

## 2015 Sask Volleyball Award Winners

### Service Award

**Christine Epp and Pam Shoults** – Pam and Christine served on the Organizing Committee of the 2014-2015 CIS Men's Volleyball National Championships held in Saskatoon at the University of Saskatchewan in February of 2015. Pam and Christine led efforts in recruiting, training, scheduling and supervising 140+ volunteers. It has been said that volunteers are the unsung heroes of events like this. They are the people behind the scenes, managing parking, hosting VIP's, driving vans, cleaning the court, greeting out-of-town guests, running errands and doing whatever needs to be done, even, or especially when it's not glamorous or popular. Pam and Christine went above and beyond the call-of-duty in leading a group of volunteers (many of whom have never been exposed to the game of volleyball) in the most professional yet enjoyable manner possible. Each shift for the volunteers were detailed in expectation, strategic in desired outcome and most importantly, executed in the most uplifting and pleasurable manner. Pam and Christine continue to love the sport and give back in any way they can. For the host Huskies, Pam and Christine truly were the Champion of Volunteers.



## Marlene Hoffman Volunteer Award

**Natalie Kazeil** – Natalie epitomizes the spirit of the Marlene Hoffman award. She has dedicated countless hours to offer the young athletes around the Strasbourg area a chance to develop their skills in the game of volleyball and life. She has the approach of better athlete becomes better teammate becomes better person. She is truly an inspiration to countless people in the community while also maintaining an active family and business life. Her organizational skills are second to none and she enjoys every minute of the player, coach interaction. Her goal of meeting new athletes and parents, turning them into lifelong friends, is a testament to her leadership and true family values. Natalie is truly deserving of this recognition and award.



**Donna Janvier** – Donna started out four years ago as a parent volunteer who would travel, minor officiate and supervise the boys from La Loche as they competed in club volleyball tournaments throughout Saskatchewan. Since then, Donna has taken the one day workshop in the Mini and Atomic Volleyball Programs and used that to coach at the elementary school. Donna is presently enrolled in the Development Coach program and coaching females at the high school and club level. She will complete the program by December 2015. Donna also takes on the role as the academic advisor for both programs to ensure that the players are meeting the academic requirements to participate. Last year Donna put on approximately 12,000 kilometres coaching and supervising the high school and club teams, and drove over half of that distance herself. She is new to the sport of volleyball but has the passion, heart, and work ethic that enable her to be successful. She is always at practices, tournaments, and volleyball camps. Donna is very dependable and demonstrates the commitment that is making a difference on the volleyball court and in the school and community. She is a role model and very well respected as a coach and educator in the community of La Loche.



**Morgan Montgomery** – Morgan has had a substantial impact on growing the game of volleyball in South West Saskatchewan. Morgan is one of the co-founders, and still remains an executive member of the Jr. SunDogs Volleyball Club. The Jr. SunDogs have grown immensely over the past few years. A large part of that growth is due to Morgan’s commitment. On top of that, she has coached in many girls divisions every year that the club has been running. The players that she coaches call her friendly, knowledgeable, and dedicated. Building strong relationships and instilling a high level of skill into her athletes are two of her greatest strengths. Morgan spends countless hours in the gym with her players and more time out of the gym with coaches, executive members, and parents. This dedication is even more impressive when you factor in that she has two young children at home. Morgan’s success can be measured by the relationships she has built in the volleyball community and the amount of kids enjoying volleyball because of her efforts.



## 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:*

**Chris Nicholson Male Developmental Coach of the Year – Rhae-Ann Holoien**– Rhae-Ann is passionate about instilling a love of volleyball in her athletes. Basic skills are the key focus for her athletes' development. She brings enthusiasm to practices and motivates players to learn and perform to their potential. She believes in developing well-rounded athletes. Lifelong skills for players is a goal for her coaching and at the end of the season, the experiences and development need to be positive for the season to be successful.



**Female Developmental Coach of the Year – Don Morrison** – Don is well known in the volleyball community as both a player and a coach, as he has been coaching with the Lumsden High School volleyball program for many years. In 2014 he began coaching with QCVC, guiding his 13U team to a bronze medal at Provincials. He followed that up this season with a 14U Gold at Provincials. Whether winning or losing, Don always has an upbeat attitude, a smile on his face, and positive feedback for his players. His enthusiasm for volleyball transfers to his players as he improves their individual skills and builds the team. Any athlete would be very fortunate to have Don as a volleyball coach.



