

17th annual



FRIDAY, JULY 1, 2022



HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES

YEAR	ATHLETE	BUILDER	COACH	TEAM	OFFICIAL
2019			Ron Thomson		
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
BANQUET

Friday, July 1, 2022

Calgary, Alberta

Reception3:00 pm
Awards Ceremony4:00 pm
Canapés & Photos5:00 pm

volleyball alberta

VOLLEYBALL ALBERTA 'TEAM'

VOLLEYBALL ALBERTA STAFF

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
Diane Clarke

DIRECTOR
Jim Plakas

MANAGER
Derek Hemsley

MANAGER
Ray Sewell

MANAGER
Alex Donaghy

MANAGER
Mike Ling

COORDINATOR
Vinny Saporito

COORDINATOR
Julie Noel

ELECTED DIRECTORS

PRESIDENT
Bruce Edwards

VICE-PRESIDENT
Sonja Johnston

SECRETARY/TREASURER
Dave Johnson

DIRECTOR AT LARGE
Michelle Whyte

DIRECTOR AT LARGE
Jeff Anderson

APPOINTED DIRECTORS

REFEREES' REPRESENTATIVE
Jim Merrick

REFEREES' REPRESENTATIVE
Will Anderson

DIRECTOR
Carolyn O'Dwyer

DIRECTOR
Travis Rott

DIRECTOR
Chad Leier

DIRECTOR
David Wildman

DIRECTOR
Chantelle Lamotte

2022 AWARD RECIPIENTS

MIKASA achievement awards

2019 Beach Athletes

..... Trinity Solecki
..... Jacob van Geel

2022 Indoor Season

Volunteer Trent Rix
Referee (Development) Nivi Uppal
Referee (Performance) Steven Cabral

Development Coaches

..... Reid Brodie
..... Geoff Trentham

Performance Coaches

..... Vinny Saporito
..... Cheri Wright

16U Athletes

..... Sophia Hansen
..... Cole Czepuryk

18U Athletes

..... Evvia Belireau
..... Jacob Sargent

volleyball alberta



beach

FEMALE ATHLETE

Trinity Solecki

2019 beach season

Trinity Solecki had a fantastic summer on the beach in 2019. Trinity found success with several different partners over the course of the summer, earning 2 Gold Medals and 1 Silver Medal finish throughout the Volleyball Alberta Beach Volleyball season. She capped off the summer by claiming the 18U Provincial Championship title followed by a 4th place finish at the Volleyball Canada Beach National Championship. A 3 time member of our Team Alberta Beach program, Trinity is certainly deserving of the recognition as the 2019 Female Beach Athlete of the Year.

The 6-foot-1 outside hitter dominated on the beach throughout the season bringing both her physicality and work ethic to the sand. She truly elevated the level of play during her time in the Team Alberta program and showed a consistent level of dedication to her development as an all-around athlete. Trinity is no stranger to high level volleyball, with her father competing with the Team Canada Men's program as well as her mother, who is a two-time Canadian Beach Volleyball champion, a USport National Champion with the University of Calgary Dinos and is an alumnus of the Team Canada Women's program.

Following in the footsteps of her parents. Trinity is now a 2nd year athlete with the UBC Thunderbirds. The program has a long history of success, holding the USport record for most National Championship titles (12). Trinity is an exceptional addition to the Thunderbirds and undoubtedly has an exciting career ahead of her. Trinity has an undeniable presence on the court and is a well rounded athlete, bringing both physicality in the front row and stability to the passing lineup. She has an incredible passion for the sport and is a competitor through and through. We have no doubt Trinity will excel throughout her USport career and we are looking forward to seeing her continue to develop throughout her time at UBC. Trinity also aspires to play for Canada and is currently in Richmond, BC training with Volleyball Canada's Women's NextGen Program. She has truly elevated the level of play within our beach volleyball program over the years and we are grateful for the legacy she has left behind.

