









HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES

YEAR	ATHLETE	BUILDER	COACH	TEAM	REFEREE
2023					Debbie Jackson
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

Saturday, June 24, 2023 Calgary, Alberta

Reception6:30	pm
Dinner7:00	pm
Awards8:00	pm

volleyball alberta

VOLLEYBALL ALBERTA 'TEAM'

VOLLEYBALL ALBERTA STAFF

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Diane Clarke

DIRECTOR
Jim Plakas

MANAGER Ben Saxton

MANAGER Ray Sewell

MANAGER Alex Donaghy

MANAGER
Hamed Sepehr

MANAGER Mike Ling

COORDINATOR Vinny Saporito

COORDINATOR Robyn Bishop

COORDINATOR
Julie Noel

SUMMER STAFF

SUMMER CAMPS Brendon Lord

BEACH - EDMONTON Renae Regal

BEACH TOURNAMENTS

Jaxson Thys

HIGH PERFORMANCE Madison Hoppus

ELECTED DIRECTORS

PRESIDENT Bruce Edwards

VICE-PRESIDENT Sonja Johnston

SECRETARY/TREASURER Eryn Orysiuk

DIRECTOR AT LARGE
Michelle Whyte

DIRECTOR AT LARGE Chad Leier

APPOINTED DIRECTORS

REFERES' REPRESENTATIVE

Teigan Lawton

REFERES' REPRESENTATIVE

Travis Rott

DIRECTOR

Julia Pasieka

DIRECTOR
Christina Froberg

DIRECTOR

Debbie Nyarko

DIRECTOR Robert Ellis

DIRECTOR
Julie Beschell

2023 AWARD RECIPIENTS

MIKASA achievement awards

2022 Beach Athletes
2023 Indoor Season
15U/16U Athletes
Brooke FermaniukTyson DeZutter
17U/18U Athletes
Development Coaches
Performance Coaches
Christy Hansen Shane Orr
Volunteer Steve Larsen
Referee (Development) Shauna Gregus Referee (Performance) Katyryna Gaudet
2023 Hall of Fame
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beach

WOMEN'S DIVISION

Grace Baker

2022 beach season

Grace Baker is a talented and dedicated athlete who took the season by storm, demonstrating her exceptional skills and competitive spirit throughout the 2022 season. With a series of impressive achievements, she established herself as a force to be reckoned with on the beach.

Dominating the 18U youth tournaments, Grace earned herself a gold medal finish followed by a silver. She demonstrated growth throughout the season and proceeded to earn an impressive silver medal finish at the 18U Provincial Championship. She continued to show throughout the season her ability to be resilient and use every opportunity to grow as a player and competitor.

Following her podium finish at the Provincial Championship, Grace had an exceptional 4th place finish at the 18U Tier 1 National Championship. Her tenacity, skill, and ability to perform under pressure were on full display as she competed against the best athletes in the country.

Grace maintained an unwavering commitment to her craft throughout the season, ultimately earning herself a spot representing Team Alberta. She is an exceptional athlete, leader, and competitor and we are honoured to recognize her as the Mikasa Athlete of the Year in the beach women's division for the 2022 season. We feel fortunate to have been a part of Grace's development and can't wait to see what is next for her. Thank you for all you have given to the sport and your commitment to helping us continue to grow and establish Alberta as a premier beach volleyball program.

2022 Season Highlights:

Gold: 18U Youth #3
Silver: 18U Youth #4
Silver: 18U Provincials
4th: 18U Tier 1 Nationals

Selected to Team Alberta Beach

MIKASA ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

Not stopping there, Burnside and Aalbers went on to dominate the 18U Provincials, securing a gold medal and establishing themselves as the top team in their age category. Their teamwork, skill, and competitive drive propelled them to the top of the podium and highlighted their ability to perform under pressure.

Continuing their dominant season, the dynamic duo claimed another gold medal at the 17U Tier 1 Nationals, further solidifying their position as rising stars in the beach volleyball scene. Their victory at the national level demonstrated their ability to excel on the biggest stage, showcasing their talent and dedication to the sport.

Their impressive performances and abilities earned Burnside and Aalbers a position with Team Alberta, a testament to their skill and commitment.

Representing their province on a national stage, they embody the highest standards of athleticism and sportsmanship.

The results they earned speaks volumes about their talent, hard work, and commitment to excellence. Their dedication to continuous improvement and positive impact on the beach volleyball community, make them true ambassadors of the game and worthy recipients of the Mikasa Athletes of the Year award in the beach men's division for the 2022 season. As they continue to develop and grow, they are poised to make even greater contributions to the sport in the future!

