

MÎKASA ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS



hall of Fame

commemorating

20 years

since the inaugural Hall of Fame induction ceremony in 2004.

Saturday

June 22, 2024

Venue:

Radisson® Hotel &
Conference Center Red Deer
Alberta, Canada

Volleyball Alberta Hall of Fame Inductees

YEAR	ATHLETE	BUILDER	СОАСН	TEAM	REFEREE
2024	Blair Bann	Leigh Goldie	Laurie Eisler		
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



VOLLEYBALL ALBERTA MIKASA ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS AND HALL OF FAME INDUCTION CEREMONY

Saturday, June 22, 2024 Red Deer, Alberta

volleyball alberta

VOLLEYBALL ALBERTA 'TEAM'

VOLLEYBALL ALBERTA STAFF

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Diane Clarke

DIRECTOR Jim Plakas

DIRECTOR Jen Telfer

MANAGER Ray Sewell

MANAGER
Alex Donaghy

MANAGER Ben Saxton

MANAGER Mike Ling

MANAGER Vinny Saporito

COORDINATOR Robyn Bishop

COORDINATOR
Julie Noel

COORDINATOR
Dia Syed

SUMMER STAFF

SUMMER CAMPS
Annalise Hansen
& Lana Matthews

BEACH - EDMONTON Ross Bishop

BEACH TOURNAMENTS

Jaxson Thys

HIGH PERFORMANCÉ Katie Murray

ELECTED APPOINTED DIRECTORS

PRESIDENT

Curt Clement

VICE-PRESIDENT

SECRETARY/TREASURER

DIRECTOR AT LARGE

DIRECTOR AT LARGE

Deborah Nyarko

Eryn Orysiuk

Jeff Smith

Chad Leier

REFEREES' REPRESENTATIVE

Kyle Fraser

DIRECTOR
Julia Pasieka

DIRECTOR
Michelle Whyte

DIRECTOR
Julia Donnelly

DIRECTOR Sarah Ridley

DIRECTOR
Mackenzie Allen

2024 AWARD RECIPIENTS

MIKASA achievement awards

2023 Beach Athletes Alexa Landmark Brandon Burnside
2024 Indoor Season
15U/16U Athletes Mila Kosoric Tyson DeZutter
17U/18U Athletes Sophia Hansen Cole Czepuryk
Development Coaches
Performance Coaches
Volunteer Koren McDougald
Referee (Development) Jeremy Gray Referee (Performance)
2024 Hall Fame
Athlete

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beach WOMEN'S DIVISION Alexa Landmark 2023 beach season

The 2022/23 summer season was instrumental in solidifying Alexa as a top beach player in Alberta as she finished off the year with an 18U Provincial Championship and top four finish at the Volleyball Canada National Championship. She's described as a talented athlete and great representative of beach volleyball who has built a strong foundation for a bright future in the sport. Alexa has demonstrated a strong level of commitment and passion, which has led to her selection to Team Alberta's Canada Games Beach Training Group, with a goal to represent Alberta at the 2025 Canada Summer Games.

It was clear that Alexa quickly fell in love with the beach game from a young age and spent the summers committing herself to her craft, quickly establishing herself as one of the preeminent athletes in her age group. In addition to her own training, she loves to share her passion with others, spending her spare time helping coach youth beach programs. Her love of the sport is infectious, and Alexa will continue to have a positive impact on beach volleyball in our province.

Her work ethic is often unmatched, and she is constantly in pursuit of the best version of herself. She is always looking for something else she can improve upon, and her energy and determination fuels her continued growth for not only herself but also her teammates. These attributes and her athletic ability were key to being selected to the 2023-24 University of Calgary Dinos indoor team. Alexa demonstrates an openness to coaching that has led her to many successes that will continue to drive her to reach her goals.

We are proud to recognize Alexa as the Mikasa Female Beach Volleyball Athlete of the Year. There is no doubt the future is bright for this young athlete, and we can't wait to cheer her on along the way.

2023 Beach Season Highlights

Gold: Youth #6 Gold: 18U Provincials 4th: 18U Tier 1 Nationals

Throughout the 2022/23 season, Brandon established himself as one of the top players in the country. His determination and dedication have led to a tremendous amount of success, including medal finishes at all three Volleyball Alberta tournaments, capping off the 2023 season with an 18U Provincial Championship. Outside of his success in Alberta, Brandon also managed to finish with a silver medal at the 2023 Volleyball Canada 21U Beach Nationals, solidifying him as an elite national level competitor. Following the success at nationals, Brandon made his international debut at the U21 World Beach Volleyball Championship in Thailand. Most recently, Brandon qualified for the 2024 U19 World Championship by winning Volleyball Canada's trials with fellow Albertan, Mason Doering,

It is not just his talent that sets Brandon apart, but his willingness to listen, learn, and grow, qualities that have endeared him to teammates and coaches alike. "Brandon is an amazing coachable athlete", says beach coach, Corey Cowper. "His love of the game, passion to compete, and willingness to learn and improve has contributed to his success in beach volleyball this past year and will certainly contribute to his success moving forward". Brandon approaches every training session and match with devotion and an open mind. He is always striving to elevate his game to new heights and his eagerness to learn from every experience serves as a shining example for athletes of

As we continue to grow the sport of beach volleyball in our province, we are proud to have an athlete like Brandon leading the way. Volleyball Alberta is grateful for his contributions to beach volleyball and knows there are many more to come.



beach MEN'S DIVISION Brandon Burnside 2023 beach season

We are delighted to recognize Brandon as our Male Beach Volleyball Athlete of the Year and are looking forward to seeing several more accomplishments from this young athlete.

