16U Athletes

..... Scarlett Gingera
..... Bryce Neuls

18U Athletes

..... Nyadholi Thokbuom
..... Sam Elgert

HALL OF FAME AWARDS

Athlete Katrina von Sass
Builder Bruce Edwards

volleyball alberta



beach

MALE ATHLETE

Carson Brennan

Carson had an exceptional summer in 2017, medaling in every Volleyball Alberta tournament he entered. He was also selected to the Beach Provincial Team program for the first time.

Carson won gold in the first youth tournament with his provincial team partner, Callum Campbell. With Callum not being available for part of the summer Carson partnered with Lukas Humle, who was also a provincial team member but who had never played in a beach tournament. Carson showed great leadership with Lukas, and they combined to win a bronze medal in Youth #3, and then went on to win gold at Youth #4. Carson had a very impressive provincial team camp where his skills improved daily. This helped him and Callum go on to win the 16U Provincial Championship. During the training camp in Toronto with the provincial team, he was able to be very competitive with all the Ontario teams he competes. At nationals in Ottawa Carson and Callum got off to a slow start finishing with one win and two losses on the first day of pool play. In the Power Pools, they regained form and went a perfect 4-0 qualifying them for the

Tier 1 playoff bracket. A quarterfinal win got them into the top four, and they finished losing two close matches in the semi, and bronze medal matches. Throughout the summer Carson's ball control and defensive presence in the backcourt were a big reason that he and his partners were able to be so successful. He is also very competitive and demands the best from himself on every single play.

Carson's provincial team coach Russ Lawrence was pleased with Carson throughout the summer and had this to say. "Carson brought an intensity and uplifting demeanor to each session on the sand during our provincial team program. Even though Beach Volleyball is a two-person team, Carson made it his business to help everyone in the provincial team program improve whenever he could, whether it was by offering, advice, encouragement, or bringing an intensity to drills that made others push themselves. His mentorship during some early tournaments of an athlete that was new to the game had a tremendous impact on hooking that athlete and helping that athlete finish high at nationals with his partner. Carson Brennan alongside Callum Campbell won the provincial championship for 16 U and finished division 1 tier 1 fourth place at the national championships in Ottawa. Carson's hard work and dedication to the sport is contagious when others are training with him. Carson supported all Alberta athletes at the tournament when he could, and continued to bring humor and positivity throughout the trip to Toronto and Ottawa."

MIKASA ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

2018 HALL OF FAME

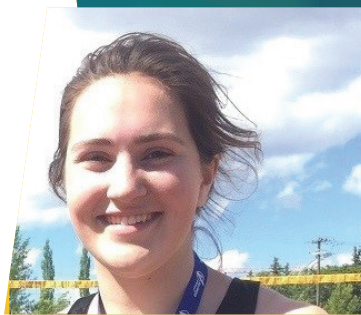
Kenzie had a great summer on the beach in 2017. She was a member of the Team Alberta Beach Provincial Team Program for the third consecutive summer. Selected to the program in early June, and with her partner, Journey Flewell, they won gold in the first two Volleyball Alberta age class tournaments.

From there she had an exceptional training camp in August leading into the Provincial Championships. Ranked first in the 18U tournament Kenzie was victorious in her first match, but unfortunately was injured in the second pool play match. She suffered a sprained ankle and unfortunately had to withdraw and forfeit the remaining games.

With the provincial team program leaving for a training camp and nationals the following weekend, it was uncertain if Kenzie would be healthy enough to make the trip and participate in nationals. She showed her commitment the next week and made her rehab a priority, and was determined to be healthy enough to fly to Toronto. She slowly got back in the sand with some training sessions leading into nationals. How competitive she was going to be was always uncertain. Both she and Journey competed in Nationals and won all three matches on the first day, even with wet and challenging conditions.

Day two in the power pool saw Kenzie/Journey go 0-3, but all three matches were close and went the distance going three sets. Playoffs saw her make it to the Tier 1 Quarter Finals, coming out on the wrong end of a match with one of Ontario's top teams. A fifth-place finish at nationals was a remarkable feat and a brilliant end to the summer for Kenzie as only a few days earlier it was unclear if she would be able to participate.

Kenzie's combination of ball control and physical play at the net made her very challenging for her opponents to beat all



beach

FEMALE ATHLETE

Kenzie Vaandering

summer. Milou Saxton, the 18U Women's provincial team coach was impressed with Kenzie throughout the summer. "Mackenzie brought maturity and leadership to our group this year. After a disappointing injury mid-provincials, she worked hard to get back on the court in just a couple short weeks for Nationals, where her analytical approach to the game helped her and the other girls develop intelligent game strategies throughout the tournament."