2022 Beach Season Highlights:

- 5th: Volleyball Canada 19U Trials
- Gold: 18U Provincials
- · Gold: 17U Tier 1 Nationals
- Selected to Team Alberta Beach



beach

MEN'S DIVISION

Brandon Burnside / Mitchell Aalbers 2022 beach season

Brandon Burnside and Mitchell Aalbers are a formidable duo of beach volleyball athletes who have achieved remarkable success in their young careers. With a string of impressive victories and accolades, they have solidified their status as rising stars in the sport. Their outstanding performances, both individually and as a team, have garnered them recognition and admiration within the volleyball community.

At the Volleyball Canada 19U Trials, Burnside and Aalbers showcased their skills and determination with an impressive 5th place finish among a highly competitive field. Their strong showing at this prestigious event served as a testament to their exceptional talent and potential.



indoor

15U/16U ATHLETE

Brooke Fermaniuk

Canuck Stuff Volleyball Club

Brooke Fermeniuk has really made her mark throughout the 2022/23 season, emerging as one of the top 16U athletes not only in Alberta, but across the country. She has made significant strides in her young career, earning herself a spot on the Youth Team Canada roster that will compete at the Canada Cup this July in Ontario. A versatile athlete, Brooke can play multiple positions and was an invaluable asset on her 16U Canuck team this season. Her impressive performances and dedication throughout the season have proven that she is a force to be reckoned with!

Brooke had a dominant season with Canuck Red this past season. Her contributions and outstanding performances were instrumental in the team's success. In Premier #1, she helped lead her team to a gold medal, showcasing her skills and competitive drive on the court.

Continuing her exceptional form, Fermeniuk played a crucial role in securing a bronze medal for Canuck Red in Premier #2, followed by a gold medal finish at Premier #3. Her resourcefulness, athleticism, and determination were key factors in the team's podium finishes, solidifying her reputation as a gifted and dependable player.

In addition to her outstanding performances in Premier competitions, Fermeniuk showcased her talent at the provincial and national levels, helping lead her team to a fifth-place finish at the Volleyball Alberta Provincial Championship, followed by an impressive fourth-place finish at the National Championships.

The success of Brooke and her team in the 2022/23 season speaks volumes about her talent, leadership, and ability to perform under pressure. As she continues to hone her skills and grow as an athlete, Fermeniuk is poised to make significant contributions to the volleyball landscape, and we are confident she will have a notable impact on the sport moving forward. There is no doubt that the future is bright for this young athlete, and we are honored to recognize her as our 2023 Mikasa 16U Athlete of the Year.

2023 Indoor Season Highlights: **16U Canuck Red Team**

Gold: Premier #1 South

Bronze: Premier #2

Gold: Premier #3Fifth: Provincials

Fourth: Nationals 16U Tier 1

Selected to Team Canada for 16U

MIKASA ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

His game knowledge is evident as he understands situations and consistently makes good decisions. Tyson quickly proved himself to be a leader on his team, helping the 15U Central Alberta Kings Volleyball Club to an unprecedented three Volleyball Alberta Premier Championships and Provincial Championship title. Following their Provincial Championship, Tyson continued to be a dominant outside hitter against some of the best teams from across the country at the 2023 Volleyball Canada 15U National Championships. Tyson helped lead his team to an impressive 7-2 record, resulting in a Tier 1 bronze medal finish.

Tyson is an athlete who coaches continually ask more of and is someone that continually delivers results on and off the court with high level volleyball skills and sportsmanship. "He is the outside hitter than any coach would love to have", says coach Terence McMullen. "Tyson has a huge passion for the game of volleyball, and I look forward to seeing what the future holds for him". Tyson is incredibly passionate, hardworking, and respectful. He is an extremely coachable athlete who sets high expectations for himself and while his resume and skills are incredibly impressive, one of his greatest attributes is his ability to raise the level of play and energy of other athletes around him. He eats, sleeps, and breathes volleyball and we have no doubt that the future is bright for this young athlete. We are grateful for the passion Tyson brings and all that he contributes to our community. We are proud to call him our Mikasa Athlete of the Year.

2023 Indoor Season Highlights:

15U CAKVC Black Team

- Gold: Premier 1
- Gold: Premier 2
- Gold: Premier 3
- Gold: Provincials
- Bronze: Nationals, 15U Tier 1
- Provincials All-Star Award
- Nationals All-Star Award
- Selected to be a part of the Team Alberta Training Centre for 16U



indoor

15U/16U ATHLETE

Tyson DeZutter

Central Alberta Kings Volleyball Club

Tyson DeZutter is undoubtedly a gifted young volleyball player, consistently demonstrating the ability to perform skills at a level well above his age. Growing up in the gym, he has been training since he was 5 years old, participating in camps and clinics with athletes much older than him, never shying away from the challenge. Tyson truly embraces what it means to be a high-performance athlete, learning early on to focus on the process of improvement which has allowed him to expand his skills significantly over the past few years. He learned as a young player how important ball control is and this combined with his impressive 6'3" stature, can dominate games with his discipline and power. Although currently an outside attacker, he has the versatility to play any position on the court.