*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 – Jeff Court** – In the 2014-15 season, Jeff led the NSVC Tiger to their third straight provincial title. Jeff leaves his mark on every player he coaches. He is much more than just a coach to many of his players, he is always there for help when needed and is a great role model for his players. He teaches his players that friendships and memories are much more important than the volleyball, and the mindset of playing for each other, is what gave his team the motivation to win every game that they played. Jeff works with each player individually and helps them better their own game in the areas that they require. He was a major factor in 5 of his players playing sports at the post-secondary level and a few more with offers to have done so. Jeff has coached the same core group of kids with the addition of a few others for the past 5 years, starting at 14U. He coached many during high school in grades 9, 10 and 11 at Carlton Comprehensive High School before he relocated to be the principal at Birch Hills High School. Jeff reunited with them in their final year of club volleyball and helped them earn a provincial championship to top of their club volleyball careers. Jeff also won the Sask Volleyball Male Performance Coach of the Year in 2010.



**Female Performance Coach of the Year – Todd Carignan** – Todd coached the 18U Cougar Volleyball Club Team to a Provincial Championship in 2015, which was a significant accomplishment for this group of athletes. No doubt his level of commitment to the team helped them ultimately reach this goal. The work that Todd put into this season was simply outstanding, he definitely went over and above the basic responsibilities of a coach. His relentless dedication; to work at getting the athletes on the team to fulfill his vision, to methodically planning a team training and competition schedule while accommodating many multi-sport athletes and a busy coaching staff, to fund raising over \$3000 for the team....really the list could go on and on! He accomplished all of this while working to complete his Level 3 coaching certification. Todd's commitment to developing the sport of volleyball, in the high performance setting, in Saskatchewan is remarkable, and he is a much deserving of this award and recognition.



## Referee of the Year

**Cam Roberts** – Cam has been an official in Saskatoon for the past 5 years. During this time, Cam has shown great initiative, drive and a willingness to mentor our new officials. He has been an integral part of the team for Huskie matches as well as a key resource Saskatoon’s mentoring program which was first implemented in the winter of 2015. During this time, Cam has continuously applied the information being given to him thereby indicating his commitment to his own personal development and the love for the game. It is with pleasure that we bestow the Saskatchewan Volleyball Official of the year to Cam Roberts.



## Academic and Athletic Excellence

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

**Laurie Ann Leier Memorial Award – Jayden Weber**– Jayden grew up in the community of Warman and has played club volleyball since she was 12 years old. It seems only fitting that she began her volleyball development winning the 13U Spirit of the Game Award and now finishes her club experience receiving the Laurie Ann Leier Award, what an amazing club volleyball achievement. Jayden had an immediate impact joining the 18U Junior Huskies Volleyball Club this past season. Her relentless work ethic, tenacity and focus quickly earned the respect of her peers and coaches. She was elected as captain of her team and assigned as starting setter. Her innate leadership and desire to win was an invaluable addition to the success of the team. This young woman has done a wonderful job of applying these same attributes and values to her busy school and home life. Jayden was very involved in her high school, including being a member of the SRC, SCC and a school charity, as well as a volunteer coach for the grade 8 gym class, and the Warman Volleyball club. She also participated in a variety of school sports, and played on elite club volleyball and baseball teams. She demonstrates incredible time management. She is always on time and eager to put in that extra effort. Academically, Jayden is an honor roll student with a 94% average. Over the years, Jayden has made many sacrifices to be an elite student-athlete, sacrifices that have rewarded her with a volleyball scholarship with the U of S Huskie Women's Volleyball program.



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

**Darcey Busse Memorial Award –Patrick Hunchak–** Patrick is a very deserving winner of the Darcey Busse Memorial Award. Over Patrick's high school career he has shown great success both on and off the court. He has been able to balance academics and athletics to make sure that he was excelling in everything he took on. There is not a better representative from the 18U Age group than Patrick. Congrats on the Award. Patrick played for the 18U Saskatoon Huskies.



## Athlete of the Year – Beach

**Adult Beach Female —Sam Galenzoski** – Sam loves volleyball, sun, sand and bikinis. Her drive and passion for the beach game is next to none with a never give up attitude. Sam is both mentally and physically strong and is a player that will always get the job done. She is a teammate you can lean on without question and plays with a ton of heart. This is Sam's second time receiving this award as she also received it in 2011. Sam and her Beach partner Tammie Huggins are without a doubt the Queen's of Beach Volleyball in Saskatchewan as they have now won 5 consecutive Provincial Beach titles.



**Adult Beach Male – Dax Whitehead** – Dax is the definition of a competitor. Hailing from Moose Jaw and playing indoor volleyball for Lethbridge College, Dax took up the responsibility of representing Team Sask as one of Team Sask’s beach volleyball athletes this summer at the Western Canada Games. An all-round player, Dax brought a consistency in both the back court and offensively, which helped him and his partner achieve one of the only medals Sask has ever won in beach volleyball. Although they did not perform as well as they would have liked, Dax and his partner lost a hard fought semi-final only to turn around with a great performance the next day to win the bronze. Dax showed both character and athleticism while representing his province.