MIKASA ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

volleyball alberta



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VOLUNTEER

Sue Mohler

Sue Mohler has made an exceptional contribution to volleyball in Alberta. An integral developer in one of Alberta's largest volleyball clubs – Northern Alberta Volleyball Club (Edmonton). Sue has worked tirelessly for the past thirteen years with the club, beginning as a manager for her son's teams, each year taking on more responsibilities to eventually come into her role as the current president of NAVC. As the president, Sue leads a group of 46 coaches, 196 players, and more than 350 parents. She is an incredible leader, and she demonstrates a level of commitment to the development of young athletes that is often incomparable. She is willing to do anything to cultivate a positive experience for players, parents, and coaches which includes volunteering countless hours to assure nothing is overlooked. Sue's love of volleyball and what the sport provides for young athletes is abundantly apparent when speaking with her. It is her passion for providing this experience for young athletes that have allowed the club to grow into what it is today. Because of Sue's dedication and unwavering commitment to her vision of sport in the community, Volleyball Alberta is proud to be the home of the program she has helped create.

Not only has Sue helped to cultivate a program that provides an opportunity to play for hundreds of kids, but she has also created an opportunity for those who have graduated from the program to give back to their community. Many of the coaches within NAVC are former members of the club, and it speaks volumes about the impact that Sue and the club have on these players. Her commitment to this circle has helped NAVC not only to grow and develop young athletes but also to help grow leaders that are committed to making our community a better place. It is clear that Sue has cultivated a culture of family within NAVC and it is her commitment to this model that has earned her respect from those within and outside of the club.

"Sue epitomizes leading by example," says NAVC parent, Donna Melenka. "She can strategically navigate the demands of leading a highly competitive volleyball club through utilizing her nurturing and team building leadership style. As parents, we are truly honored to have our children be part of this incredible club that is led by an incredible role model and leader – Sue Mohler. Sue truly is nurturing the next generation of young adults through the rich platform she has grown for them to shine".

Sue has created a legacy at NAVC and has impacted the volleyball community at large. Volleyball Alberta is so thankful to have such amazing members of our community who help provide opportunities for athletes to grow in positive environments of sport. Without the hard work and dedication of people like Sue Mohler, the landscape of volleyball in Alberta would look very different. For that reason, as well as many others, we are proud to call Sue Mohler our 2018 Volunteer of the Year and can't wait to see what she continues to create with her family at NAVC.

MIKASA ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

2018 HALL OF FAME

For 2017-18, the Volleyball Alberta Officials are pleased to recognize Seth Goodswimmer-Ferguson as the recipient of the Mikasa Achievement Award for Developmental Referee of the Year.

Situated in Grande Prairie, Seth is an up and coming referee that exemplifies hard work and dedication to improving his abilities as a referee. Most notable about Seth is his commitment to travel and willingness to assist others.

For the 2017-18 season, Seth took on many administrative roles including assignor for local competitions and Vice President for the Region's Officials Association. When not busy with those roles, Seth also found time to teach level 1 development clinics, mentor level 2 developing referees and conducted a referee assistant training session in preparation of the CCAA Championships at Grande Prairie College.

When not working to assist and improve other referees, Seth's desire to increase his abilities saw him making countless trips to northern communities during the school season. He made an impact on the ACAC, working both exhibition and regular season matches and during the club season, Seth was regularly traveling for competitions throughout the Volleyball Alberta season.

Seth also received nominations as a major referee to attend the 2018 Arctic Winter Games, Best of the West Championships and Volleyball Canada National Championships. As a referee assistant, Seth was nominated for the CCAA National Championships and CISM World Military Championships.

Lastly, Seth found time to complete all of the requirements associated with the Level 3 Development Program. Being recognized and ratified at the recent Volleyball Canada



indoor DEVELOPMENT REFEREE

[Seth Goodswimmer-Ferguson](#)

meetings, Seth's career as a senior referee will commence in the fall of 2018.

Seth has had a hectic season in 2017-18. For his endeavours, it is only fitting that he is acknowledged as Alberta's Developmental Referee of the Year.

MIKASA ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

volleyball alberta



indoor PERFORMANCE REFEREE

Travis Rott

Travis Rott got his start in volleyball as an athlete, playing through his junior and senior school years. It was during his time at University that Travis took up refereeing as a means of staying involved in the sport and generating a bit of extra income.

Currently situated in New Norway, Travis quickly established himself as a senior referee that exemplifies hard work and dedication, not only towards improving his abilities as a referee but also working to create and develop a strong base of officials in Central Alberta. This dedication has been reflective of his success as he obtained his level 3 certification in 2006, his level 4 certification in 2017 and is currently pursuing entry into the Domestic International Development Program.

On the court, Travis is a steadfast and consistent referee, handling all matches with a calm demeanour. He dedicates himself to all levels of competition, continually giving up evenings and weekends to be in the gym.

This commitment saw Travis working everything from high school and club competitions, ACAC and USport exhibition and league matches. Also, Travis has received nominations to referee at numerous club national championships and ACAC Provincial Championships, many of which have included the gold medal championship assignments. As a referee assistant, Travis is routinely found working at USport championships and International competitions.

When not refereeing, Travis is continually giving back to the sport. He spends countless hours providing administrative assistance and educating members of the refereeing community. From practical assessments to theoretical discussions and training, Travis is diligently working to grow and improve the refereeing community as a whole.

Not to be overlooked, Travis is also an active member of the Volleyball Alberta community. Currently, he sits on the Leadership Committee and is an acting member of the Volleyball Alberta Board of Directors.

Outside of officiating, Travis sums himself up as a family man, being fully committed to his wife and kids.

