

2017 Sask Volleyball Award Winners

Marlene Hoffman Volunteer Award

Lewie Bell – Lewie has done so much for the volleyball community in Moose Jaw. He has given so many girls and boys an opportunity to play volleyball when they would not have had the opportunity otherwise. Lewie is a great coach and has done so much for the volleyball community in Moose Jaw, whether it's by spending countless hours in the gym for practices, running camps to prepare athletes for high school seasons, being at the gym all weekend long running tournaments, or travelling around the province taking teams to tournaments. He always puts 100% into anything he does. Lewie is an amazing coach and club administrator because he is so dedicated and always has the athlete's best interest at heart. He wants to see athletes reach their full potential and be successful as athletes and also as individuals, but most importantly he wants athletes to love the game. He teaches athletes to enjoy what they do, the most important reason why athletes play volleyball is because they love playing the game, this is something a lot of coaches can sometimes forget, but not Lewie. Lewie has helped more than a handful of athletes move onto postsecondary schools and some even further to continue their volleyball careers and their love of the game. Lewie is definitely one of the most intelligent, caring, and dedicated coaches and these are only some of the reasons why he is deserving of the Marlene Hoffman Volunteer Award. Thank you for all you have done for the volleyball community in Moose Jaw Lewie!!

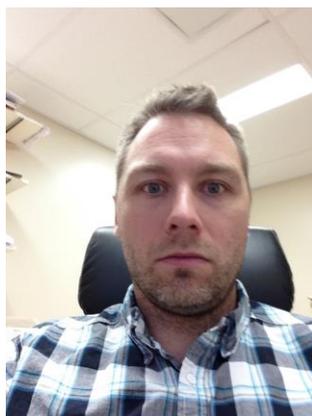
Jana Friedenstab – Jana began her love of volleyball at North Battleford Comprehensive High School and went on to join the University of Regina Cougars and the Team Canada Women's program. She brought her love of the sport back to North Battleford and is one of the founders of the Battlefords Volleyball Club. She aided in the organization of individual Battleford's teams to create the Club program that has become 120 athletes strong. Beginning with a young group of girls, Jana has volunteered countless hours to develop them into a perennial contender every season. Her commitment to excellence has driven her to become a Certified Performance Coach, High School Coach, Club Coach, and a member of the Sask Volleyball Provincial Team Coaching staff. Outside of Jana's volleyball commitments, she has become a performance ski coach at Table Mountain for close to a decade. She is the mother of three very busy student/athletes. The Battlefords are fortunate and proud of Jana's accomplishment and her receiving a Marlene Hoffman Volunteer Award.



Coaching Awards

The recipients of these awards shall be coaches that have made a special contribution as a coach to the development of the sport of volleyball:

Male Developmental Coach of the Year – Rene Quintal – There are few coaches in the province who can boast the acumen and pedigree of Rene Quintal. Rene has perpetually found strategies to meet his athlete's needs during training. He is able to identify team and individual shortcomings and plan effective drills that correct these shortcomings. Rene truly believes all athletes can succeed if they are prepared to do the work required. He creates an environment where athletes learn and improve with each session. Rene has been a successful coach in the upper age groups for many years, but has always taken the time to develop the younger athletes. He has kept the Smashing Bananas program a force in the province year after year after year. Rene is starting the kids early in PA now with Mini/Atomic/Smashball programs for kids in grades 1 – 6. These programs, include 80 young athletes taking part and learning to love the game at a very young age.



Female Developmental Coach of the Year – Riley Singleton – Riley lives for volleyball, and continues to share his passion for the sport with the kids in his community of Oxbow and throughout the province. Riley has been involved with the Oxbow Black Knights volleyball program since he started his teaching career in Oxbow. The time and dedication he shows towards each of his teams and athletes cannot be expressed in a more significant way than with this award. Riley spends 4 nights per week practicing with his teams and then travels every weekend during club season with 1 of his 3 teams...sometimes he has 2 teams travelling at the same time! His success with growing and producing athletes has been rewarded with many medals and top finishes throughout the seasons. He is organized and fun. His players respect him tremendously and work hard to make him proud, and proud of them he is. He is a positive coach who his players can depend on, and his generosity and dedication to the program is second to none. Riley works tirelessly as a teacher at OPHS and still manages to coach top level teams from a small Southeast Community. As well as club volleyball, Riley coaches the High school senior team, as well as the Junior team and Rookie team during the high school season. Riley also offers summer training at no added cost to the athletes. He just wants the kids to develop and be the best they can be, as well as dedicating a portion of his summer to helping coach Team Sask.