Aside from his ability to dominate matches with his physicality, Tyson has a volleyball IQ well beyond his years. Having grown up in the gym, he has been exposed to countless hours of high-level volleyball, giving him a perspective few athletes his age has.



indoor

17U/18U ATHLETE

Abby Guezen

Pandas Volleyball Club

A true ambassador of our sport, Abby is a brilliant athlete, teammate, student, and role model in our community. It has truly been a privilege to watch her strive throughout her time in the Pandas program and to see the athlete she has become today. Her commitment to excellence, coachability, and personality have allowed Abby to become one of the top outsides in the country and most recently earned herself a spot with the 19U Team Canada program.

Abby is an undeniable athlete who does not shy away from big moments. Her work ethic, sportsmanship, and dedication make her a positive influence on and off the court. Guezen's contributions have been instrumental to her team's impressive performances. She played a crucial role in leading the Pandas to three Volleyball Alberta Premier Championships in addition to the Provincial Championship.

While standing out as a gifted athlete, she also impresses as an exceptional teammate. Guezen's selflessness, sense of humor, and dedication to her team make her a natural leader and a source of inspiration for her peers. She is a true asset to any team she represents.

"Abby is able to mix fun and intensity during practice making the environment better", says 18U Pandas Head Coach, Tashie. "On top of that, she is the ultimate team player - she will be the first to cheer on a teammate after a big kill or block".

Bevond her club success. Guezen's abilities have been recognized on the national stage. Representing Team Canada's 19U team demonstrates her exceptional skills, commitment, and passion for the game. Her selection to represent her country is a testament to her hard work, dedication, and extraordinary volleyball abilities. As she continues to excel in her volleyball journey, heading to the University of Alberta to begin her post-secondary career, Abby's future in the sport looks bright, and her impact on the game is sure to leave a lasting legacy. We are beyond proud to call Abby Guezen our Mikasa 18U Athlete of the Year.

2023 Indoor Season Highlights:

18U Pandas Team

- Gold: Premier 1
- Gold: Premier 2Gold: Premier 3
- Gold: Provincials
- Bronze: Nationals, 18U Tier 1
- Provincials All-Star Award
- Nationals All-Star Award
- Selected to Team Canada for 19U

MIKASA ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

He is a relentless competitor and aside from being a clear physical threat on the floor, he is also an exceptional decision maker far beyond his years. Kale was an integral part of the Kodiaks success this season, helping lead them to an impressive bronze and two gold medal finishes at the Volleyball Alberta Premier tournaments followed by a Provincial Championship, and the #1 seed going into the National Championship.

As the son of a volleyball coach, Kale was raised on the court, and his talent was evident from a young age. While Kale's abilities are impressive, his character is even more notable. Kale is a natural team leader, and his teammates look at him with respect and admiration. It is clear that Kale loves the sport of volleyball but recognizes that people are more important than a game. He is dedicated to his community and is an exceptional role model for athletes, often assisting with camps and clinics for developing players and always looks to give back to those around him.

Kale truly represents the type of exemplary character that reflects the values of our association, and we couldn't be more honored to have him representing our sport. We cannot think of anyone more deserving of the recognition of our Mikasa 18U Athlete of the Year

2023 Indoor Season Highlights:

18U Jr. Kodiaks Team

Bronze: Premier 1Gold: Premier 2Gold: Premier 3Gold: Provincials

Third: Nationals, 18U Tier 2
Provincials All-Star Award



INCOOR 17U/18U ATHLETE Kale Orr Lethbridge Volleyball Club

Serving as a member of the 18U Lethbridge Volleyball Club Jr. Kodiaks, Kale proved himself to be not only a great athlete but fantastic teammate, leader, and representative of volleyball in our community. He is an incredibly selfless athlete, always putting his team ahead of himself. He is a dedicated member of the LVC program but also demonstrates an exemplary commitment to his community at large. Kale's goal is to play postsecondary volleyball, but despite being contacted by numerous top programs across the country, he first plans to serve a two-year volunteer mission in Australia for his church. Kale's decision to leave home and volleyball for two years to support others is truly a testament to his character and one of many reasons he is incredibly deserving of this recognition.

Kale is undoubtedly a dominant athlete on the court, leading his team with the highest kill efficiency amongst outside attackers throughout his season.



indoor

DEVELOPMENT COACH

Audrey DeBona

Drumheller Club Volleyball

Audrey DeBona is an exceptional coach, mentor, and role model, who has made a lasting impact within the Drumheller Volleyball Club. As a dedicated coach, DeBona goes above and beyond to ensure that every athlete under her guidance reaches their full potential. With a commitment to teaching beyond the game of volleyball and fostering personal growth, she is admired and respected for her unwavering dedication to the development and well-being of her players.