For his continuing endeavours and commitment to the sport, the Volleyball Alberta Officials are pleased to recognize Travis Rott as the recipient of the 2017-18 Mikasa Achievement Award for High-Performance Referee of the Year.

MIKASA ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

2018 HALL OF FAME

Rachel has been coaching with FOG Volleyball since the 2013 club season, coaching two years at the 14U level and has moved up with her group through 15U, 16U and 17U levels. Rachel's team has consistently experienced a majority of returning players annually, and this is a testament to her knowledge of the game, ability to teach skills, and develop respectful relationships with all her players and parents. Her coaching style has a competitive edge; she is positive and respectful to her players and all officials of the game. Rachel combines fun and hard work in her coaching style and works hard to create a positive experience for all players on the team.

In addition to coaching, Rachel was asked to take on the role of coordinating her age group for the club. Rachel accepted this role and as a young woman easily managed the responsibilities to arrange, plan, coordinate tryouts and function as club liaison for parents and players. Rachel has provided support to other coaches before, during and after tryouts. Following the conclusion of tryouts, she will regularly support players to find other clubs to play with, a gesture that is truly reflective of her character and dedication to the development of the sport. This effort has resulted in providing opportunities for more than 24-48 young athletes to play the game each season. This display of dedication to athletes is what sets Rachel apart. She has a kind heart and is willing to do whatever it takes to provide a positive experience for all those involved in the process.

Rachel's generosity with her time and dedication to her athletes never wavers despite her busy schedule. While coaching, Rachel maintained full-time studies at the U of A (Bachelor of Laboratory Science Program), played on two coed teams, as well as coordinated her faculty intramural volleyball team. Rachel is an exceptional role model for young women in sport and provides



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DEVELOPMENT COACH

Rachel McKellar

mentorship that exceeds beyond volleyball. This culture reflects in the way her players show gratitude for her role as a coach. Current FOG 17U player, Sarah Morin says, "Rachel has made the past three club seasons very memorable, and she has helped me grow as not only a player but as a person too. She is always being supportive and positive and gives so much time to this team. We wouldn't be who and where we are today without you".

The amount of praise and gratitude for Rachel reflects in the overwhelming support she received when being nominated for this award. Both parents and players shared incredible anecdotes of Rachel's leadership, mentorship, and commitment to young female athletes. She is an incredible member of our community, and Volleyball Alberta is grateful for all that she brings to our athletes. We are proud to call her our 2018 Development Coach of the Year.

MIKASA ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

volleyball alberta



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DEVELOPMENT COACH

Rick Boyes

Rick has been with SLVC for the past six years, starting out as a parent volunteer, moving on to assistant coaching, and eventually head coach. His dedication to development is shown in many ways, but one is he commutes two hours, three times a week, to run his practices. He demonstrates a commitment to his program in so many ways, and it is evident in the experience that he provides for each of his athletes.

Rick is a positive coach dedicated to providing a positive experience for anyone involved in his program. He has rules that include mandatory high fives to everyone on the team, including coaches. A gesture that can be perceived as small, but one of the many things Rick did with an intention to create positivity and camaraderie amongst the team. He instilled a sense of drive and work ethic that built a "never give up" mentality amongst his athletes.

Rick is encouraging and supportive of the team regardless of what the score is in a way that allows his team to continue to commit to their development in any situation. Rick has

an incredible way of making everyone feel a part of the team, whether players were on the court, off the court or even injured, he always made sure they knew they were part of the team.

Beyond the culture that Rick has created amongst his team, he also shows great competence as a technical coach. His practices are always well thought out, and objectives are clear. Rick takes the time to explain the purpose of what they are doing, and it allows for his players to invest and gain a better understanding of what they were trying to accomplish as well as the game at large. "Rick has embraced our club philosophy of developing strong individuals who can cope with the challenges of team dynamics, respecting your teammates, accountability, working hard and commitment," says SLVC Wave Coordinator, Wayne Halliday. "But most importantly having the patience to develop and give all players the opportunity to achieve individual success."

Not only is Rick taking the time to develop his athletes, but he also reaches out to support his athletes in becoming coaches upon graduation. He acts as a mentor to young coaches and assists them in their learning along the way. Coaches and mentors like Rick are integral to the success of athlete development in Alberta. It is this dedication that Rick shows to the overall development of leaders in our community that makes him such a worthy candidate of this award. Volleyball Alberta is thankful for the time and thought Rick provides for development, and we are proud to call him our 2018 Development Coach of the Year.

MIKASA ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

2018 HALL OF FAME

With thirty years of elite coaching experience between the University, Collegiate, National Team, Club and Provincial Team levels, Ron has been coaching and working with athletes of all ages in the sport of volleyball. Ron's passion and dedication to the game of volleyball combined with his intensity and competitive spirit have produced many amazing teams and athletes over the years. His 2018 club season results are a testament to this passion and dedication as Ron coached the GPRC Wolves 16U Girls to a Volleyball Alberta Provincial Championship as well as a 5th place finish at the Volleyball Canada National Championship.