The recipients of these awards will be club coaches who have achieved notable success as a coach during the current year.

Male Performance Coach of the Year – Patrick Winand – Patrick started a new club in the Balgonie/White Butte area and gave brand new opportunities for kids in the area to play volleyball. He is very passionate, promotes the sport in the area and in a very short time has seen great success with his program. The 16U team medalled or finished in the top 4 at the majority of tournaments they entered this past year, including a first place finish at a Manitoba tournament. The team earned a Silver medal at the Sask Volleyball Provincial Championships. Patrick's passion and dedication to the sport and his team is infectious and he has developed a very competitive team out of a small area. He coached at Greenall last fall and won the city championships in 2016. He also coached in the Saskatchewan Summer games and on Team Sask Provincial teams this past summer. Patrick's commitment to the sport and to developing men's volleyball is quickly seeing results on the court for his Balgonie Wolves. They have shown the rest of the province that they are training hard and ready to compete with anyone in the province.



Female Performance Coach of the Year – Dwayne Stonechild – In 2008 Dwayne entered a club team into the 14U category and two years later he added a second team starting in the 13U category. Over the course of the years he has generated tremendous team and individual results. Despite a thriving professional career, Dwayne tirelessly gives his time to enthusiastically share his expertise in skill development and teamwork. He focuses on player growth and a framework that provides a platform for hard work and love of the game. Dwayne always arrives at practice with a training plan, sets clear goals for the players and runs efficient practices that keep the athletes engaged. He keeps in year-round contact with his athletes checking on their academics, other activities and reminding them to be a leader in their community and at their schools. He can regularly be seen attending other activities that his athletes participate in and showing support. One of his most impressive achievements is his player retention rate as players return year after year to play for him. Dwayne's hard work of laying the foundation of a successful volleyball club and program is not only seen in the success of his individual athletes but in the teams' success as well. His 17U team won the Sask Volleyball Provincial Championship this past season, and his 16U team had an overall record of 68 wins and 7 losses, winning 2 Sask Cup tournaments in 2017 and the 16U Saskatoon Youth Volleyball League Championship. Between the 17U and 16U teams, 10 individual athletes played on a Team Sask Provincial team this past summer, and 2 Athletes played on the 17U Women's North American Indigenous Games Team. Not only are the Smash teams' tough competitors on the court but they display sportsmanship on and off the court, which comes from their leader Dwayne, who leads with integrity and uses his motto 'Love the Game, and it will Love You Back'. Congratulations Dwayne on training wonderful individual volleyball athletes and putting it all together on teams to showcase everyone's strengths and achieve great team results.



Referee of the Year

Lara Schroeder – Lara has worked very hard to obtain her Level 3. She is a diligent referee that takes her position quite seriously and is always striving to improve herself. This past year she made herself available steadily throughout the season to help out when referee numbers were lean. Lara's hard work, dedication and commitment to bettering herself should be a beacon for other referees to follow. It has been a pleasure to watch her evolve over the past few years and become the confident and capable referee that she is today.



Academic and Athletic Excellence

Presented to the provincial female and male athlete who best exemplifies athletic and academic achievements of excellence.

Darcey Busse Memorial Award – Luke Wandzura – Luke is a very deserving recipient of the 2017 Darcy Busse Memorial Award. He was Prince Albert St. Mary High School's 2017 Valedictorian graduating with a grade 12 academic average of 97.38%. He was able to maintain this high average while at the same time competing in high school volleyball and basketball and playing in the 2017 season with PAVC 18U men. Luke also volunteered as a coach with the Prince Albert Atomic Volleyball Club. Luke has continued his volleyball career with the University of Saskatchewan Huskies.