DeBona firmly believes that coaching is about more than just the technical aspects of the sport. She understands the importance of teaching life lessons, character development and creating a positive team culture. Through her coaching, she instils values such as teamwork, discipline, resilience, and self-belief in her players. DeBona firmly believes cultivating holistic athletes goes hand in hand with creating exceptional individuals who can thrive both on and off the volleyball court.

"Audrey is the type of coach you dream of having for your child", says Drumheller Club Volleyball parent, Holly Stanger. "She is our girls' biggest cheerleader and that does not end at the end of volleyball season. She is a coach year-round to our girls, constantly checking up and seeing how they are making out in their school seasons. She cares for our girls and truly wants the absolute best for them in all facets of their lives".

DeBona's focus on athlete wellness extends far beyond the volleyball court. She is a passionate advocate and genuinely wants what's best for the girls outside of the sport. Whether it's providing mentorship, guidance, or support, DeBona is there to offer a helping hand and create a safe and nurturing environment where her players can flourish. She is generous with her time and unwavering devotion to the team, exemplify what it means to be of service to others. Through her guidance and support, she empowers athletes to discover their true potential and helps them navigate life's challenges and is truly an inspiration to those around her.

It is clear that Audrey's impact extends far beyond her ability as a coach, what she means to the club, athletes, and families is truly special and the Drumheller Volleyball Club wouldn't be the same without her. Her leadership and mentorship have a lasting impact on athletes, equipping them with the tools to succeed in volleyball and beyond. DeBona's tireless efforts and genuine care for her team exemplify the true essence of coaching and serve as a shining example of the positive influence one person can have on others. For all these reasons and more, we are thrilled to recognize her as the 2023 Mikasa Development Coach of the Year.

MIKASA ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

From current to former athletes as far as 15 years ago, the collective theme was an appreciation for Wayne's passion for the game and his commitment to serving and supporting every athlete in the Wave Volleyball family. He is renowned for his ability to develop skilled athletes and wellrounded individuals. Halliday's coaching has made a profound impact with his enthusiasm to teaching skills beyond the game, instilling character, life lessons, and serving as a role model. He has earned the admiration and respect of many within our association.

Halliday's coaching philosophy extends beyond the technical and tactical aspects of the game. He firmly believes in using volleyball as a platform to impart valuable life lessons and character growth. As a role model and leader, Halliday invests significant time and effort into understanding the unique needs and aspirations of each player, tailoring his coaching to bring out the best in everyone. Whether it's providing extra support during challenging times, organizing teambuilding activities, or offering advice and mentorship, Halliday's dedication to his players' well-being and development sets him apart as an extraordinary coach.

Wayne has been a major contributor to the development of volleyball in Alberta and we are so thankful for his dedication to our sport and the athletes within it. We are beyond proud to call him our 2023 Mikasa Development Coach of the Year. Thank you for all that you do.



indoor

DEVELOPMENT COACH

Wayne Halliday Sylvan Lake Volleyball Club

Wayne Halliday is an exceptional volleyball coach and leader whose dedication to the sport and community is simply unmatched. Serving as the Sylvan Lake Wave Volleyball Club coordinator for the past 24 years, Halliday has played an impactful role in the lives of countless athletes in the Central Alberta region. Often coaching multiple teams in a season amongst juggling administrative duties organizing the club, his selflessness and dedication to the sport and the program is truly remarkable.

The amount of support received in Wayne's nomination package is a testament to the pillar that he is in the volleyball community. We received countless letters from coaches, to athletes, to parents, and what is clear is that his influence is felt deeply and by many.



indoor

PERFORMANCE COACH

Christy Hansen

Pandas Volleyball Club

Christy is an accomplished coach with a passion for the sport and a dedication to excellence that has guided her throughout her career as a former player and coach. She brings a wealth of knowledge to the game, drawing from her own experience as a former highperformance athlete. It was during her time at the University of Alberta that Christy truly made her mark, playing a pivotal role leading her team to four CIS National Championships in four years. Following her university career, Christy's skill earned her a spot on the Team Canada roster. Representing her country at the highest level of competition was a great honor for her, and she used her experience to further enhance her coaching abilities.

Serving as the 17U head coach in the 2022/23 season, Christy led the team to an incredible season, finishing top five in each Volleyball Alberta Premier Tournament and capping off the season with a Provincial Championship and an impressive Division 1 Tier 1 Silver medal finish at the Volleyball Canada National Championship.

Driven by her love for the game and desire to share her knowledge and expertise, Christy is also one of the owners and founders of Aspire Volleyball. Christy believes in the power of teamwork, discipline, and perseverance, and strives to instill these values in her players both on and off the court. Her dedication to the sport and her players' personal growth has earned her the respect and gratitude of countless athletes whose lives she has touched.