2023 Beach Season Highlights

Gold: VA Beach 3 Silver: VA Beach 4 Gold: VA 18U Provincial Champion Silver: 21U Beach Nationals Represented Canada at U21 World

Championships finishing 33 Other Event Highlights

Bronze: VA Beach 1

Other Event Highlights
CBVA Men's League 1 - Gold Medal
CBVA Men's League 2 - Silver Medal
Men's Calgary Sandblaster - Bronze Medal
Men's Calgary Classic Division 2 - Gold Medal
Men's Calgary Sandblaster - Gold Medal
Men's Calgary Sandblaster - Gold Medal
Men's BC Beach Tour Kamloops - Bronze Medal
Mens Vancouver Open Qualifier - 2nd Place
Men's BC Beach Tour Penticton - Silver Medal

2024 Beach Season Highlights

Gold: VA 18U Beach 1 Gold: 19U Worlds Qualifier

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indoor 15U/16U ATHLETE Mila Kosoric Canuck Stuff Volleyball Club

Mila Kosoric personifies dedication, talent, and passion. As a current member of the 16U Canuck Volleyball Club, she has already left an indelible mark on the sport, garnering attention and admiration from both her peers and coaches in our community, most recently earning her an invitation to the 16U Team Canada camp.

Throughout the 2023/24 Season, Mila's selfless attitude and commitment have made her invaluable to her team. Consistently demonstrating exceptional skill and leadership on the court, Mila has become a loved player for all the right reasons in the Volleyball Alberta Community.

Her dedication to training, on and off the court, is evident in her performance and ability to inspire those around her. Mila helped lead her team to an impressive silver and two gold medals throughout the Volleyball Alberta season and finished with a Provincial Championship and tournament All-Star award.

Off the court, Mila is an ambassador of sportsmanship and leadership. Her positive attitude and infectious enthusiasm have a ripple effect on those around her, inspiring her teammates to strive for greatness both on and off the court. "Through all her ecstatic celebrations, optimistic approaches, and quirky conversations, I can truly say Mila has been an absolute pleasure to coach this season", says current Canuck coach, Chris Cheng.

As she continues to blaze a trail through the volleyball world, Mila's name will become synonymous with excellence. We are proud to call Mila our 16U Female Athlete of the Year and can't wait to see where her future takes her as this is just the beginning!

2024 Season Highlights

Canuck 16UG Black Gold: Premier 1 Gold: Premier 2 Silver: Premier 3 Gold: Provincials 5th: Nationals

Provincial All-Star

A back-to-back recipient of this award, Tyson DeZutter has established himself as not only a top athlete but an exceptional teammate and leader. He had an impressive season that included helping his high school team to a 4A Zone Championship and a 4A ASAA bronze medal at Provincials, earning the MVP award for his team, despite being one of the youngest members.

Continuing his success into the club season, Tyson proved to be a dedicated and hardworking athlete that was consistently relied upon by the coaching staff for his leadership skills and volleyball knowledge. Through Tyson's relentless pursuit to improve and compete at the highest level, he captained the 16U Central Alberta Kings Volleyball team to their second consecutive undefeated Volleyball Alberta season, with gold medal finishes at all three Volleyball Alberta Premiers and Provincials. His contributions at the 2024 Provincial Championship also resulted in his second straight Provincial All Star award. Tyson continued his remarkable season with the Kings, leading them to a Tier 1 Division 1 4th place finish at the National Championships, earning a National Tournament All Star Award for the second year in a row.

In addition to his team success throughout the club season, Tyson was selected to the U19 Team Canada program that competed at the 2024 NORCECA Championships, as well as the U17 Team Canada program that is currently competing at the U17 Pan Am Cup from June 15-23 in Mexico. We are proud to have Tyson representing Alberta within our national team system and can't wait to see him perform on the international stage.



indoor

15U/16U ATHLETE
Tyson DeZutter

Central Alberta Kings Volleyball Club

Tyson is a special athlete with tremendous skills, but what sets him apart from others is how he supports and respects teammates, competitors. coaches, and referees. Tyson is determined to one day compete as a professional volleyball player, and the resume he is accumulating is evidence enough that he is well on his way to achieving that goal. He is constantly seeking ways to improve, he is a student of the game, and his passion for volleyball shines through his play and grit. There is no doubt that the future is bright for Tyson, and we are proud to recognize him as our 16U Male Athlete of the Year.

2024 Season Highlights

16U CAKVC Black Team

Gold: Premier 1 Gold: Premier 2 Gold: Premier 3 Gold: Provincials 4th: Nationals Provincial All-Star Nationals All-Star

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17U/18U ATHLETE Sophia Hansen

Pandas Volleyball Club

A member of the Pandas Volleyball Club since 2016. Sophia has been a pillar of the program as a leader, exceptional athlete, and an incredible person. Off the court, Sophia demonstrates sportsmanship and integrity. Her guiet confidence and determination serve as a source of inspiration, reminding us that true leadership is not about commanding attention, but earning respect. In the 2023/24 season, she helped lead her team to four top three finishes, including Premier 3 gold and an 18U Provincial Championship. Throughout her volleyball career, Sophia has amassed many accolades and achievements, including multiple MVP awards, All-Star selections, and Championships. Yet, for Sophia, these accomplishments serve as steps to greater heights.