MIKASA ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

2022 ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

Jacob had an exceptional year of volleyball in 2019. He started off the season by capturing the CSAA High School Indoor City Championship and a silver at ASAA Provincials, going on to win a Volleyball Alberta Beach Premier Gold Medal, to then be selected to the Team Alberta Beach program for the second year in a row. As a member of the provincial team program, he won the 18U Provincial Championship followed by a Silver Medal finish at the 2018/19 Western Canada Games in Swift Current.

Jacob is an exceptional athlete on and off the court and his dedication to volleyball over the years has contributed to his consistent success as a member of Volleyball Alberta. He has kept his talents in Alberta and continues to build an impressive career. He is a current student-athlete on the Mount Royal Cougars Volleyball team, but has always shown a passion for beach. He continued his success in 2022 being named to U21 Team Alberta Canada Summer Games roster that will compete in Niagara this August. He was also selected to the NextGen Canadian Beach National team competing for his country all summer in Toronto.

"I have had the pleasure of coaching Jacob since he was 14 years old at the Volleymen beach programs and Team Alberta over the years", says Canada Games Beach Volleyball Coach, Jarron Mueller. "It is without surprise to see him now compete at our country's highest level as a member of Team Canada and Team Alberta. He is a special beach athlete with his physical abilities and high volleyball IQ. His love for the sport of volleyball is contagious and I am excited to see where his passion for our sport leads him."



beach

MALE ATHLETE

Jacob van Geel

2019 beach season

Jacob is a well versed volleyball player, competing at the highest of levels of both indoor and beach. His natural physicality combined with his work ethic have helped contribute to his successes as an athlete. He lives on the beaches in the summer and in the video room during the indoor off season and it has undoubtedly contributed to his success at the next level. His passion and enthusiasm for the game are contagious and help him lead by example. We are grateful for Jacob's contribution to our beach volleyball program in Alberta and are looking forward to seeing him represent our province at the 2022 Canada Summer Games as well as representing Canada during his time with the NextGen program!

MIKASA ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

volleyball alberta



volleyball

VOLUNTEER

Trent Rix

The 2022 season marked Trent's ninth season as a volunteer with both the Central Alberta Kings and Queens Volleyball Club. Since his kids started playing club volleyball, Trent has donated countless hours supporting club volleyball in Central Alberta. He has served as a team manager and treasurer for all three of the kids teams every year, usually supporting three teams in a season. Trent has an extensive volunteer resume that includes everything from triple ball tosser to sponsorship coordinator to team treasurer. Trent's commitment to the community is simply unmatched and it is clear that he will do everything he can to assure that his kids and all kids involved in sport are afforded the best possible experience.

As with many volunteer positions, much of Trent's work is done behind the scenes.

By the time the athletes hit the court, Trent has already taken care of finances, sponsorships, and fundraising to cover all expenses. This allows athletes, coaches, and parents the ability to simply enjoy the season ahead. Once the season kicks off, Trent continues to support the program by being the go-to scorekeeper, draw reader, and car pooler! For the better part of the last decade, Trent has been a huge part of the volleyball community. There would be very few referees that have not worked a game with him at the score table or very few coaches and parents who have not seen him cheering on the teams.

"Whenever something needs to be done with one of his kids teams Trent is always the first person to volunteer", says CAKVC President, Chris Good. "As the CAKVC is a small club, we rely on volunteers to ensure our club operates and it's people like Trent who show up every year that ensure that kids continue to get opportunities to play club volleyball".

Trent has displayed a consistently high level of dedication and service to the Central Alberta Volleyball Clubs for several years and without him, the experience for the athletes, coaches, and parents simply wouldn't be the same. He is an integral part of the club and its successes and our sport wouldn't be what it is if it weren't for the selfless commitments of people like Trent. Volleyball Alberta is so grateful to have people like Trent as members of our community and it is clear this recognition is not only deserved, but overdue. Thank you Trent for all that you give to the athletes in our community!