One of Christy's key focuses as a coach is not only skill development but cultivating a strong team culture. She understands that success on the court goes beyond individual talent and requires a cohesive unit working towards a common goal. Christy fosters an environment where everyone's contribution is valued, emphasizing that each player has a role to play in the team's success. By emphasizing teamwork, mutual respect, and effective communication, she creates a supportive and cohesive team dynamic.

"Christy and her staff did a tremendous job of getting the very best out of the group of athletes they coached this year", said former University of Alberta Head Coach, Laurie Eisler. "Christy has a calm and resolve regardless of the game situation. Her team under this leadership style showed a tremendous amount of resiliency and perseverance that was truly impressive. While Christy always deflected accepting credit for her team's success, always shifting the attention to her team, I believe her role in their achievements cannot be overstated".

Christy's contributions to women's volleyball have a deep-rooted impact on the sport in Alberta, and her coaching legacy continues to inspire future generations of athletes and coaches alike. We are truly fortunate to have such a strong, dedicated, passionate woman leading the next generation of athletes. You become what you see and for all these reasons, we are pleased to recognize Christy Hansen as our 2023 Mikasa Performance Coach of the Year.

MIKASA ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

Beyond his tactical expertise, Orr distinguishes himself as a coach who leads with integrity and places great emphasis on sportsmanship. Orr's commitment to fostering a positive team culture creates an environment where athletes thrive not only as volleyball players and individuals. He is committed to providing his athletes with skills beyond volleyball and it is revealed in all that he did this past season, including extending his home, hosting many team dinners throughout the year.

Shane's exceptional coaching abilities, integrity, and dedication to his athletes have solidified his reputation as a highly respected figure within the Lethbridge Volleyball Club and well beyond.

"Shane is a tremendous motivator, a master teacher, and a terrific mentor for other coaches", says fellow LVC coach, Rob Wood. "Shane is a pillar in the southern volleyball community, and a huge contributor to the level of play and quality of volleyball athletes we are seeing come out of the south".

Through his leadership, he has achieved tremendous success for the program while instilling in his players the values of tenacity, respect, and teamwork. Orr's commitment to excellence and his genuine care for his athletes' well-being make him a transformative presence in their lives, shaping them into accomplished athletes and individuals. Shane embodies what it means to be a dedicated coach and mentor, these attributes help Alberta continue to grow as a leader in volleyball across Canada. Thank you for your commitment to making our sport a better one, we cannot think of anyone more deserving of the 2023 Mikasa Performance Coach Award.



INCOOR PERFORMANCE COACH Shane Orr Lethbridge Volleyball Club

Under Orr's expert guidance, the Lethbridge Volleyball Club experienced an exceptional 2022/23 season, earning a Volleyball Alberta Premier bronze medal and three gold medal finishes throughout the season, including a memorable Provincial Championship victory. These outstanding achievements stand as a testament to Orr's tactical acumen and ability to motivate his players to perform at their best in crucial moments. His keen strategic insights and meticulous approach to coaching have undoubtedly played a significant role in the team's accomplishments this season. His dedication to the team and his craft reflected in all that he did, including an incredible number of hours spent watching game film, taking stats, and planning practices. The standard in which Shane held himself, and his team to, was simply unmatched and it reflected in the outcome of their season.



volleyball

Steve Larsen
Velocity Volleyball Club

Steve Larsen is a dedicated volunteer at the Velocity Volleyball Club, where his passion for the sport and commitment to the community shine through his invaluable contributions. With a diverse skill set and a deep love for volleyball, Larsen has played a pivotal role in enhancing the club's operations and fostering a vibrant volleyball culture.

During the challenging times of the COVID-19 pandemic, Larsen's innovation and adaptability came to the forefront. Recognizing the importance of keeping the club's members connected despite physical restrictions and took on the responsibility of conducting live streaming for Velocity Volleyball Club. Through his technical expertise and dedication, Larsen successfully brought the excitement of matches to fans, players, and families who were unable to attend in person.

His live streaming initiatives not only provided a sense of normalcy during unprecedented times but also showcased his ability to ensure the volleyball community remained united and engaged.

His enthusiasm earned him the respect and gratitude of the athletes, parents, coaches, fellow volunteers, and the Velocity Volleyball Club at large. As a lifelong volleyball aficionado, his firsthand experience as a player gives him a unique perspective that allows him to provide sideline commentary that often brings a sense of levity and humour that bonds all those within the organization. Larsen is known for his positive attitude and deep passion, always cheering on the teams from the sidelines and his infectious zest for the sport inspires those around him.

Steve's genuine care for the well-being and success of the athletes is evident in his interactions and makes him a cherished member of the Velocity Volleyball Club. His devotion and invaluable contributions as a volunteer have left an indelible impact on the club. He is undeniably a worthy recipient of this year's Mikasa Volunteer Award and we are so grateful for Steve's dedication to the athletes and sport. It takes many people who choose to volunteer with their whole heart to make these programs possible so thank you for your vibrant contributions

MIKASA ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

She stepped into a leadership role as Zone Referee Lead for Zone 1 and participated in ACAC matches this past year. Shauna is poised to showcase her exceptional skills and abilities on a larger stage.