She has been recognized at the provincial and national level, representing both Team Alberta and Team Canada. Sophia has undoubtedly made her mark with National Team Programs, competing with the U19 Team at the NORCECA and FIVB World Championships this past summer. Following up on those programs, Sophia was selected to the National Excellence Program in Richmond, BC, where she continued to hone her skills with some of the top athletes and coaches in the country.

She committed to the University of Calgary for the 2024/25 season, Sophia will make a significant impact with the Dino's program. She is a highly motivated, hardworking student athlete who understands the commitment and sacrifice required to reach the next level. "Not only is Sophia an excellent athlete but she is a tremendous leader and makes those around her better", says UofC Head Coach, Christine Biggs. "We are proud to have an athlete like Sophia representing our program at the University of Calgary and I can't think of anyone more deserving of this recognition".

As she looks towards the future, Sophia remains steadfast in her commitment to excellence, driven by a relentless desire to push herself beyond her limits. With her quiet leadership, fierce competitiveness, and unwavering determination, there is no doubt that Sophia will be a force at the USport level. We are proud to recognize her as our 18U Female Athlete of the Year and can't wait to see what she does next!

2024 Season Highlights

18U Pandas Team Gold: Premier 1 4th: Premier 2 Gold: Premier 3 Gold: Provincials 5th: Nationals Provincials All-Star Cole has been a member of the Dinos Men's Volleyball Club since he was twelve years old. In the 2023/24 Volleyball Alberta season, Cole successfully led the 18U Dinos team to gold medals at two VA Premiers, capping it off with a Provincial Championship and well-deserved tournament All Star Award. Cole is an incredibly versatile and well-rounded player, and one of the most dominant left-sides in the province. Outside of his athletic abilities, Cole is humble, coachable, passionate, and works incredibly hard to grow as an athlete and person.

In addition to his contribution to the Dinos club, Cole represented Team Alberta and most recently at the National Excellence Program in Gatineau, Quebec. "Cole combined hard work, discipline and excellent observational skills while training at the National Excellence Program. It was a pleasure to work with him daily while he went about the task of becoming a highperformance athlete. Cole was a great teammate and conscious contributor to our daily training environment, he earned a vital role on our team as he helped everyone, and himself, grow together." Dan Lewis (Coach NEP Volleyball Canada).

While Cole maintains a consistently high compete attitude and pushes himself daily to perform at his peak performance, he is also an incredible team player. Cole challenges each of his teammates to be the best player that they can be, the minute they step on the court. He celebrates each of his teammate's successes and is the first to offer encouragement and support when they struggle. His quiet, calm, caring demeanor off the court is counter intuitive to his relentless drive and fierce level of intensity on the volleyball court.



indoor

17U/18U ATHLETE Cole Czepuryk

Dinos Boys Volleyball Club

Cole is the type of player that every coach wants on their team. He is described as confident, focused, and consistent. He performs very well in pressure situations and has the skill, confidence, and ability to determine a match's outcome. Cole will continue his legacy with the Dinos as he transitions to the varsity program at the University of Calgary for the fall of 2024 where he will pursue a degree in psychology, with the intention to study a master's degree in forensic psychology or law. We are honored to acknowledge Cole as the 18U Male Athlete of the year and can't wait to see what he does in this next chapter of his volleyball career. He will be a rookie to watch at the USport level and we can't wait to cheer him on!

2024 Season Highlights

18U Dinos Team Gold: Premier 1 5th: Premier 2 Gold: Premier 3 Gold: Provincials 11th: Nationals Provincials All-Star

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DEVELOPMENT COACH
Ariel Galvani

Kinetic Volleyball Club

Ariel Galvani is not only an incredible volleyball coach, but a great leader, mentor, supporter, and advocate for young athletes. Ariel exemplifies the qualities every athlete and parent would want in a coach. Originally from Brazil, he made the move to Canada in 2018 and brought his passion for volleyball to the Kinetic Volleyball Club. Since joining the program, coach Ariel has made an immediate impact, leading the 13U and 14U teams to several top finishes throughout his tenure and leaving a lasting impression on each athlete that he works with. "Coach Ariel always has a happy and positive disposition and makes practice fun even when he's working you so hard", says Kinetic Red athlete, Stasia Lau. "He is always encouraging us and has the most kind ways of correcting our mistakes and we are all so lucky to have Coach Ariel to quide us".

Amongst many of his strengths, Ariel is described as having a gentle patience, always lending his advice and experience in a way that is encouraging rather than imposing. He remains positive when athletes make mistakes and points out where they can improve next time in a way that makes them feel safe and eager to learn from him. He always knows just what to say when the team is in low spirits, and never loses his confidence in their ability to learn and grow as players. He instils a sense of confidence with how he provides feedback, which has taught the girls that it is not a negative thing, but rather an opportunity for growth.

In addition to his exceptional volleyball knowledge, Ariel's leadership qualities, integrity, and character are what makes him stand out as an outstanding developmental coach. He clearly puts his heart and soul into the development and improvement of every player on his team, always smiling. Ariel never hesitates when athletes request extra coaching, whether it's evenings or weekends, he is always willing to give his time to support them.