"We are very fortunate to have Ron as coach of this team," says GPRC facilities manager Dwayne Head. "He is probably one of the most experienced coaches in the country, let alone the province. The depth and knowledge he brings to coaching this team are vast". Ron brings a level of experience, passion, and dedication that creates a culture of development and compete that is often unmatched. Ron is a very engaged coach, always standing and actively involved throughout matches, communicating with his players and guiding them in their development both in practices and games. It is clear that Ron has created a favorable environment for his young athletes to grow. Throughout the season the team displayed a level of humility, discipline, and work ethic both on and off the court that translated into great success for the team. This is undoubtedly a culture created by Ron and his philosophies, and the team is better for it.

In addition to his accomplishments at the club level, Ron coached both the GPRC Men's and Women's varsity programs for 17 years, and over his tenure, he was honoured with the ACAC Coach of the Year 5 times and the CCAA Coach of the Year twice. In his current role as the Director of Sport, Fitness



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PERFORMANCE COACH

Ron Thomson

and Wellness at GPRC Ron continues to influence and mentor other coaches with his refined leadership skills, promoting excellence in coach and athlete development. The Volleyball Alberta community is fortunate to have someone with Ron's experience and passion for development. We are grateful for the time he dedicates to his craft, developing not only athletes but also future leaders in sport.

We look forward to seeing what Ron continues to create under his legacy and are proud to call him our 2018 Performance Coach of the Year.

MIKASA ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

volleyball alberta



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PERFORMANCE COACH

Scott Miller

Scott brings a wealth of experience as he has been playing and coaching volleyball for over 30+ years. He started his playing career at the University of Calgary after which his last year he was a starting power hitter on the 1988 undefeated CIS National champions. In his four years of playing Scott played all positions except for setter, the knowledge of playing each position has given him invaluable expertise for playing/coaching each position. After graduating university, Scott continued to play indoor volleyball with the men's Canuck volleyball club team as well as played beach volleyball in numerous AVA and BCVA tournaments.

The past twenty-eight years Scott has been a teacher with the Calgary Board of Education, seven years in Junior High, and twenty-one years in high school. Within that time his boys/girls teams have won two city championships, qualified for provincial championships over ten times, and has had many of his players go on to play at the college/university level. In the past years, Scott has co-coached the 14U and 15U boys teams.

Scott says his strongest asset is his ability to break down the technical skills of volleyball. As he did not start playing volleyball until he was at University, he did not have the fundamental skills that his teammates had from playing high school and club. This resulted in paying particular attention to details, breaking down his weaknesses/shortcomings and then dedicating himself to improve.

In the past ten years, Scott has been teaching Sports Performance which has given him more knowledge in the areas of sports psychology, nutrition, weight/speed/agility training, and biomechanics. Scott's resume speaks for itself with seven years as a head coach at Annie Gale Jr. High School in both volleyball and basketball, twenty years as a head coach at Lord Beaverbrook High School, as well as three years of co-coaching at Canada West Volleyball Club. In addition to his impressive coaching career, Scott has an equally remarkable player resume consisting of an undefeated season and National Championship with the University of Calgary Dinos as well as a CIS silver medal. In 2017, Scott and his University of Calgary teammates from the 1988 team were inducted into the Dinos Hall of Fame.

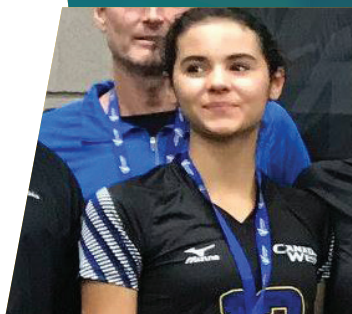
It is undeniable that Scott brings an incredible level of knowledge and expertise to any team that he is a member of. He is indeed an exceptional coach and one that Volleyball Alberta is proud to have as a member of our community. We are grateful for the time Scott dedicates to the athletes in our community and look forward to seeing him continue to contribute to the development of our young athletes. Thank you for your time and your commitment to excellence in our community, we are proud to call Scott Miller our 2018 Performance Coach of the Year.

MIKASA ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

2018 HALL OF FAME

In the 2017-18 season, Scarlett proved herself to be one of Alberta's elite athletes. Although a force to be reckoned with in previous seasons, Scarlett took her teams to new levels this year, earning a Calgary High School Championship with her JV team at Western Canada High School, earning herself team MVP while doing so. Following her successful season with the Redhawks, Scarlett went on to help her Canada West club team earn themselves top-six finishes in every Volleyball Alberta tournament, including a Provincial Championship silver medal and finishing off with a fourth-place finish at the Volleyball Canada National Championships. This finish would make Scarlett and her Canada West teammates the highest finish for 16U in Alberta, gaining the attention of many across the country.

Outside of her accomplishments on the court with her team, Scarlett displays a dedication to her craft and a desire to win that is often unmatched. She leads her team each day through hard work in the gym, often asking her coaches to stay after practice to get extra reps in areas she wants to improve. Scarlett embodies a standard of excellence for herself that is often unseen at such a young age and has undeniably contributed to her continued successes as an athlete. Scarlett leads by example with a veracity that has an impact on any team she is a part of. She is a fierce competitor and exhibits a level of passion that has pushed her and her teammates to exceed expectations. This mentality of competing has created a culture at Canada West that allows them to continue to grow as a team and never to be satisfied with anything but their best. It is clear that Scarlett is a particular kind of athlete and one that any coach would be happy to have. She is fearless in her play and is a go-to athlete on her team. She exudes a level of confidence beyond her years, and her teammates know they can rely on her in any situation.