Laurie Ann Leier Memorial Award – Mia Harder – It has been said that excellence is the gradual result of always wanting to be better, and Mia is a true exemplar of this statement. Mia, like all her siblings, has been blessed to grow up in a family that has encouraged her to pursue her passion for the game. This pursuit has resulted in countless hours in the gym training and competing with teammates, and friends she has developed over the years. Mia’s pursuit of excellence is not limited to volleyball. She has consistently demonstrated the value of being a student-athlete. While excelling at the game, she has also been able to achieve academic excellence in her studies. This last year, Mia won a SHSAA 3A gold medal with her high school team, she competed with the Briercrest 18U club program, she competed with Team Saskatchewan in the 2017 Jeux Canada Games, and she graduated from high school with high honours. Mia is a wonderful role model when it comes to achieving balance between academics and athletics and has proved that with focus, it is possible to excel at both. Mia is currently attending Briercrest College where she continues to display the characteristics of a committed student-athlete. We wish Mia continued success in all of her activities!



Athlete of the Year – Beach

Adult Beach Male – Colin Fraser – Colin’s high level of skill in every aspect of the game made playing beach volleyball easy and led to a successful summer in the sand.



Adult Beach Female —Lindsay Braul— Lindsay is an amazing teammate in both beach co-ed 2's and 4's. She is very competitive but always stays calm under pressure. Whether it is talent, or knowledge of the game, Lindsay is up there with the best. Lindsay is a great competitive teammate and you cannot ask for a better person to be on your side of the court. Pairing with her skill and knowledge of the game, her positive attitude and personality makes playing alongside her tons of fun. She is extremely talented and technical with her play, she also brings a ton of knowledge and strategy. Her understanding of the game of beach volleyball makes her a great addition to any team, and she can always be counted on her to have an idea for improvements. Lindsay always strives to be the best and has a contagious way about her, which helps motivate others to do the same both on the beach as a player, and on the hard court as a coach.



Youth Beach Female –Jordy McEachern – Born and raised in Regina, Jordy currently attends Campbell Collegiate and is a starting left side on the Jr Girls volleyball team. This summer was Jordy's first experience playing competitive beach volleyball and, as a 14U athlete, won the 16U Provincial Championship with her partner Bailey Balaberda. The championship final was a well played match against a 16U team from Saskatoon, but Jordy and Bailey battled hard to win the game in the third and deciding set. Throughout the school year, Jordy plays indoor volleyball for the Cougar Volleyball Club and is returning to play on their 16U team for the 2018 season.



Youth Beach Male –Thundersky Walkingbear – Thundersky is a naturally talented volleyball player who is able find success whether he is playing in the sand or indoor. His athleticism coupled with his great technique allow him to take over and dominate a set or match. While quiet, his actions speak louder than his words as Thunder has been a major leader on and off the court with his high school and club teams over the past two seasons. Thunder was also lucky enough to represent Saskatchewan at the North American Indigenous Games over the summer, ultimately securing a gold medal with his hard effort and stellar performance. Congratulations Thunder!



Athlete of the Year – Indoor

16U Female – Jayda Harder - This past year is one in which Jayda Harder has made her presence known, not only at the provincial level, but also on the National stage, in volleyball. Jayda is the youngest of 3 sisters and number 4 in a family with 5 children. Jayda has been blessed to grow up in a family that has encouraged her to pursue her passion for the game. Learning to compete in the gym or on the beach court, from an early age her family has supported Jayda’s development of athleticism and intelligence in volleyball. Over the past 12 months, Jayda has had the opportunity to push her development to the next level and become a talented team leader at the same time. Jayda ended her grade 10 high school season by capturing the SHSAA 3A gold medal with her team at Waldheim School. Following the school season and together with her sisters, Jayda played on the Briercrest 18U volleyball team. Jayda was one of the dominant players in the 18U age category, even though she was two years underage. After completing a success club season Jayda was selected to represent two special teams – Team Saskatchewan at the 2017 Jeux Canada Games and the Volleyball Canada 16U Youth National Development Team (YNDP). Jayda spent the first two weeks of July training with the YNDP in Abbotsford, BC before heading out to Fort Lauderdale, FL to compete at the USA Volleyball High Performance Championships with the 16U National team. After returning from her YNDP experience, Jayda picked up training with the Provincial Team in preparation for the Canada Games in August. Jayda had a tremendous Canada Games with her team and continued to demonstrate a desire to compete with the best athletes in the country. Congratulations Jayda on a terrific year of volleyball!