Ariel has cultivated exceptional young athletes and helped shape resilient, confident, and compassionate individuals. He instills values of sportsmanship, teamwork, and perseverance, guiding each athlete to reach their fullest potential. He truly has a gift for bringing out the best in everyone and we are fortunate to have such an incredible leader in our community. We are proud to recognize Ariel as our Development Coach of the Year and are grateful to have him leading the athletes of the future.

Serving as the head coach of the 13U Thunder Volleyball Club, Megan proved she is remarkable in her role as a mentor and coach. Megan's coaching style is unique in that she doesn't just focus on teaching volleyball skills; she's deeply committed to instilling important life lessons in her players as well. She believes in creating an environment where every athlete, regardless of their skill level, feels valued and supported. What makes Megan stand out further is her dedication to ensuring each player reaches their full potential, both on and off the court.

Megan's personalized attention, encouragement, and support have played a pivotal role in the development and growth of her team throughout the season. Not only was there a significant improvement in the team's volleyball skills, but a tremendous amount of growth in the athlete's confidence and perseverance under Megan's guidance.

There is no doubt that Megan is a special coach in the Fort McMurray community. Beyond her coaching abilities, Megan's commitment to continuous learning is truly admirable. She actively seeks out opportunities to enhance her coaching knowledge and skills, through attending workshops, seeking mentorship, or staying updated on the latest coaching tactics and techniques. Her dedication to selfimprovement and her team is simply unmatched. Megan never hesitates to go above and beyond, volunteering countless hours for practices, road trips, fundraisers, and constant communication with families and athletes.



indoor
DEVELOPMENT COACH
Megan Loxam

Fort McMurray Thunder Volleyball Club

Megan truly models the qualities of an outstanding coach who goes above and beyond the call of duty. Her dedication, leadership, and genuine care for her athletes' well-being make her a deserving candidate for the Development Coach Award, and we are honored to recognize her as an outstanding member of our community. We are grateful for her dedication to the athletes in our sport and are confident that it is because of coaches like Megan, our sport will continue to grow and have a positive impact on athletes for years to come.

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PERFORMANCE COACH

Northern Alberta Volleyball Club

Kyle has dedicated many years to the sport of volleyball and has shared his knowledge and love for the game with the next generation. In 2023/24, Kyle led the NAVC 17U Black team to an impressive season, including a 17U Provincial Championship and a top eight finish at the Volleyball Canada National Championship. Kyle's efforts as a coach - his knowledge, skill and season-long endurance and commitment serve as an example to the athletes of what it takes to grow and develop. Simply put, he shows up again and again for his athletes.

Kyle shares his passion for the sport in a way that inspires and motivates them to set goals as players and as people. He teaches the fundamental balance of being able to highlight continued areas of growth while celebrating accomplishments and achievements. He maintains open communication with every player, shares feedback and makes them feel not only seen and heard but valued. Kyle's embodiment of respect and sportsmanship in competitive play is remarkable and an example for everyone to follow.

"He is a huge asset to our club, and we are stronger because of him", says NAVC President, Sue Mohler. "We conduct a parent/athlete survey every year and over the past 4 seasons he has been with us his dedication, commitment and positive impact he has had on athletes is always acknowledged".

He works collaboratively with coaches to provide a great training environment and dedicates a tremendous amount of time to assure each athlete is getting what they need. He is an amazing teacher and role model that is leading young men of the future. Kyle has provided innumerable positive, lifelong experiences through volleyball that will significantly impact his athletes far beyond their time at NAVC.

Kyle also contributes to highperformance volleyball in other capacities, serving several years as an assistant coach with the University of Alberta Golden Bears and with the Team Alberta program in the summers. His deep commitment, extensive knowledge, and ability to support and connect with athletes led to an incredibly successful year. Volleyball Alberta is proud to acknowledge him as our Performance Coach of the Year. As head coach of the 18U Dinos this past season, Shannon led the team to top three finishes throughout the Volleyball Alberta season and a top five placement at the National Championships. Shannon's passion for sport and inspiring young women is impressive and she empowers them to perform and succeed as a team and as individuals. Over the last five years. she has had a direct role in assisting thirty-two players in pursuing postsecondary opportunities and has maintained strong relationships with all her past athletes. Her commitment and ability to create positive and lasting relationships are the best examples of the positive impact she has had.

"Shannon has been the most influential coach I have ever had", says current Dinos 18U athlete, Kaya Singha. "Not only does she push us to achieve our goals as a team; she keeps us accountable when we struggle. She cares deeply for every single person on our team, and it shows in the way she coaches".

Shannon does an exceptional job creating meaningful relationships and has instilled an unbreakable belief in her teams. There is a sincerity in all that she does and a dedication to growth in both herself and her team that is truly admirable. Shannon has continued her own personal development completing her Advanced Performance Coach Certification and most recently was accepted into Volleyball Canada's Performance Coach workshop. She models initiative, promoting growth and development, and encourages everyone to seek out areas and opportunities to improve.



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PERFORMANCE COACH
Shannon Rossall
Dino Women's Volleyball Club

Shannon demonstrates many of the key attributes of a high-performance coach implementing an enhanced daily training environment, empowering approach to coaching, strong culture, and team focused mentality. She creates excellent teams by focusing on the person, not just the athlete and her continued success this year makes her an incredible candidate for the Mikasa Performance Coach Award. Volleyball Alberta is proud to recognize Shannon for this award and appreciates her continued commitment to excellence in our community.