MIKASA ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

2022 ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS



MIKASA ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

volleyball alberta

Throughout the 2021/22 season, Nivi showed a relentless commitment to learning and improving as a referee. He constantly sought opportunities to develop and learn, including officiating at all levels and consistently seeking feedback to improve after each assignment. The sign of a great team member is one who believes in learning from others, and it was clear that this is something Nivi embodies. He never hesitated to ask for help in understanding rule interpretation and immediately worked on implementing changes, one of the many reasons why he is deserving of this award.

In addition to his commitment to his own development, Nivi is also committed to the development of all the participants involved in a match by choosing an “educate first, sanction second” approach every time he takes the stand. He chooses to work with participants to learn from situations that arise during a match, with the intention of educating all those involved - referee, coach, and athlete. This small but meaningful approach has made Nivi a highly requested referee from many school tournament organizers throughout the province.

Amongst his many great attributes as a referee, it is also clear that Nivi is truly a team player. He never complained about being removed from a more prestigious match to provide coverage to areas where it was desperately needed. He worked countless matches in both Zone 2 and 3 for school, postsecondary, and all levels of club. When many officials refused to do 13U/14U tournaments, Nivi would always be willing to help, even if it meant giving up a higher level assignment.



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DEVELOPMENT REFEREE

Nivi Uppal

“I could always count on his support and assistance”, says Regional Officials Chair, Jim Merrick. “There were times where I needed to move him to a different venue, only to have the venue cancel their tournament or match, leaving Nivi without an assignment. He never complained and was always willing to be helpful in future situations”.

This type of selflessness was imperative, especially in a post COVID year that had the association struggling to find enough referees to support the season. We are so grateful for the commitment of people like Nivi. He truly had the athletes, coaches, and his fellow referees at heart and that was clear in how he showed up for our community this season. Thank you for your selfless commitment to our association, without you we could not facilitate this experience for several athletes across our province.

MIKASA ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

2022 ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS



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PERFORMANCE REFEREE

Steven Cabral

It goes without saying that the role of referee is one of the most challenging and undervalued aspects of our sport. It is an integral part of the game that can truly make all the difference in the development of our athletes and coaches. We are so grateful for the commitment of our referees and the work that they do does not go unnoticed.

As senior referee and sole assignor for Zone 6, Steven has worked tirelessly to assure that every match in his zone is supported by officials. His work ethic when assigning, as well as when facilitating a match, are steadfast and consistent. Steven works well with his partners and thanks to his hard work and standard of excellence, he has earned the respect of both coaches and referees within his zone, as well as the community at large.

Beyond the role within his zone, Steven supported many ACAC games throughout the 2021/22 season in addition to contributing as a minor official in both the ACAC & USport conference.

“Speaking from experience, it is a heavy workload that Steven has to manage”, says Regional Officials Chair, Jim Merrick. “Steven has a strong knowledge of the referees in the zone and does an exceptional job making sure that our referees and our user groups all benefit from each assignment he oversees”.

Due to the exceptional work in his field, Steven is also utilized as a mentor throughout the Volleyball Alberta Premier season, as well as a clinician for Level 1 development in Zone 6. He is a key contributor to the support and development amongst many referees throughout the tournament season and we are so grateful for his commitment to our referee community. It is because of the passion, work ethic, and dedication of individuals like Steven that make Volleyball Alberta such an exceptional association. Without you, we could not be us, and we are so grateful. This award is a small token of our immense appreciation for all that you do.

MIKASA ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

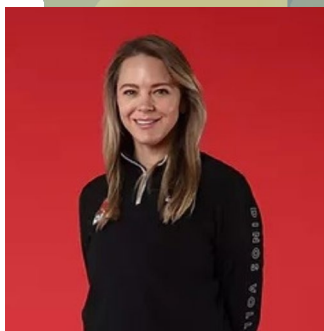
volleyball alberta

Reid has been a huge contributor to the facilitation and growth of women's volleyball in Calgary for many years. Although this recognition is for her exceptional work as the Head Coach of the 17U Dinos in the 2021/22 season, anyone who knows Reid, knows that her impact reaches far beyond the role of Head Coach. As the Executive Director of the Dino Women's Volleyball Club, Reid is responsible for the facilitation of a high performance and development-focused environment that inspires athletes and coaches to improve their skills both on and off the court.

