

SASK VOLLEYBALL HALL OF FAME



Inducted 2017 – PLAYER/BUILDER

MELANIE SANFORD

Melanie Sanford was an impact player with the University of Saskatchewan women's volleyball teams, helping the Huskies to Canadian championships in three straight seasons, 1978-1979, 1979-1980, 1980-1981. Individually, she also achieved success, by being selected as the Most Valuable Player in the 1979 CIAU championships, as well as being named to the CIAU All-Canadian all-star team three times, three selections as a Canada West first team all-star, and twice as the University of Saskatchewan's female athlete of the year. Melanie started her volleyball career in Saskatoon by playing at Caswell Elementary school and then on to Bedford Road Collegiate, where the team won a provincial championship in her grade 12 season. She was chosen to play on Canada's junior national team where she had her first sample of international competition in Mexico in 1976. She continued her career as a member of the Canadian senior national team from 1976 to 1982. Melanie joined a professional volleyball team in Tokyo, Japan, and furthered her professional playing career in Genoa, Italy in 1983-1984.

After finishing her playing career, Melanie went on to coach volleyball at the university level as she has been the head coach for the University of Regina Cougars since 2002. During this time, she guided her team to two national championship tournaments, and won a bronze medal in the Canada West league in 2010. Her coaching experiences also include time at the junior and senior national team levels as both an assistant and a head coach. All the while, Melanie continued to be involved in coaching education and development, receiving the highest level of certification (Level V) from Canada's National Coaching Certification Program in 2010. As part of her interest in her own personal coaching development, she was involved on the technical committee of the International University Sports Federation (FISU) from 1995 to 2013, attending a number of FISU games and twice acting as team leader. She has also assisted in two FIVB competitions; once as the competition director and the other as director of court operations.

Melanie was inducted into the Saskatoon Sports Hall of Fame in 2010.