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referee

DEVELOPMENT
Jeremy Gray
Level 3 (regional)

The 2023/24 season was an exceptional year of growth for Jeremy, consistently making strides to position himself as a top referee throughout the season. His hard work and dedication were reflected in his performance this year, officiating at all levels and continually seeking feedback to improve. Jeremy never hesitates to ask for help in understanding rule interpretation and immediately works on implementing changes. His openness to growth and feedback and a steadfast commitment to mastering the rules of the game, protocol, and various game situations, has helped him grow into the referee he is today. This dedication is evident through his active participation, collaboration and willingness to observe matches and pick-up shifts to sharpen his skills.

Jeremy's abilities as a referee have shown remarkable improvement over the years. He has taken on various levels of youth volleyball, including the challenging task of handling unique game situations and conflict management. His involvement in learning E-Score and assisting at Level 1 Development Clinics highlights his proactive approach to a growth mind-set and his desire to contribute to the sport.

Moreover, Jeremy's positive attitude and willingness to participate make him a standout candidate for the award. Despite being a full-time student, he consistently dedicates his weekends to refereeing, even taking on the most entry level matches at tripleball, demonstrating his dedication to the development of the sport. His calm demeanor on and off the court instills confidence in teams and facilitates constructive discussions with captains and coaches. Jeremy's flexibility, reliability, and personable nature make him an invaluable asset, embodying the spirit of the Mikasa Award for Development Referee. Volleyball Alberta is proud to recognize Jeremy for his contributions to our community and we can't think of anyone more deserving of this recognition.

After three decades of dedicated teaching in Saskatchewan, Mitch embarked on a new journey upon his retirement in 2019, relocating with his family to Alberta in search of fresh adventures and challenges. Throughout his career, Mitch has been deeply involved in the vibrant world of volleyball, serving as both coach and referee for thirty years. In 2018, he earned his Level I badge and attained his Level II in 2019. Transitioning to Alberta, Mitch continued his pursuit of excellence, culminating in completing his level 3 certification in 2023. Mitch's refereeing journey has been marked by exemplary performance and devotion across all levels.

Beyond refereeing, Mitch has been instrumental in nurturing and developing aspiring referees, actively participating in Level 1 & 2 clinics and serving as a mentor during the club season. His commitment to mentoring and fostering the growth of others reflects his profound passion for the game and desire to impart knowledge to the next generation of referees.

Moreover, Mitch's contributions extend to administrative roles, where he consistently goes above and beyond the call of duty. His involvement in these capacities showcases his commitment to the sport's overall development and underscores his willingness to invest time and effort selflessly.



referee PERFORMANCE

Mitch Forest Level 3 (regional)

In recognition of his outstanding achievements and dedication. Mitch has been nominated by his fellow referees and the leadership team for this Mikasa High-Performance Referee Award. This accolade highlights his contributions as a leader, mentor, and ambassador of the sport. Referees are truly the unsung heroes of our community and Volleyball Alberta is proud to recognize Mitch for this welldeserved award. Thank you for all you have done to support the continued growth of volleyball in Alberta.

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referee

Anne Cote Volleyball Canada Referee Award of Excellence

Anne Cote has dedicated fifty-two years of exemplary service and leadership, her passion for the game and extensive experience and contributions makes her an outstanding candidate for the Volleyball Canada Referee Award of Excellence.

Her commitment to the sport is truly remarkable. She started in 1972 in Edmonton, but moved to Saskatchewan and worked the following years in Saskatoon until 2017. Her tenure includes refereeing high school, Canada West University, College, National Age Class Championships, and international exhibition matches. Anne's dedication is evident in her continued involvement, as seen in her recent roles as a scorekeeper for FIVB Pro-Beach Tours in Edmonton.

Anne's involvement in major Championships such as the Commonwealth Games, Canada Games, NORCECA Championships, and World Junior Women's Championships speaks to her high level of expertise and professionalism. She has been nominated for a variety of gold medal matches at these Championships. Being the first woman on the lines for a final at the 1991 NORCECA Championship and subsequent assignments in significant matches highlight her groundbreaking achievements.

Anne served as treasurer and assignor for Saskatoon and the area for over twenty-five years, demonstrating her administrative prowess. She played a crucial role in mentoring and encouraging new referees in Saskatoon, ensuring a continuous influx of skilled professionals. Her liaison work between referees and the high school association in Saskatoon showcases her commitment to fostering strong relationships.

Anne has actively mentored referees, sharing her knowledge and experience to foster the growth of new talents within the Edmonton and Calgary Zones. Her role as a mentor at Volleyball Alberta Premiers showcases her commitment to nurturing referees across all age categories.

Anne's achievements have not gone unnoticed, as evidenced by her numerous awards and recognitions over the years, including the Sask Sports Volunteer Award, six-time Saskatchewan Volleyball Coach of the Year, induction into the Saskatoon Sports Hall of Fame, induction to Saskatchewan Volleyball Association Sports Hall of Fame, and Volleyball Canada Female Coach of the Year Award.

Anne Cote's unparalleled dedication, leadership, and contributions to volleyball refereeing make her an exceptional choice for the Volleyball Canada Referee Award of Excellence.