Shauna's focus to developing and enhancing her skills as a referee is unparalleled. She fearlessly takes on the challenge of refereeing matches at all levels of youth volleyball, showing remarkable adaptability and expertise in handling distinct game situations. Her ability to maintain composure in high-pressure scenarios further demonstrates her skill set as a referee.

What sets Shauna apart is her outstanding attitude and willingness to participate wholeheartedly. She embodies the spirit of always asking, "how can I help the game?" Her selflessness and dedication to serving the sport is unparalleled. Whether it's mentoring others, stepping in to cover matches when there are capacity issues, or providing support to her zone and provincial colleagues, Shauna consistently goes above and beyond to contribute to the betterment of volleyball in our province.

Shauna's thirst for knowledge, continuous improvement, and commitment to her role make her a very deserving recipient of this year's Referee Developmental Award. Her leadership, professionalism, and passion for the game serve as an inspiration to referees across the province. We are grateful for her hard work and exceptional efforts and know that without the dedication of individuals like Shauna, we wouldn't be where we are today as an association. Thank you, Shauna!



referee DEVELOPMENT

Shauna Gregus Level 2 (provincial)

Throughout the 2022/23 season, Shauna displayed a steady commitment to developing and enhancing her knowledge of the rules of the game, protocol, and various game situations. Throughout her journey as a referee, Shauna has demonstrated continuous improvement and a relentless pursuit of understanding and applying the intricacies of refereeing.

In her quest for knowledge, Shauna actively seeks feedback and willingly shares her experiences, always striving to improve event after event. Her openmindedness and eagerness to learn make her a role model for other referees in Southern Alberta and beyond. It is no surprise that her expertise has earned her the trust and confidence of her zone and the province, as she consistently delivers high-quality performances during matches.



referee

PERFORMANCE

Katyryna Gaudet Level 3 (regional) Level 4 (beach)

Katyryna is an extraordinary individual who embodies what it truly means to be a role model and leader within our community. Her exceptional performance as a referee (indoor and beach) and willingness to work at all levels of the sport throughout the season makes her a highly respected figure in the referee community.

Katvrvna's dedication to refereeing is evident in her motivation to work at all levels of the sport, showcasing her versatility and adaptability. Her performance on the court has earned recognition, leading to her nomination for the ACAC Women's Provincials and the 2022 Canada Summer Games, where she was the first referee for the Beach Women's Gold medal game. These acknowledgements reflect her outstanding skills and expertise as a referee. Furthermore, the ongoing pursuit of professional development demonstrates her focus on continuous improvement and personal growth.

In addition to her remarkable performance, Katyryna actively contributes to the development of other referees. She invests her time and knowledge by serving as a referee mentor and supervisor during the club season. Her dedication to mentoring and coaching others showcases her ability to fostering the growth of refereeing talent and ensuring the sport's future success. Through her guidance and support, Katyryna helps new referees navigate the complexities of the game, equipping them with the necessary skills and knowledge to excel in their roles.

Katyryna supports the sport beyond the court and into administrative roles. Taking on the challenging position of Referee Committee Chair (RRC) for the province, she has demonstrated exceptional leadership, understanding, and experience in policy and process matters. Katyryna tackles difficult conversations, asks tough questions, and evaluates the future to guide volleyball referees in a positive direction. Her dedication to going the extra mile and her ability to effectively communicate and collaborate with others makes her an invaluable asset

Katyryna's actively contributes to the growth and development of referees at various levels. Through her performance, dedication to mentoring, and administrative responsibilities, Katyryna continuously raises the standards of volleyball refereeing and leaves a lasting impression on all those she interacts with. She is a truly deserving recipient of this year's Referee Performance Award. We would not have the opportunity to grow the sport of volleyball across our province if it wasn't for the dedication and commitment of individuals like Katyryna. Thank you for all that you do.

MIKASA ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

HALL OF FAME INDUCTEE



DEBBIE JACKSON

2023 HALL OF FAME INDUCTEE (REFEREE)

HALL OF FAME AWARD



2023 inductee

REFEREE
Debbie Jackson
Level 4 (National)

Debbie Jackson, a talented volleyball player from Dapp, AB, rose to fame as a star setter, leading St. Mary's, Westlock to victory in the 1A Girl's Provincial Championships. However, when she was unable to participate in the club season as a player in 1977, Debbie chose to contribute to the sport in a different way-she became a referee.

Relocating to the Edmonton area in the early 80s, Debbie assumed the role of Zone Official's Chair (ZOC), single-handedly managing all aspects of the current system, including finances, assigning, discipline, and development. Juggling this demanding job for six years, Debbie spent countless hours on the phone, assigning games for various leagues in the city while simultaneously raising her two young children.