The 2021/22 Dinos program consisted of 6 teams aged 13U-18U, totalling 72 athletes and 24 coaches that Reid works tirelessly to support in every way possible. In addition to supporting their development as young women, she also goes above and beyond to ensure that every Dino athlete graduates from the club to a great postsecondary volleyball opportunity. She hosts postsecondary training sessions for athletes and parents, maintains close relationships with numerous varsity coaches across Canada and the US to facilitate recruitment, and works with athletes to manage their goals for postsecondary placement.

"Reid's love for coaching is unquestionable and unparalleled to any coach that has trained me in my past", says 17U Dinos athlete, Chichi Makasi. "She goes out of her way to provide our team with amazing opportunities for growth and development, beneficial involvement in our university and college recruitment processes, and volunteering her personal time to continue to train our team". "Moving forward, I can say with confidence that I will not forget the impact that Reid has had on my athletic career."

In addition to her numerous roles within the Dinos club, Reid is also responsible for creating the first inaugural Female Sport Summit held in Calgary. This two day conference was composed of over 100 athletes, as well as numerous coaches, administrators and parents



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DEVELOPMENT COACH

Reid Brodie
Dinos

Reid organized an incredible group of speakers and panelists including a number of Olympians, with topics ranging from performance foundations, the role of social media, keeping girls in sport, mindset training, and a discussion of the unquantifiable aspects of performance and how they can shape experience and enjoyment of sport. Reid is an incredible organizer and never misses a detail that might provide extra support, learning, and life enrichment for all involved - she is truly a master community builder.

It is clear that Reid's commitment to the athletes in our community exceeds beyond the court and she is undoubtedly an exceptional motivator, leader, mentor, supporter and ambassador of females in sport. Her tireless work continues to have a profound impact on our community and we are so grateful. She is a positive role model, an amazing leader, and relentlessly committed to developing strong female athletes. We have been in constant awe at the energy, enthusiasm, and great care she brings to the volleyball community and are grateful for her dedication to our association. Thank you for being a true ambassador for female athletes in our community and for all that you do.

MIKASA ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

2022 ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS



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DEVELOPMENT COACH

Geoff Trentham
CAQVC

With experience coaching in both the Central Alberta Kings and Queens Volleyball Club, Geoff has been an integral part of the volleyball community for nearly 10 years. His resume includes everything from summer camps and private clinics to high school, club volleyball, Team Alberta and is the founder at Nexus Volleyball Inc. – launched in 2018 “Geoff believes the most rewarding aspects of NEXUS are the relationships he has built, giving back to the volleyball community, and most of all creating something that brings people together”. His commitment to the development of athletes is clear, most recently seen through the success of his 16U Queen’s team racking up 2 VA Premier gold medals, a VA Premier bronze and being named the 2021/22 VA Provincial Champions. It is clear Geoff has created a pattern of excellence as this was not the first time he has developed a Provincial Championship group. In the 2018/19 season, Geoff also led the 15U Kings Volleyball Club to a hard earned Provincial Championship.

Geoff is well known in the Red Deer volleyball community where he has developed his own coaching platform, offering camps and clinics to local athletes as well as assistant coaching at Hunting Hills High School. His passion for the sport is clearly shown through the countless hours dedicated to coaching and growing the game of volleyball throughout Central Alberta. “I can say personally that Geoff is the reason my own children are the volleyball players they are today”, says 16U Queen’s parent, Dana Rawlusyk. “He has such a great knowledge and passion for the sport of volleyball, which he loves to pass along to his players”. He is clearly committed to his craft as a coach and his athletes demonstrate incredible growth and development during the time he works with them.