Scott boasts an impressive forty plus years of dedicated service as a registered referee, exemplifying a long-standing commitment to refereeing. His leadership and dedication have set a standard for excellence in the refereeing community, provincially and nationally. Throughout his tenure, he has consistently shown an innovative approach to his roles, always seeking ways to improve and contribute to referee development along the way.

Scott's commitment extends beyond provincial boundaries, with many years of impactful involvement at the Volleyball Canada level. His contributions in various leadership roles, such as the National Referee Committee, the PTA Referee Officials' Chair, Sub Committee Chair, Referee Supervisor, Referee Mentor/Evaluator, and Clinician, reflect his dedication to fostering development and excellence within the broader volleyball community. His achievements and leadership roles underscore his comprehensive understanding of the intricacies of refereeing.

His involvement in discipline committees further attests to his dedication to upholding high ethical standards in refereeing, making him a respected and influential figure in promoting integrity within the volleyball community.

Scott's enduring impact is evident through his adaptability and resilience, showcased by his successful transition from player to referee, participation in international matches across different countries, and obtaining international certification.



referee

Scott McLean Volleyball Canada Referee Award of Distinction

His openness to new experiences, such as venturing into beach volleyball at the 2023 Nationals, reflects his belief in embracing challenges and fostering a spirit of exploration, learning, and personal growth.

Scott McLean fulfills the stringent criteria for this award, with a remarkable history as a referee, complemented by eight years of distinguished service at the national level in various leadership roles. His dedication, expertise, and contributions to refereeing at all levels make him an exceptional and highly deserving candidate for this esteemed recognition.

Congratulations to Scott on receiving the Volleyball Canada Referee Award of Distinction!





VOLUNTEER Koren McDougald Drumheller Club Volleyball

DCV Smash

land on.

It is clear that Koren McDougald is

the heartbeat of the Drumheller Club

Volleyball Smash. As president, coach, mentor, mediator, advocator, and problem solver of the club, Koren has been instrumental in its growth and success. Despite her busy schedule. which includes running a large cattle operation with her husband (Brad), Koren has been recruiting coaches, supporting teams, and practices at all levels. She has gone beyond her duties to help coaches navigate challenges and create an environment of inclusion and passion. She has even recruited more players and coaches to ensure as many athletes as possible have a team to

Along with a few friends, Koren started the Drumheller Club Volleyball Smash, once realizing there was no opportunity for youth to play within an hour's drive of Drumheller. The club was born from a vision of providing opportunities for athletes to share the love of volleyball and has grown into a pillar of the community. In 2019, the club had only two teams; a 14U and 16U girls' team with twelve players each. The club has since grown to have at least one, if not two teams in each age category from 13U to 17U. The club is now home to seventy athletes, across seven teams, including twenty members within its coaching and managerial staff.

Koren wears many hats and the members of the volleyball community know and love her for the dedication she has for Smash. Koren has breathed life into the Drumheller volleyball community, and her love of the game lives through the club's spirit. Koren's exceptional dedication and tireless efforts in founding and leading the volleyball club embodies the soul of volunteerism and community leadership.

Koren has announced her retirement this year and to say she will be missed is an understatement, but her legacy will far exceed her time with the club, and we are proud to recognize her as the Mikasa Volunteer of the Year. It is people like Koren who are at the core of sport development, and it is thanks to her there are so many athletes and coaches that get to share volleyball and develop memories that will last them a lifetime. It is from the bottom of our hearts that we thank Koren for everything she's done.

MIKASA ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS





2024 inductee

Blair Bann

Blair Bann, a distinguished libero and a stalwart of Canadian volleyball, has had an illustrious career marked by numerous accolades and pivotal performances on the international stage.

Bann began playing volleyball at fourteen, later he heard about club volleyball and made the NAVC 16U Gold team. After graduating high school, he went on to the University of British Columbia, where he played for five years. He was a two-time CIS Top Libero (2008, 2010) and four-time Canada West Best Libero (2008-2011), leading the Thunderbirds to consecutive runner-up finishes at the Canada West Championship in 2007 and 2008. His collegiate success also included representing Canada at the 2009 Universiade in Belgrade, where the team finished sixth, and winning gold with Team Alberta at the 2009 Canada Summer Games.

Bann made his professional debut in 2012, primarily playing with German club SWD Powervolleys Düren. His international club career highlights include finishing third in both the 2015 German Bundesliga and German Cup with Düren, and second in the 2020 German Cup and third in the 2021 Bundesliga standings. While playing in France, he finished second in both Ligue A and the French Cup with Chaumont Volley-Ball 52 in 2019 and came fifth in the Champions League.

Internationally, Bann's career is decorated with significant achievements. He was a member of Team Canada at the 2011 Pan Am Games in Guadalajara, where he was voted Best Digger. He made his FIVB World League debut in 2012, helping Canada achieve a fifth-place finish in 2013, and was named Best Receiver at the 2013 NORCECA Continental Championship, where Canada won silver.

In 2015, Bann was instrumental in Canada winning gold at the NORCECA Continental Championship and helped the team secure a seventh-place finish at the FIVB World Cup, matching Canada's best-ever result. His efforts were crucial in qualifying Canada for the Rio 2016 Olympics, marking the country's first men's Olympic volleyball spot since 1992. In Rio, Bann helped Canada achieve a fifth-place finish, their best result since 1984.