She even recalls assigning matches from a hospital room shortly after giving birth to her daughter Cindy in 1984. During this time, Debbie attained certifications as a Level II (Provincial) and Level III (Regional) Official, dedicating every spare moment to advancing volleyball in the province. She conducted clinics for new officials, developed zone policies as the ZOC, and tirelessly refereed matches at different levels, prioritizing the availability of referees for every possible game, even if it meant sacrificing her evenings.

In 1988, Debbie's remarkable skill, dedication and passion earned her a nomination for the Level IV (National) program. She completed her certification in Thunder Bay, Ontario, propelling her refereeing career for the next three decades and beyond.

In 2002, Debbie was elected as the Referee Officials Chair (ROC) for the Province of Alberta, serving two terms until 2008. During this period, she gained recognition at the national level and contributed to various committees, such as the Domestic Competitions Committee (DCC), Level IV Chair, and Level IV Upgrade Committee. Debbie's accomplishments include developing and leading the Women's Referee Development Committee, which has increasing recognition every season in promoting and advocating for women referees across the country.

HALL OF FAME INDUCTEE

Notably, she played a crucial role in planning and executing Alberta's inaugural Women in Officiating Weekend (WOW) in Edmonton in March 2022, bringing together 38 women from all regions of the province to officiate a 17U/18U Premier Tournament, fostering networking, mentoring, and empowering opportunities for women referees.

Debbie's contributions to volleyball in Alberta began with her introduction to the refereeing community and continue to this day. Each fall, she becomes a vital figure during the Metro Edmonton & North Central zone high school season, traveling across the province every weekend to officiate small-town tournaments and league games. Debbie consistently supervises the ASAA High School Provincials, sharing her years of knowledge and expertise with referees from various zones. She serves as a mentor in the Zone 6 area, assisting them in upgrading their skills. Throughout winter and spring, Debbie dedicates her efforts to the ACAC Provincials & CCAA National Championships, officiates and supervises VA age class events every weekend, and occasionally acts as a clinician for Level I clinics. Regardless of the location, she is always willing to support Volleyball Alberta in covering the growing number of courts in the Premier circuit. Remarkably, Debbie is one of two referees who have attended every VC Open/Youth Nationals since the event's inception in 1998.

Each season, Debbie goes above and beyond her own achievements, striving to give back to the game she wholeheartedly loves. She serves as a mentor, teacher, and invaluable source of knowledge, shaping referees in Alberta for years to come.

Debbie's accomplishments to date have been plentiful, and impactful, and have certainly earned her a position in the Volleyball Alberta Hall of Fame.

MIKASA AWARD RECIPIENTS

2023

BEACH Athlete Grace Baker Athlete Brandon Burnside Athlete Mitchell Aalbers 16U Brooke Fermaniuk 16U Tyson DeZutter 18U Abby Guezen 18U Kale Orr DEVELOPMENT COACH Audrey DeBona Wayne Halliday
PERFORMANCE COACH Christy Hansen Shane Orr **VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR** Steve Larsen REFEREE OF THE YEAR Development, Shauna Gregus Performance, Katyryna Gaudet

2022

BEACH Athlete Trinity Solecki Athlete Jacob van Geel ATHLETE 16U Sophia Hansen 16U Cole Czepuryk 18U Evvia Belireau 18U Jacob Sargent **DEVELOPMENT COACH** Reid Brodie **Geoff Trentham** PERFORMANCE COACH Cheri Wright Vinny Saporito VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR REFEREE OF THE YEAR Development, Nivi Uppal Performance, Steven Cabral

2021

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2020

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2019

BEACH Athlete Avery Kelly Athlete Sam Elgert **ATHLETE** 16U Mary Thiessen 16U Aaron Elser 18U Parker Austin 18U 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

Athlete Kenzie Vaandering Athlete Carson Brennan **ATHLETE** 16U Scarlett Gingera 16U Bryce Neuls 18U Nyadholi Thokbuom 18U Sam Elgert DEVELOPMENT COACH Rachel McKellar Rick Boves PERFORMANCE COACH Ron Thomson Scott Miller **VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR** Sue Mohler REFEREE OF THE YEAR Development, Seth Goodswimmer-Ferguson Performance, Travis Rott

2017

Athlete Journey Flewell Athlete Jesse Elser ATHLETE 16U Parker Austin 16U Carter Hills 18U Madison Marshall 18U Mitch Newman **DEVELOPMENT COACH** Andre Turgeon Tayler Marra PERFORMANCE COACH Jon Goldie Nathan Kern **VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR** Nicole Mathews REFEREE OF THE YEAR Jenna Nichol