Geoff has an exceptional ability to set a standard of excellence within his teams that support the athletes in achieving their goals as individuals and as a team. His passion for volleyball is often unmatched and he is committed to creating a culture of hard work and attention to detail that has shone through the work that he does in the community. We are grateful to have coaches like Geoff who are passionate about the growth of the sport throughout our province and dedicated to the time it takes to truly build something special. We have no doubt that there is a bright future ahead for this young coach and we look forward to seeing him continue to grow.

MIKASA ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

volleyball alberta

Vinny is currently the Head Coach of the 17U NAVC Griffins as well as an Assistant Coach for the University of Alberta Golden Bears, recently being named USports National Champions in the 2021/22 season. Vinny is recognized by his players as an exceptional coach, known for his commitment to being a student of the game and his genuine love of the game that is undeniably contagious. He encourages young athletes to play with passion and joy and to find the internal satisfaction of developing mastery over skills and strategy, rather than looking for other's approval.

Vinny is kind, even-tempered, and knowledgeable and is truly a light for those around him. He approaches his role as a leader from a light-hearted perspective while at the same time balancing the expectations of his athletes to be responsible and accountable to their teammates and families. He leads by example and even with a most demanding schedule, Vinny continues to show up in a meaningful way for his players each and every practice and match. He can often be seen helping athletes on the bench by keeping them relaxed, keeping them alert to what can be expected by the opposition, and focusing on executing skills with confidence.

It is also clear that Vinny is committed to providing a meaningful experience for his athletes beyond the court and he consistently goes above and beyond. When his club players attend a U of A match, Vinny goes out of his way to include them, helping them to learn from the varsity athletes.

Vinny takes his role as a mentor to young men very seriously and is teaching life lessons in a safe, supportive environment. "As a developing athlete, and someone who is going to play postsecondary next year, Vinny has pushed me to be the best athlete I can be", says current member of NAVC 17U team. "He provides positive constructive criticism to help me perfect my skills and makes practices and games have a positive atmosphere. Vinny has made a positive impression on myself and the team, and is one of the best coaches that I've played under."



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PERFORMANCE COACH

Vinny Saporito
NAVC

The role of coach often goes unacknowledged but it is clear that Vinny has made a lasting impact on his NAVC team, families included. "The players and families on the NAVC 17U men's team won the lottery with our coaching staff", says 17U NAVC parent, Heidi Wilkes. "We are all so lucky to be able to learn from Vinny and the other NAVC 17U Griffin's coaches". It is because of the dedication of people like Vinny, that Volleyball Alberta can continue to grow the sport throughout our province and we are privileged to celebrate this incredible coach and leader in our community. Thank you Vinny for all that you bring to your teams and to our association.

MIKASA ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

2022 ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS



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PERFORMANCE COACH

Cheri Wright
Pandas

Truly a deserving recipient of this award, Cheri is an exceptional coach, leader, and role model in the community. Cheri began coaching with the Pandas Volleyball Club in 2018 as the 14U head coach and continued with the group of athletes, culminating into the success they had as an 18U team in the 2021/22 season. Cheri led the 18U Pandas to multiple medal finishes throughout the year including an 18U Provincial Championship and a Division 1 Tier 1 National Championship Bronze Medal. Her team faced a great deal of adversity throughout the season with sickness and injuries but through it all, Cheri maintained a consistent level of expectation and focus to the team's training and performance.

"Cheri is one of the most focused, intentional club coaches I've ever had the pleasure to watch develop over the years", says University of Alberta Head Coach, Laurie Eisler. "She has become not only a great developer of talent but an outstanding match coach with her use of tactics and strategies to assist her team in any circumstance."

Prior to her coaching career, Cheri was a member of the University of Alberta Pandas Volleyball program where she earned 3 USport National Championships. She brings an immense amount of experience and knowledge to her role of coach and knows what it takes to be successful at the next level. She maintains a calm yet intense presence as a coach and finds the way to deliver corrective feedback in a manner that is timely and constructive. It is clear that the team responded tremendously to her coaching, and they were truly a pleasure to watch compete. With each match, they managed to maintain not only an exceptional level of play but also an admirable level of sportsmanship and composure regardless of the challenges they faced, undoubtedly a reflection of the type of leadership Cheri provided.