Bann continued to shine, being named Best Libero at the 2017 FIVB World League as Canada won its first-ever bronze medal in an international FIVB event. That year, Canada also secured bronze at the NORCECA Continental Championship. In 2018, Bann competed in his first FIVB World Championship, with Canada finishing ninth, a position they also achieved at the 2019 FIVB World Cup.

He played a pivotal role in Canada qualifying for Tokyo 2020, leading the team to an undefeated record at the NORCECA Continental Qualifier, where he was named tournament MVP and Best Receiver. Despite the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, Bann helped Canada finish eighth at both the 2021 FIVB Nations League and the Tokyo 2020 Olympics. Blair Bann's dedication and performance have left an indelible mark on Canadian volleyball. His career is a testament to his skill, resilience, and commitment to the sport.

Blair Bann's career is highlighted by his exceptional contributions and leadership on and off the court, making him a deserving inductee into the Volleyball Alberta Hall of Fame.

Achievements and Milestones

- Olympic Games: 2016 (5th place), 2020 (8th place)
- Pan American Games: 2011 (6th place)
- FISU Universiade: 2009 (6th place)
- FIVB World Cup: 2015 (7th place), 2019 (9th place)
- FIVB World Championships: 2018 (9th place)
- FIVB Nations League: 2018 (7th place), 2019 (9th place), 2021 (8th place)
- FIVB World League: 2012 (12th place), 2013 (5th place), 2014 (15th place), 2015 (15th place), 2016 (13th place), 2017 (Bronze)
- NORCECA Continental Championships: 2013 (Silver), 2015 (Gold), 2017 (Bronze), 2019 (Bronze)

HALL OF FAME AWARD



2024 inductee COACH Laurie Eisler

Laurie Eisler is a remarkable figure in Canadian volleyball. Eisler's journey from a stellar playing career at the University of Saskatchewan to becoming one of the most celebrated coaches in U SPORTS women's volleyball history is a testament to her dedication, leadership, and passion for the sport.

As an athlete, Eisler was a four-time Canada West All-Star, a CIAU All-Canadian, and a key player in the 1984 Canada West Championship team. Her transition from player to coach saw her initially serve as the head coach for the Saskatchewan Huskies in the 1989/90 season, where she was named the Canada West Coach of the Year.

In 1991, Laurie Eisler became the head coach of the University of Alberta Pandas volleyball team. Under her leadership, the Pandas transformed into a dominant force in Canadian university volleyball. Over her thirty-one seasons with the Pandas, Eisler led the team to seven National Championships (1995, 1996, 1997, 1998, 1999, 2000, 2007) and eleven Canada West titles. She has guided the team to seventeen U SPORT medals, comprising seven gold, seven silver, and three bronze.

Eisler's impact extends beyond her impressive win-loss record. She reached the 800-win milestone, becoming only the second women's volleyball coach to achieve this. She became the winningest coach in University of Alberta history on February 24, 2017, surpassing Clare Drake's record of 720 career wins. Her overall record stands at an extraordinary 870-331, with 440 of those wins in conference play.

Eisler's coaching prowess has been recognized repeatedly. She has been named the Canada West Coach of the Year eight times (1990*, 1994, 1995, 1996, 2003, 2004, 2009, 2017) and the U SPORTS Coach of the Year three times (1995, 2003, 2004). Her influence on the sport also includes her role as head coach at the FISU Games on several occasions and her involvement with the National Team program, including leading the Canadian FISU team at the 2019 Summer Universiade Games in Napoli, Italy.

Laurie Eisler's legacy is one of excellence, commitment, and inspiration. Her career is a model of what can be achieved through hard work, resilience, and a love for the game. As she is inducted into the Volleyball Alberta Hall of Fame, the volleyball community celebrates not just her numerous achievements but also her profound impact on athletes, coaches, and the sport of volleyball in Canada

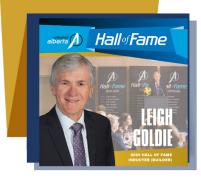
Laurie Eisler's journey reflects her profound influence and legacy on volleyball. Her induction into the Volleyball Alberta Hall of Fame is a fitting recognition of her outstanding contributions to the sport in Canada.

Achievements and Milestones

- •National Championships: 1995, 1996, 1997, 1998, 1999, 2000, 2007
- Canada West Championships: 1993, 1995, 1996, 1997, 2000, 2003, 2004, 2007, 2008, 2012, 2017
- U SPORTS Coach of the Year: 1995, 2003, 2004
- •Canada West Coach of the Year: 1990, 1994, 1995, 1996, 2003, 2004, 2009, 2017
- •Overall Coaching Record: 870-331
- •Conference Coaching Record: 440-170
- Winningest Coach in University of Alberta History: Surpassed Clare Drake's 720 wins on February 24, 2017

HALL OF FAME AWARD

HALL OF FAME AWARD



2024 inductee BUILDER Leigh Goldie

Leigh Goldie's dedication and contributions to volleyball have left an indelible mark on the sport in Grande Prairie and across Canada. His lifelong commitment to the development and promotion of volleyball has shaped countless athletes and coaches, fostering a deep passion for the sport.

Goldie's journey into volleyball began unexpectedly. Growing up in London, Ontario, he played baseball and basketball, eventually playing university basketball at Wilfred Laurier in Waterloo. After transferring to the University of Alberta, where he completed his Physical Education degree and met his future wife, Bethe, Leigh applied for a teaching job at Grande Prairie Regional College (GPRC) in 1975. To his surprise, he was also asked to coach the Men's Volleyball team, setting him on a path that would define his career.