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16U ATHLETE

Scarlett Gingera

Beyond her abilities on the court, Scarlett is a great teammate and friend off the court. When she isn't in the gym getting reps, she is organizing team events at her house, knowing the more time the team spends together off the court, the more they will build trust and confidence in each other on the court. This summer Scarlett will be attending our Team Alberta 16U Selection Camp, and we are excited to have the opportunity to work with this athlete and have no doubt that the future holds great things for her. Volleyball Alberta is proud to have a young athlete that exemplifies the amount of dedication and desire for excellence that Scarlett does and we are pleased to call her our 16U Female Athlete of the Year.

MIKASA ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

volleyball alberta



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16U ATHLETE

Bryce Neuls

In the 2017-18 season, Bryce Neuls proved himself to be an undeniable force in the volleyball community. Bryce was a dominant left side for both 16U Team Alberta as well as his high school varsity team where he served as a starter and a go-to athlete, despite only being in grade ten. Bryce shows an incredible ability to dominate in both the front and back court, often impacting the game in every skill category. He has an explosive jump that allows him the ability to control matches with his blocking and attacking, as well as from the service line. In addition to the indisputable athleticism, he demonstrates in the front row; he is also an aggressive receiver and exceptional backcourt defender making him an extremely well-rounded player and an asset to any team.

In addition to his achievements with his club team that finished top three in every Volleyball Alberta tournament, as well Best of the West and Nationals, individually Bryce also received all-star awards at Best of the West and Provincials. Most recently, Bryce was selected as a member of the Canadian Youth National Team. "The most exciting thing about Bryce is that he still has so much room

to develop as a volleyball player," says coach Kyle Erickson. "He has an exceptionally high volleyball IQ, work ethic and love for the game. When combined with his raw physical ability it is apparent that Bryce has the potential to continue his development at what has already been a rapid pace".

Outside of his obvious strengths as an athlete, Bryce is also a leader with his calm demeanor and leads his team by example. He shows the utmost respect for his opponents and officials and plays with a poise beyond his years. Bryce is a leader not only in skill but also in character. Over the last two club seasons, Bryce has split his time in training and competition between playing in the middle and on the outside. Through this unique situation, he has helped the needs of the team, while also taking every opportunity as a chance to improve. This is a situation that not all athletes choose to embrace, and his willingness to put his team first speaks volumes to the type of athlete Bryce is. He is a leader in every sense of the word, and Volleyball Alberta is fortunate to have an athlete like Bryce representing our community. We can't wait to see what the future holds for this young man and are proud to call Bryce Neuls our 2018 16U Male Athlete of the Year.

MIKASA ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

2018 HALL OF FAME

Dholi is a unique athlete in that her path to become one of the most dominant athletes in her age division looked entirely different than most. She was late to the sport having only started volleyball in grade 10, competing with the JV team at Western Canada High School. In 3 short years, Dholi earned herself a City Championship, ASAA Provincial Silver, Volleyball Alberta Provincial Championship, Provincial All-Star Award, and most recently has been named to the Junior National Team roster. These are incredible feats for an athlete relatively new to the sport, and I think it's safe to say we are just beginning to experience her true potential as a volleyball player and can expect many more personal and team achievements to come.

Although her physical stature is undeniable, Dholi's amazing progress can only be credited to her desire for improvement, and while her stature lends to her ability to play the sport, progress cannot be made on physical ability alone. Dholi's volleyball skills have not only caught up to her peers but have become the most dominant middle blocker in Alberta. She has taken steps to improve her skills and is the type of athlete every coach dreams to have in their gym. Dholi comes to practice ready to train, listen, make adjustments, stay focused, work hard and find opportunities for progression in all situations – even the most challenging.

"Since joining the Dinos for the 18U season, Dholi has embraced the challenges and opportunities offered to her", says current Dinos 18U head coach, Reid Brodie. "Her demeanor on and off the court, humility and work ethic are only some of her best qualities. She exemplifies not only a Dino athlete but an athlete that Alberta and Canada would be proud of". Throughout the 2018 season, Dholi has brought intensity to practice and games. She leads with her play and her consistency in execution. She



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18U ATHLETE

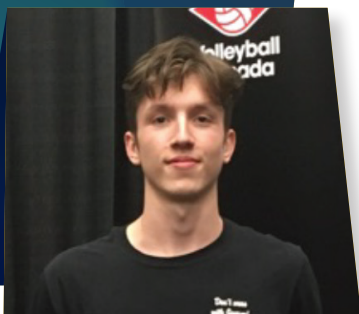
Nyadhali Thokbuom

responds to feedback and is quick to make adjustments which is why she has gone through a tremendous season of growth and has established herself as a top graduating Alberta athlete. She utilizes her height and speed to take her game to the next level, boasting an impressive 10' 9" spike touch.