It goes without saying that women are underrepresented in the role of head coach within our sport, and it is such a privilege to see such a strong, confident, female lead the way for the young athletes in our community. She is a natural, fearless leader respected by all those who are fortunate to be around her. You become what you see, and we are so grateful to have a leader like Cheri in our Volleyball Alberta family. She is truly a force to be reckoned with and we are privileged to have her in a role contributing to the growth and development of the next generation of female athletes in Alberta. Thank you for bringing your work ethic, passion, and commitment to the volleyball community.

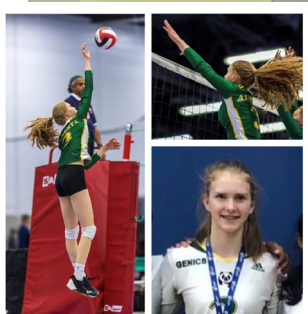
MIKASA ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

volleyball alberta

Sophia is a physically gifted athlete and is a go-to player for her team in high pressure situations. She is often trusted to put the ball away when the game is on the line and welcomes the challenge with confidence. Sophia is undeniably talented and her hard work this season has earned her a spot with both the 16U Team Alberta program as well as the 19U Team Canada program this summer. Given Sophia's work ethic, passion, and desire for growth, this is sure to be the first of many great opportunities for this young athlete.

"There is no doubt in my mind that Sophia will continue to be recognized for her talents", says 16U Pandas Volleyball Club Assistant Coach, Belle de Vries. "I cannot wait to see where they take her".

There are many things that make Sophia deserving of this recognition. Outside of her talents as an athlete, she is also encouraging, competitive and driven. On the court, her skill is undeniable, but Sophia's greatest qualities are easily her passion for the game and the love she has for her teammates. Sophia wants to succeed just as much as she wants her teammates to succeed, and she always pushes those around her to be better. She is truly a selfless teammate and is a true leader in every sense of the word. Sophia supports her teammates in any way she can and often does so with a bright smile on her face. We are so grateful to have such a talented, kind, and selfless athlete representing our association and we can't wait to see what the future has in store.



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16U ATHLETE

Sophia Hansen
Pandas

Competing with the 16U Pandas Volleyball Club in the 2021/22 season, Sophia is an exceptional athlete, bringing a level of passion and compete to the gym that instantly elevates the level of play around her. She strives for excellence in every aspect of her game, consistently taking advantage of every opportunity possible. Sophia is always the last athlete to finish the drill in practice, quite often requesting "just one more". Her relentless pursuit for growth is palpable each time she walks into the gym, and she is constantly seeking ways to improve. Sophia is an extremely reflective and analytical athlete and whether it is after a match or a practice, she is always questioning how she can improve. She is never done learning and is constantly working towards being the best possible player that she can be.

MIKASA ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

2022 ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS



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16U ATHLETE

Cole Czepuryk

Dinos

Cole is the current team captain of the Dino's 16U Men's Volleyball team, helping lead them to a Premier 3 Gold Medal in the 2021/22 season, and most recently, a Division 1 Tier 2 National Championship. He was chosen as captain by his peers and coaches because of the leadership that he shows both on and off the volleyball court. Cole takes the challenges and responsibilities of leadership to a level not seen by many who coach young athletes. His ability to create a supportive, and yet challenging atmosphere for his teammates is nothing short of inspirational. His dedication to countless hours competing, training in the weight room, and seeking repetitions outside of his team training, has raised his game to a higher level.

Many of his teammates admire his leadership, skill, and potential, and he continues to be an exemplary leader for them. Cole challenges each of them, as well as himself, to be the best player that they can be each time they step on the court. He is also an incredible team player, celebrating each of his teammate's successes, no matter how miniscule they may seem to others. Cole is a 6'7" left side player with well-rounded skills in all levels of the game.

His versatility and willingness to contribute in any capacity saw him play every position on the court over the span of the 2021/22 season. Cole is humble, coachable, and passionate, and works incredibly hard both on and off the court to continue growing as an athlete and volleyball player.