As head coach of the GPRC Men's Volleyball team from 1975 to 1989, Leigh led the team to multiple provincial medals and earned three ACAC Coach of the Year awards. His passion for coaching extended beyond the college as he founded the Wolves Volleyball Club in 1984, which became one of the largest and most successful clubs in Canada, amassing numerous provincial and national medals.

Transitioning into leadership roles, Leigh spearheaded GPRC's hosting of the CCAA Volleyball Nationals for five consecutive years from 1998 to 2002, earning accolades for organizing some of the best National Championships ever hosted. His influence continued to grow as he joined the Volleyball Alberta Board of Directors in 1987, eventually serving as President from 2006 to 2020. Under his leadership, Volleyball Alberta became a national leader in the sport.

Goldie's impact extended to the national level as well. He served on the Volleyball Canada board and contributed to the governance and development of National Championships. As the CCAA Men's Volleyball Convenor from 1992 to 2011, and later as Vice President and President of CCAA programs from 2011 to 2018, he guided the direction of collegiate volleyball in Canada.

Upon retiring from teaching Physical Education at GPRC after forty-one years, Leigh continued to influence the sport through advisory roles and delivering NCCP coaching courses across Alberta. His remarkable career is marked by dedication, leadership, and volunteerism and has earned him numerous awards and recognitions, including the Alberta Sport Connection Coach Developer Award in 2015 and induction into the Grande Prairie Regional College Wall of Fame in 2016.

Leigh Goldie's legacy is one of tireless service to volleyball, balancing his professional commitments with his roles as a husband, father, and grandparent. His nomination into the Volleyball Alberta Hall of Fame is a fitting tribute to his extraordinary contributions to the sport.

Leigh Goldie's exceptional life of commitment to volleyball makes him a deserving inductee into the Volleyball Alberta Hall of Fame.

Achievements and Milestones

Coaching:

- Head Coach, GPRC Men's Volleyball (1975-1989)
- ACAC Coach of the Year (1988-1989)
- Founder and President, Wolves Volleyball Club (1984-2009)
- NCCP Multi-Sport and Volleyball Learning Facilitator (1984-present)
- o ACAC Volleyball Convenor (2016-present)

Leadership:

- Volleyball Alberta President (2006-2020)
- Volleyball Alberta Board of Directors (1987-2006)
- Volleyball Alberta's representative to Volleyball Canada (2006-2020)
- CCAA Men's Volleyball Convenor (1992-2011)
- Vice President & President, CCAA
 Programs (2011-2018)
- Host, CCAA National Championship (1998-2002)

Awards and Recognitions:

- Government of Alberta Sport
 Volunteer Recognition Award (2002)
- O George Repka Award (2007)
- Alberta Sport Connection Coach
 Developer Award (2015)
- Grande Prairie Regional College Wall of Fame (2016)

Other:

- Member, Grande Prairie Sport Council (2013-present)
- Board of Directors, Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society (2020-present)
- Arctic Winter Games International Committee Member (2010-present)

HALL OF FAME AWARD

MIKASA AWARD RECIPIENTS

2024

BEACH Athlete Alexa Landmark Athlete Brandon Burnside ATHLETE 16U Mila Kosoric 16U Tyson DeZutter 18U Sophia Hansen 18U Cole Czepuryk DEVELOPMENT COACH Ariel Galvani Megan Loxam PERFORMANCE COACH Shannon Rossall Kyle Erickson **VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR** Koren McDougald REFEREE OF THE YEAR Development, Jeremy Grav Performance, Mitch Forest

2023

BEACH Athlete Grace Baker Athlete Brandon Burnside Athlete Mitchell Aalbers ATHLETE 16U Brooke Fermaniuk 16U Tyson DeZutter 18U Abby Guezen 18U Kale Orr DEVELOPMENT COACH Audrey DeBona Wavne 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 Trent Rix REFEREE OF THE YEAR Development, Nivi Uppal Performance, Steven Cabral

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

BEACH Athlete Kenzie Vaandering Athlete Carson Brennan ATHLETE 16U Scarlett Gingera 16U Bryce Neuls 18U Nyadholi Thokbuom 18U 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

*2020 and 2021 indoor seasons cancelled due to covid-19 pandemic.

MIKASA AWARD RECIPIENTS

2017

BEACH 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

2015

ATHLETE
16U Lexi Peart
16U Jaxson Thys
18U Natasha Gordey 18U
Jacob Kern
16U COACH
Suzi Cooke
Nathan Kern
18U COACH
Rhonda Schmuland
Ian 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
Janet Kawchuk
REFEREE OF THE YEAR
Karl Hiebert

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

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
Rejd Brodie
VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR
Heather Wishlow
REFERREE OF THE YEAR
Arch Beck

MIKASA AWARD RECIPIENTS

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
Ian Bennett
Gisele Kreuger
VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR
Don Hutton
REFEREE OF THE YEAR

2006

Neal Konowalyk

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

2004

Sherri Weed

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
Ian Kulmatycki
Heather McIntosh
18U COACH
Mike Lauzon
Craig Gattlinger
VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR
Kathy Van Humbeck
REFEREE OF THE YEAR
Scott McLean



Acknowledgements

Awards

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