2016

ATHLETE
16U Kara Crittall
16U Hunter Stewart
18U Sara McCreary
18U Max Elgert
DEVELOPMENT COACH
Grachella Garcia
Michele Hunt
PERFORMANCE COACH
Greg Elgert
Tracy Keats
VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR
Trish Holterhus
REFEREE OF THE YEAR
Pat Chizek

MIKASA AWARD RECIPIENTS

2015

ATHLETE
16U Lexi Peart
16U Jaxson Thys
18U Natasha Gordey 18U
Jacob Kern
16U COACH
Suzi Cooke
Nathan Kern
18U COACH
Rhonda Schmuland
lan Halliday
VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR
Denis Delemont
REFEREE OF THE YEAR
Shawn Shepherd

2014

ATHLETE
16U Hilary Howe
16U Shane Verkland
18U Ciara Hanly
18U Tanner Greves
16U COACH
Rod Hebert
Greg Elgert
18U COACH
Sandra Lamb
Kerry MacDonald
VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR
Mary Beth Meeuwisse
REFEREE OF THE YEAR
Everette Dionne

2013

ATHLETE
16U Carter McIntyre
16U Tessa Hill
18U Levi Wolthuis
18U Mariah Walsh
15/16U COACH
Allan Coulter
Raynell Lavertu-Prince
17U/18U COACH
Jace Barros
Lindsay Jones
VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR
Karl Hiebert
REFEREE OF THE YEAR
Janet Kawchuk

2012

ATHLETE

16U Derek Meeuwisse
16U Beth Vinnell
18U Brett Walsh
18U Alexa Gray
15U/16U COACH
Jace Barros
Reid Brodie
17U/18U COACH
Mark Maris
VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR
Laura Vaillant
REFEREE OF THE YEAR
Pam Rintoul

2011

ATHLETE
16U Ryan Nickifor
16U Courtney Yoo
18U Blake Hinchey
18U Alissa Coulter
15U/16U COACH
Candace Greves
Dusty Freimark
17U/18U COACH
Howard Gelderman
Rob Ellis
VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR
Brenda Jones
REFEREE OF THE YEAR
Mike Malowany

2010

ATHLETE
16U Brett Walsh
16U Kacey Otto
18U Zach Brown
18U Carly Hamilton
16U COACH
Mark Maris
Linda Richter
18U COACH
Tyler Myroniuk
Tracy Keats
VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR
Sai Wong
REFEREE OF THE YEAR
Ashley Fox

2009

ATHLETE
16U Kyjsa Brkich
16U Jackson Maris 18U
Camille Saxton 18U Jarron
Mueller
16U COACH
David Jones
LeAnn Kinvig
18U COACH
Jeremy Deeks
Reid Brodie
VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR
Heather Wishlow
REFEREE OF THE YEAR
Arch Beck

2008

ATHLETE
16U Jordhynn Guy
16U Branden Schmidt 18U
Kaylene Ehret
18U Jeremy Potter
16U COACH
Steve Weinbeer
Tracy Keats
18U COACH
Brad Poplawski
Don Saxton
VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR
Candice Sylvester
REFEREE OF THE YEAR
JP Desaulniers

2007

ATHLETE
16U Dione Lang
16U Jarron Mueller 18U
Jamie Thibeault 18U
Ciaran McGovern
16U COACH
Howard Gelderman
Pat Pyne
18U COACH
lan Bennett
Gisele Kreuger
VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR
Don Hutton
REFEREE OF THE YEAR
Neal Konowalyk

MIKASA AWARD RECIPIENTS

2006

ATHLETE

16U Camille Saxton 16U Jarrod Offereins

18U Tiffany Proudfoot

18U Tanner Nault

16U COACH

Dale Gullekson

Alex Melnyk

18U COACH

Gord Bocock

Chris Wandler

VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR

Terry Noble

REFEREE OF THE YEAR

Tammy McNally

2005

ATHLETE

16U Jaryn Ruether

16U Paul Lindemulder

18U Raynell Lavertu

18U Thomas Jarmoc

16U COACH

Darryl Tetz Bob Gabruck

18U COACH

Ryan Marsden

Rob Lindberg

VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR

Matt Stayner

REFERÉE OF THE YEAR

Sherri Weed

2004

ATHLETE

16U Jackie Gagnon 16U Ben Saxton

18U Lauren Perry

16U COACH

Art O'Dwyer

Grace Scott

18U COACH

Tyson Waters Linda Merrick

VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR

John Findlay

REFEREE OF THE YEAR

Glenn Johnston

2003

ATHLETE

16U Kristy Anderson 16U Colin Bell

18U Carolyn Macdonald

18U Mark Thibeault

16U COACH

lan Kulmatycki

Heather McIntosh

18U COACH

Mike Lauzon

Craig Gattinger

VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR

Kathy Van Humbeck

REFEREE OF THE YEAR

Scott McLean















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