16U Male – Marcus Wagner – Marcus was central to the success of a Huskie Volleyball Club (HVC) team that won three provincial tournaments in 2017, including the provincial championship. During the season, Marcus was chosen the top HVC player at Best of the West, garnered much attention from coaches at the next levels up, and was the most polished HVC athlete overall. His club coaches were impressed with his attitude on a number of fronts. First, he played for HVC, and was one of the younger members of the Canada Games training group for Saskatchewan at the same time. This speaks to his dedication and his appetite for volleyball. Second, Marcus was on a club team that played 12 different players in every match - not everyone finds this easy to do. As HVC's most accomplished player, however, Marcus played in half of his teams' games without complaint and encouraged his teammates when he wasn't active. Third, in addition to his excellent work as a blocker, defender and so on, Marcus served his teammates well as a setter and team leader. Notably, he was chosen to the 16U Team Canada Selects team after club and Canada Games training were completed. This national age-class team trained in Vancouver over the summer of 2017. In summary, Marcus is a deserving recipient of this award and has a tremendously bright future as a volleyball player.



17U Female – Olivia Mattern – Olivia played HVC 17U last year, and was an all-around stand out. She helped lead her team to a Provincial Bronze Medal; won the “Top Dog” award at the year-end banquet, and lead her St. Joseph High School team to a provincial bronze medal as well. This past summer, Olivia was chosen to represent Saskatchewan at the Canadian Summer Games in Winnipeg and showing her versatility and all-round ability, and played the majority of the time as the starting libero. Olivia is without a doubt an incredible all-around athlete. Provincially she's one of the top left side hitters and able to hit any ball set to her. She sees the floor very well and has a killer block too. Along with her terrific net play, Olivia also brings outstanding defense, passing and strong and effective serving. Olivia is a true competitor behind that 'sweet as pie' exterior. She's the most coachable kid you'll ever work with; is motivating and encouraging to her teammates, and a fierce adversary should you be across the net from her. She's often counted on to get the critical point, and Olivia very seldom disappoints! The 18U HVC team will look forward to her continuing that dominance in club this year as she prepares to join the U of S Huskies next fall. We look forward to seeing her on the CIS stage! Congratulations Olivia!



17U Male – Ryder Kehler – Ryder is an extremely hard-working athlete who is constantly striving to become a better player every time he steps on the court. Usually overshadowed by his loud and energetic demeanour, he is constantly talking and celebrating with his teammates. For being a Libero, it's impossible to impact the game on the offensive end, but on defence, it's tough to find a player like Ryder who has the ability to use his speed and quickness to make tough plays look routine. Ryder was a member of the 18U RVC Elite, Team Saskatchewan 17U, as well the Provincial Silver Medalists, Leboldus Golden Suns. As an athlete who is committed to getting better and playing at the post secondary level, don't be surprised to see Ryder contributing in the upcoming years in university athletics and beyond.



18U Female – Jessica Lerminiaux – Jessica played with the 18U CVC Cougars and was an impact player on the team. She helped lead her 18U Cougar team to a Provincial Championship, as well as her Campbell Collegiate High School team to a Provincial Silver medal. This past summer, Jessica played with Team Sask at the Canada Games in Winnipeg and is now playing with the University of Regina Cougars. In 2014, as a rookie, she helped the Campbell Tartans earn a Silver medal at SHSAA – 5A provincial championships, and then followed it up with an SHSAA – 5A Provincial Championship in 2015. Jessica is without a doubt, the most dominant power hitter in the province and has the total package of what you want in an outside hitter. She is able to hit the ball line, cross-court, or cut sharp to zone 4. Blessed with height and athletic ability, Jess has the ability to hit right over top of the opponents' block. Along with her shot-making, she is also an outstanding passer, defender, and server. Jessica strives to play her best wherever she is on the court, is an excellent teammate, and is very coachable. Congratulations Jessica.