Although Dholi is an undeniable presence on the court, it is her kindness and humility that makes her such an exceptional athlete and teammate. Her hard work and humility will undoubtedly make her a force to be reckoned with as she transitions to compete in USport with the Mount Royal University Cougars. The best is yet to come for this young athlete, and Volleyball Alberta is excited and honored to call Nyadhali Thokbuom our 2018 Female Athlete of the Year.

MIKASA ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

volleyball alberta



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18U ATHLETE

Sam Elgert

Sam is the epitome of the student-athlete. He shows a level of commitment both on and off the court that makes him an athlete any team would be fortunate to have. Over the past four years, Sam has proven himself to be a premier athlete in Alberta, racking up an impressive resume that includes representing Team Alberta in both indoor and beach, earning All-Star awards from Metro City Volleyball and the Grassroots All-Star Games, as well as a Provincial and National All-Star recognition. In addition to his achievements, Sam also helps his FOG volleyball team to 4 top 5 finishes at the Volleyball Canada National Championships, including a bronze and gold medal finish.

"I have had the absolute privilege of coaching Sam for the last three seasons," says coach Matt Bell. "In that time, I have seen Sam grow into a mature, dedicated, volleyball-savvy leader who demonstrates a keen understanding for the game along with a leadership ability that would make any player want to be by his side on and off the volleyball court." Sam demonstrates leadership that can make a good team great. His ability to support and encourage his team-

mates on and off the court creates a level of camaraderie that is crucial to the success of any great team. Without the leadership and dedication he demonstrates towards the game of volleyball, teams he has been a part of may not have endured the amount of success and sportsmanship shown in various competitions throughout the years. It is clear that Sam has been an integral part of the success of his teams and we expect nothing less from him as he moves on to compete in USport next season with the Thompson Rivers University Wolfpack.

Outside of his achievements as an athlete, Sam demonstrates a commitment to his academics that truly embodies what it means to be a student-athlete. His dedication to his studies has earned him honours status throughout his years in high school as well as earning him the Ambassador's Entrance Scholarship to TRU. This full scholarship recognizes documented exemplary leadership and community service combined with solid academic performance based on secondary school averages in the core subjects. Sam will receive this scholarship for his four academic years at Thompson Rivers University.

Sam Elgert is an athlete that Volleyball Alberta is proud to call their own. He has achieved so many milestones both athletically as well as academically, and we are grateful to have such an incredible leader in our community. The future certainly looks bright for this young man, and we are proud to call him our 18U Male Athlete of the Year.

MIKASA ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

2018 HALL OF FAME

Katrina grew up in Calgary, attending Western Canada High School from 1986 to 1989. She had been identified as an elite athlete and played for Team Alberta (Volleyball) during her high school years (1986-1989). During this time she also played for the Dinos (Dinnies) Volleyball Club. She joined the National Team program right out of high school as a 17-year-old. She was a full-time member of the National Program for five years, except for one year (1992-93) when she was attending the University of Alberta. Her year with the University of Alberta Pandas resulted in her being recognized as an All-Canadian at the CIAU (CIS) Nationals in Laval. This was in addition to a number of additional player awards she won during her early volleyball career.

Although training as a power hitter for the initial part of her National Team experience, her athletic ability and strong court personality allowed her to be moved to the middle position just four months before the team was to participate at the 1996 Summer Olympics in Atlanta. The difficult transition to attacking and blocking as a middle player is a testament to her ability and her commitment to being an ultimate team player. As well, her skill as a passer allowed her to continue to receive serve in the competition, a rare feat at the international level. In 1996-97 she left the National Team to play in the first division professional league in VEW Telnet Schwerte, Germany.

The next year, she returned to Canada and immediately began to share her experiences with the athletes in the Pandas Volleyball program. She also served as the lead coach of the senior program for young athletes who participate in the U of A's Female "Volleyball Canada Center of Excellence Program." The Pandas also benefited from her experiences as Katrina was an assistant coach in the program for one year. Besides these opportunities, Katrina is actively involved



2018 inductee

ATHLETE

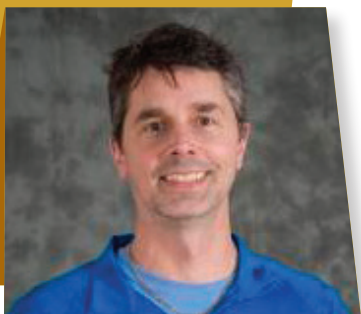
Katrina von Sass

with the 'Aspire Volleyball' program which runs individual and small group training for young school/club athletes in Edmonton.

Katrina continues to try to find solutions to reach the youngsters she is meeting on the training court. She works to help them achieve their goals of playing at a college or university level by giving them the tools and understandings to help make this a reality. She is a tremendous role model for young athletes, passing on her passion for the sport to help them reach their goals. Inducting her into the Volleyball Alberta Hall of Fame helps reinforce the many positive traits Katrina displays in her promotion of volleyball to the youth of the community.

HALL OF FAME AWARDS

volleyball alberta



2018 inductee

BUILDER

Bruce Edwards

Bruce is an outstanding addition to the Volleyball Alberta Hall of Fame in the Builder category. His contributions as a player, coach, administrator, and entrepreneur have impacted the growth of volleyball in Calgary, Alberta, and Canada as a whole.