His commitment to his development exceeds his skills on the court, most recently completing a mental health and performance course with his team. In addition to volleyball, Cole also maintains honors academic standing and competes as a pitcher for the Calgary Royals AA 18U baseball team in Calgary, where he was selected to Alberta's Top 40 last season. It is clear that Cole is an exemplary athlete with his baseball coaches and volleyball coaches echoing the sentiments of both Cole's leadership and athleticism.

"Cole is the consummate competitor who balances his elite work ethic with an unwavering respect for the game, the officials, his competition, his family, and his teammates", says 18U Calgary Royals AA Baseball, Geoff McFarlane. "Cole is such a coachable player that any coach would be honored to have him help lead their team".

It is clear that Cole is the type of player many coaches wish to have on their team. He is confident, focused, and consistent. If the game is close, Cole will often get the ball, and despite pressure, he has the ability, and confidence to determine the outcome of the match. He is a great leader, talented athlete, and supportive teammate. Cole exemplifies what Volleyball Alberta strives to cultivate within our community. His commitment to his sport makes the game, his team, and everyone he has played against, better and we are so grateful. Thank you, Cole, for demonstrating values & sportsmanship we can all aspire to and for all that you bring to our association.

MIKASA ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

volleyball alberta

A true ambassador of our sport, Evvia is a great athlete, teammate, student, and role model in our community. She has been a member of the Dinos Women's Volleyball Club since 2018 and it has truly been a privilege to watch her strive throughout her time in the program. Her commitment to excellence, coachability, and fun personality have allowed Evvia to become one of the top liberos in the country and given her experiences to train and compete with the Volleyball Canada National Excellence Program (NEP), U21 Team Canada selection camp, and most recently, the 19U Canada Games program.

Committed to the University of Calgary Women's Volleyball program and studying Kinesiology in the upcoming season, it is clear that Evvia is dedicated to her development both on and off the court. Since 15U, Evvia has been traveling into Calgary from Canmore 3-4 days per week to practice and train with the Dinos Women's Volleyball Club all while also maintaining an honor roll average at school. She is very intentional with her training, making the most of every rep at practice and always willing to take on any opportunity that will support her in her development. She is a special athlete that has an undeniable internal drive to compete, learn, and become better each day.

Her growth as an athlete and a leader is truly undeniable. She has grown from a quiet, apprehensive, curious girl into a confident leader and dominant young female athlete. Not only is she a great on court athlete, but she is also an incredibly respectful, humble, and selfless teammate. As a member of the Dinos 18U Leadership Group, she led individual goal setting prior to each training session for the team and shared some mental and visualization strategies learned during her time with Volleyball Canada.

She has contributed immensely to the team culture and brings a positive yet competitive attitude to each practice and game. The team looks up to her for her leadership, game knowledge, and consistent skill execution.



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18U ATHLETE

Evvia Belireau
Dinos

"She brightens every room she walks into with her happy demeanor and her support for her teammates is visible to everyone watching", says Dino Women's Volleyball Club Executive Director, Reid Brodie. "She sets the tone for training, is competitive and is constantly looking for ways to improve her game". Since joining the Dinos, Evvia has embraced the challenges and opportunities offered to her. She approaches life with a positivity that influences everyone around her. On and off the court, her humility and work ethic are only some of her best qualities. She truly exemplifies what it means to be a high performance athlete and is one that Volleyball Alberta is immensely proud of. The future is undoubtedly bright for this young athlete and we are grateful to have been a part of her journey.

MIKASA ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS



indoor

18U ATHLETE

Jacob Sargent

Lethbridge Volleyball Club

Serving as a member of the 18U Lethbridge Volleyball Club Jr. Kodiak's in the 2021/22 season, Jacob proved himself to be not only a great athlete but a great teammate, leader, and ambassador of volleyball in our community. Jacob's undeniable physical talents have allotted him opportunities to take on major contributing roles on most teams he has been a part of, but it's his leadership and maturity beyond his years that set him apart.