18U Male – Jake Rapin – Jake is a most deserving winner of this award. Jake drew upon his experience of representing Sask Volleyball 18U men in July 2016 earning a silver medal at the 2016 NTCC's in Kingston. While in Kingston, he was selected to the 2016 Team Canada Youth Men's Team. In the 2017 Age class season, Jake was able to run a high level offence involving both front and back row attackers and he helped lead the PAVC 18U men to the 18U provincial championship. At the Volleyball Canada 18U Nationals in Saskatoon, his setting accuracy and strong net play allowed his team to be the first Saskatchewan 18U men's teams to qualify for Tier 1 since 2008. This past summer due to being too old to compete at Jeux Canada Games, Jake started to play beach volleyball. He was able to partner up with long time club teammate Connor Murray and finish in second place at the 2017 Sask Volleyball Men's Beach Provincials. Jake received many offers to play post secondary volleyball in both CCAA and USport. After weighing all his options he decided to further his career with the Red Deer College Kings for the 2017-2018 season.



21U Female – Emily Koshinsky – Emily is a well deserving recipient of this award! Over this past year she excelled on the volleyball court as a first year, which is not an easy task. Not only did she excel, she continued to work hard and be a great teammate, as well as an outstanding student. She continues to be one of the best amongst her peers, which is totally understandable as she has always been able to compete with athletes older than herself, as she took home the 16U Sask Volleyball Athlete of the Year as a 15 Year old, and again, as a 16 year old. She captured the 18U award last year. We are all excited to see what Emily will do next on the court, as it's been a pleasure watching her over the years develop into the tremendous athlete that she is.



21U Male – Derek Epp – Derek is well deserving of this recognition. Over the past year Derek established himself as a starting setter in the Canada West in his rookie season with the Huskies. He was recognized as a member of the Canada West and CIS all rookie teams for his efforts. Derek was also named the University of Saskatchewan's male Rookie of the Year for his accomplishments. On the international stage, Derek represented Canada in 2015 on the Canadian Youth team and again in 2016 on the Canadian Junior team. This past summer he was once again selected to the Junior team and helped Canada qualify for the U21 Junior World Championships in the Czech Republic where they finished in 8th place. Derek's desire for continual improvement is an admirable trait that makes him a pleasure to coach and will continue to serve him well in his Volleyball and life pursuits.



Saskatchewan Players on National Teams

B Team Summer 2017

Tyler Epp

Junior Team Summer 2017

Derek Epp

Full Time Training Centre (Sept 2016- April 2017)

CJ Gavlas

Senior Women's Team

Elizabeth Wendell

Select Youth Men's Team Summer 2017

Marcus Wagner

Youth Women's Team Summer 2017

Jayda Harder

Sask Volleyball Hall of Fame

Sask Volleyball inducted Frank Enns, Melanie Sanford and Eileen Kramchynsky Nelson into the Sask Volleyball Hall of Fame in a ceremony in April 2017.

2018 Inductees to the Sask Volleyball Hall of Fame will be Lori-Ann Mundt, Kerri Kendrioza (Buchberger), Tom Graham, and Don Saxton.

2017 Provincial Championship Teams

INDOOR

13UW – Battleford VC Heat

14UW – Division 1: Lanigan Blue

Division 2: Nipawin JBH Strikers

14UM – Division 1: Prince Albert PAVC Smashing Bananas Gold

Division 2: Saskatoon JCVC Black

15UW – Division 1: Swift Current Jr. Sundogs

Division 2: Lloydminster Rustlers Gold

16UW – Division 1: Prince Albert Optimist Toppers En Fuego

Division 2: Saskatoon JCVC Red

16UM – Division 1: Saskatoon HVC Green 16U

Division 2: Regina RVC Sea Lions 16U

17UW – Division 1: Saskatoon Smash

Division 2: Regina CVC Cougars

18UW – Division 1: Regina CVC Cougars

Division 2: Carlyle Redcoat Rebels

18UM – Prince Albert Smashing Bananas 18U

Master Women's Terry Morrow Spirit of the Game Recipient – Sharla Guenther & Jill Fletcher

BEACH

14U Women – Anaka Switzer/Rachel Vanderhooff

16U Women – Bailey Balaberda/Jordy McEachern

16U Men – Kristopher Kriel/Marc Rapin

Senior Women - Tammy Huggins/Sam Galenzoski

Senior Men – Colin Fraser/Aidan Saladana