Like many others, Bruce began his career in volleyball as a player. As a 17-year-old starter on an 18U team, he helped his club to a gold medal in the 18U Canadian Club Championships, as well as being an integral part of his 4A High School Provincial Championship team. Bruce went on to play volleyball at the University of Calgary helping his team win a CIAU (USport) silver, and then a gold medal in a 27-0 season. He later represented Canada on the National team for eight years (1992-2000), six as a power hitter and two as a Libero. He played in the 1994 World Championships, the 1995 and 1999 Pan-American Games (bronze medal winners) and the 1999 World Cup. In 2000 he was selected as Best Passer in the

NORCECA Olympic Qualifier. Bruce also played professionally in Europe (1994-2001) where he accrued an impressive record. His team was 3-time National League Champion in Europe (1-France; 2-Austrian) and 3-time National Cup Champion in Europe (1-France; 2-Austrian). As well his team achieved a 4th place finish in the European Champions League.

Bruce and Tony Wells in 1997 founded the Canada West Volleyball Club. On his retirement from the national program and professional leagues, Bruce took over the club full-time in 2002. Eleven teams were selected to play that winter out of Rally Pointe. The Club continues to grow, with approximately thirteen teams and over 150 athletes competing this year. Bruce has served as the Club President from 2002 to the present. Since its inception, the club has assembled over 190 teams with over 2000 athlete participants. The coaching philosophy of the club is to provide the highest level of coaching possible for the players, challenging them through practices and matches while maintaining an enjoyable atmosphere for the individual players within the teams. To achieve this, Bruce has attracted ex-national team players and former provincial and national champions to fill these roles. Canada West Teams at a variety of levels (from 14U to 18U) have achieved impressive results in both the boys' and girls' categories at both the provincial and national levels. Bruce is actively involved in the mentoring of the coaches within the club program to maintain the highest quality standard of coaching.

Bruce has taken an active role in the planning, development, and construction of Rally Pointe. It opened its doors as a volleyball facility in 2002 with four indoor hard courts, four indoor beach courts, as well as six outdoor beach courts. In 2006, the four indoor beach courts were converted to four hard courts to accommodate the growing

HALL OF FAME AWARDS

2018 HALL OF FAME

demand. Today the facility accommodates increased Canada West Club teams as well as other club teams in Calgary. Rally Pointe now operates Adult Leagues with over 150 teams annually, hosts 11-weekend tournaments for Volleyball Alberta and was home to the fifteenth consecutive Calgary Corporate Challenge in 2018. In 2008 it hosted ASAA 4A Boys and Girls Provincials with Lord Beaverbrook High School, and 4A Boys Championships with Dr. E. P. Scarlett High School (2011). In 2009 -2010, it was one of the venues for the Volleyball Canada's Senior Men's and Women's National Championships. In 2015 Rally Pointe acknowledged its one-millionth visitor.

Bruce is not just the administrator of the club and the facility; he is also an active coach with the Canada West club. At least one team has been the beneficiary of Bruce's coaching each year since 2002. He is actively involved in coaching within the Calgary School system, serving as head coach at Madeleine d'Houet Junior High School for seven years, and three years as Head Coach at St. Mary's High School. Bruce has also served as Head Coach of Team Alberta 16U girls. In 2008 his team was 4th in the Western Elite competition and gold medal finishers in both 2009 and 2010. He has achieved a Performance Coach Level (NCCP level 3) Coaching certification.

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

HALL OF FAME AWARDS

volleyball alberta

MIKASA AWARD RECIPIENTS

2018

BEACH

Athlete (F) **Kenzie Vaandering**
Athlete (M) **Carson Brennan**

ATHLETE

16U (F) **Scarlett Gingera**
16U (M) **Bryce Neuls**
18U (F) **Nyadhali Thokbuom**
18U (M) **Sam Elgert**

DEVELOPMENT COACH

Rachel McKellar
Rick Boyes

PERFORMANCE COACH

Ron Thomson
Scott Miller

VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR

Sue Mohler

REFEREE OF THE YEAR

Development **Travis Rott**
Performance **Scott Miller**

2017

BEACH

Athlete (F) **Journey Flewell**
Athlete (M) **Jesse Elser**

ATHLETE

16U (F) **Parker Austin**
16U (M) **Carter Hills**
18U (F) **Madison Marshall**
18U (M) **Mitch Newman**

DEVELOPMENT COACH

Andre Turgeon
Taylor Marra

PERFORMANCE COACH

Jon Goldie
Nathan Kern

VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR

Nicole Mathews

OFFICIAL OF THE YEAR

Jenna Nichol

2016

ATHLETE

16U (F) **Kara Crittall**
16U (M) **Hunter Stewart**
18U (F) **Sara McCreary**
18U (M) **Max Elgert**

DEVELOPMENT COACH

Grachella Garcia
Michele Hunt

PERFORMANCE COACH

Greg Elgert
Tracy Keats

VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR

Trish Holterhus

OFFICIAL OF THE YEAR

Pat Chizek

2015

ATHLETE

16U (F) **Lexi Peart**
16U (M) **Jaxson Thys**
18U (F) **Natasha Gordey**
18U (M) **Jacob Kern**