Jacob's skills in his volleyball arsenal are not few; he is an outstanding passer, a dynamic hitter from both the left and right sides, and a relentless defender. Jacob is extremely coachable and always eager to learn and despite proving himself to be a dominant athlete in the high school and Volleyball Alberta league, that never stopped him from being the hardest working athlete in the gym. "Whether it was learning new footwork, or building up a teammate who was down, I've realized Jacob was and is willing to do anything that will better the team", says Kodiak's Assistant Coach, Corbin Stringam. "His first priority is his team - he is a selfless player, teammate, and leader".

The Lethbridge Volleyball Club is often made up of a diverse background of athletes from all over Southern Alberta and Jacob worked incredibly hard to create an environment where all his teammates felt comfortable and welcome. Not only did Jacob encourage and support his teammates, but he was also relentlessly dedicated to the work it takes to play at the next level. In the summer of 2021, he was named to the Canadian Youth National Team, training with some of the best athletes from across the country.

After earning a spot with Volleyball Canada, Jacob recognized his teammates would not be afforded the same training opportunity amidst the challenges of COVID. He consistently chose to provide support for his teammates in an incredibly challenging season filled with uncertainty and ever-evolving rules. While Jacob had already established himself as a high-performance athlete, he understood that to succeed, he had to help his team grow and thrive as well.

Despite the success he has earned on the court, including earning a spot with the University of Alberta Golden Bears for the 2022/23 season, the most admirable quality about Jacob is not his skill but rather his integrity and authenticity. He is a selfless teammate, often first to clean up the bench after a match, lend a helping hand to a teammate, and volunteer to coach and mentor younger athletes in the community. It is this kind of commitment to being the best person he can possibly be that makes him the type of leader people want to follow and the type of athlete we are proud to see representing Volleyball Alberta. It is abundantly clear that Jacob is admired by many coaches, athletes, and teammates in the community and it's athletes like Jacob that make our community such an extraordinary place. We are grateful to have such a humble, hardworking athlete representing our association and we have no doubt there are many great things ahead for this exceptional athlete.

MIKASA AWARD RECIPIENTS

2022

BEACH

Athlete (F) Trinity Solecki

Athlete (M) Jacob van Geel

ATHLETE

16U (F) Sophia Hansen

16U (M) Cole Czepuryk

18U (F) Evvia Belireau

18U (M) Jacob Sargent

DEVELOPMENT COACH

Reid Brodie

Geoff Trentham

PERFORMANCE COACH

Cheri Wright

Vinny Saporito

VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR

Trent Rix

REFEREE OF THE YEAR

Development, Nivi Uppal

Performance, Steven Cabral

2021

*

2020

*

2019

BEACH

Athlete (F) Avery Kelly

Athlete (M) Sam Elgert

ATHLETE

16U (F) Mary Thiessen

16U (M) Aaron Elser

18U (F) Parker Austin

18U (M) Chris Byam

DEVELOPMENT COACH

Jen Telfer

Stefan Filip

PERFORMANCE COACH

Janelle Rozema

Jason Evans

VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR

Wendy Trifunov

REFEREE OF THE YEAR

Development, Evan Labonne

Performance, Jared Mathes

2018

BEACH

Athlete (F) Kenzie Vaandering

Athlete (M) Carson Brennan

ATHLETE

16U (F) Scarlett Gingera

16U (M) Bryce Neuls

18U (F) Nyadholi 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, Seth

Goodswimmer-Ferguson

Performance, Travis Rott

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-Prince

17U/18U COACH

Jace Barros

Lindsay Jones

VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR

Karl Hiebert

OFFICIAL OF THE YEAR

Janet Kawchuk

*indoor season cancelled due to covid-19 pandemic

MIKASA AWARD RECIPIENTS

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 Kinvig
18U COACH
Jeremy Deeks
Reid Brodie
VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR
Heather Wishlow
OFFICIAL OF THE YEAR
Arch Beck

2008

ATHLETE

16U (F) Jordhyann 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

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

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