16U COACH

Suzi Cooke
Nathan Kern

18U COACH

Rhonda Schmuland
Ian Halliday

VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR

Denis Delemont

OFFICIAL OF THE YEAR

Shawn Shepherd

2014

ATHLETE

16U (F) **Hilary Howe**
16U (M) **Shane Verkland**
18U (F) **Ciara Hanly**
18U (M) **Tanner Greves**

16U COACH

Rod Hebert
Greg Elgert

18U COACH

Sandra Lamb
Kerry MacDonald

VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR

Mary Beth Meeuwisse

OFFICIAL OF THE YEAR

Everette Dionne

2013

ATHLETE

16U (M) **Carter McIntyre**
16U (F) **Tessa Hill**
18U (M) **Levi Wolthuis**
18U (F) **Mariah Walsh**

15/16U COACH

Allan Coulter
Raynell Lavertu

17U/18U COACH

Jace Barros
Lindsay Jones

VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR

Karl Hiebert

OFFICIAL OF THE YEAR

Janet Kawchuk

2012

ATHLETE

16U (M) **Derek Meeuwisse**
16U (F) **Beth Vinnell**
18U (M) **Brett Walsh**
18U (F) **Alexa Gray**

15U/16U COACH

Jace Barros
Reid Brodie

17U/18U COACH

Mark Maris

VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR

Laura Vaillant

OFFICIAL OF THE YEAR

Pam Rintoul

2011

ATHLETE

16U (M) **Ryan Nickifor**
16U (F) **Courtney Yoo**
18U (M) **Blake Hinchey**
18U (F) **Alissa Coulter**

15U/16U COACH

Candace Greves
Dusty Freimark

17U/18U COACH

Howard Gelderman
Rob Ellis

VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR

Brenda Jones

OFFICIAL OF THE YEAR

Mike Malowany

2010

ATHLETE

16U (M) **Brett Walsh**
16U (F) **Kacey Otto**
18U (M) **Zach Brown**
18U (F) **Carly Hamilton**

16U COACH

Mark Maris
Linda Richter

18U COACH

Tyler Myroniuk
Tracy Keats

VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR

Sai Wong

OFFICIAL OF THE YEAR

Ashley Fox

2009

ATHLETE

16U (F) **Kyjsa Brkich**
16U (M) **Jackson Maris**
18U (F) **Camille Saxton**
18U (M) **Jarron Mueller**

16U COACH

David Jones
LeAnn Kinlvin

18U COACH

Jeremy Deeks
Reid Brodie

VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR

Heather Wishlow

OFFICIAL OF THE YEAR

Arch Beck

2008

ATHLETE

16U (F) **Jordhynn Guy**
16U (M) **Branden Schmidt**
18U (F) **Kaylene Ehret**
18U (M) **Jeremy Potter**

16U COACH

Steve Weinbeer
Tracy Keats

18U COACH

Brad Poplawski
Don Saxton

VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR

Candice Sylvester

OFFICIAL OF THE YEAR

JP Desaulniers

TACHIKARA AWARD RECIPIENTS

2007

ATHLETE

16U (F) **Dione Lang**
16U (M) **Jarron Mueller**
18U (F) **Jamie Thibeault**
18U (M) **Ciaran McGovern**

16U COACH

Howard Gelderman
Pat Pyne

18U COACH

Ian Bennett
Gisele Kreuger

VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR

Don Hutton

OFFICIAL OF THE YEAR

Neal Konowalyk

2006

ATHLETE

16U (F) **Camille Saxton**
16U (M) **Jarrod Offereins**
18U (F) **Tiffany Proudfoot**
18U (M) **Tanner Nault**

16U COACH

Dale Gullekson
Alex Melnyk

18U COACH

Gord Bocock
Chris Wandler

VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR

Terry Noble

OFFICIAL OF THE YEAR

Tammy McNally

2005

ATHLETE

16U (F) **Jaryn Ruether**
16U (M) **Paul Lindemulder**
18U (F) **Raynell Lavertu**
18U (M) **Thomas Jarmoc**

16U COACH

Darryl Tetz
Bob Gabruck

18U COACH

Ryan Marsden
Rob Lindberg

VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR

Matt Stayner

OFFICIAL OF THE YEAR

Sherri Weed

2004

ATHLETE

16U (F) **Jackie Gagnon**
16U (M) **Ben Saxton**
18U (M) **Lauren Perry**

16U COACH

Art O'Dwyer
Grace Scott

18U COACH

Tyson Waters
Linda Merrick

VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR

John Findlay

OFFICIAL OF THE YEAR

Glenn Johnston

2003

ATHLETE

16U (F) **Kristy Anderson**
16U (M) **Colin Bell**
18U (F) **Carolyn Macdonald**
18U (M) **Mark Thibeault**

16U COACH

Ian Kulmatycki
Heather McIntosh

18U COACH

Mike Lauzon
Craig Gattinger

VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR

Kathy Van Humbeck

OFFICIAL OF THE YEAR

Scott McLean

volleyball alberta



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