**Youth Beach Female –Taylor Taypotat & Kennedy McKay –** No write-up or picture available at the time of printing.

**Youth Beach Male –Gatlin Thiessen–** Gatlin is new to the game of Beach Volleyball, but his size and athleticism helped him to adjust to the game very quickly. Gatlin’s physicality allowed him to be dominant both offensively and defensively with his net play. His ability to read the play allowed him to extend rallies and frustrate other teams. Gatlin is a fierce competitor on the court but has a calm easy going demeanor off the court, making him a great teammate and a pleasure to be around. Gatlin and his Beach Partner Robin Kohl won the 18U Men’s Beach Provincial Championship.



## Athlete of the Year – Indoor

**16U Female – Jessica Zacharias** – Jess has a passion for volleyball that is contagious and rubs off on those around her. Jess helped lead her Waldheim Briercrest 16U team to their provincial title in 2015. There is never a question about the effort this athlete is willing to give of herself, as it shows in how she continually works to improve her volleyball skills both on and off the court. Not only is Jess an astounding setter who sees the game exceptionally well, she is also one of the best servers for her age, and a remarkable stuff blocker. Jess is a caring individual who makes every teammate know they are an important and integral part of the team. She is a prime example of what devotion, leadership and commitment look like. Well done and Congratulations Jess.



**16U Male – Mason Scott** – Mason is a well-rounded young individual who loves the game of volleyball. With his 6'6 frame he was made for the game. Mason is always getting huge blocks out of the middle and his fair share of kills just hitting over the other teams block. Mason isn't just a normal middle though, he shows the ability to play defense and serve receive as well. You don't very often see your big middle playing six back but with Mason he is able to. He was a huge asset to the Black Knights team, always showing hustle and heart on every single play and providing great leadership. He proves to have lots of potential and is fun to be around on and off the court.



**17U Female – Erin Epema** – Erin Joined the 17U CVC Cougars and made an immediate impact on the team, as she has done on every team that she has played on. In 2013, as a rookie, she helped lead the Campbell Tartans to an SHSAA 5A provincial championship, and then followed it up with an SHSAA 5A provincial silver medal in 2014. To follow that up, she had an integral role in helping lead the 17U Regina CVC Cougars to the 17U Provincial Championship. Erin is without a doubt, one of the top power hitters in the Province as 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. Along with her shot-making, she is also an outstanding passer, defender, and server. Erin strives to play her best wherever she is on the court, is an excellent teammate, and is very coachable. Congratulations Erin.



**17U Male – Derek Epp** - Derek had another great season on the volleyball court. His passion and energy is rarely matched when he is on the court. The time and energy that Derek has put in is paying off with the results he is having. Not only is he having success, he is also a great teammate, and a very easy player to coach, with a positive attitude. Derek was named to the Youth National Team and competed with them this past summer. Derek received the Sask Volleyball Youth Beach Male athlete of the year in 2013. Derek played with the 18U Saskatoon Huskies for the 2015 club season.



**18U Female – Haley Wagar** – You would be hard pressed to find an athlete, and family, that has demonstrated more commitment to the game of volleyball (or driven more kilometers) over the last four years than Haley and her parents. Haley has represented Saskatchewan for the past 4 summers playing with her age-class provincial teams; she has been a leader for her school team in Macklin each of these years as well, and has greatly contributed to the success of the Waldheim United and Briercrest 18's club program. During this last year, Haley's leadership was evident on all three of the teams she was a part of as she filled a captaincy role with each. Haley's desire to improve and compete at a high level have been the primary influences that have fueled her passion and commitment to the game of volleyball. Haley has demonstrated a tremendous amount of dedication on and off the court as she has maintained a high level of excellence as an athlete and student. Haley is currently a member of the University of Regina Cougar Women's Volleyball team.

**18U Female – Brooklyn Reynolds** – This past club season Brooklyn helped lead the 18U Regina Cougars to an undefeated provincial championship. Her hard work in on-court training, desire to improve with every contact, and determination to develop a more consistent back-court, defensive game were all instrumental in her not only improving her individual game but the game of her entire team. Brooklyn has also been a member of the Sask Provincial team for the past three summers, with her most recent success coming at the 2015 Western Canada Summer Games in which she helped her team win a bronze medal. Her talent and potential caught the eye of Volleyball Canada and over the summer she was a member of Team Canada's youth National development program. She was one of only two Saskatchewan female athletes who were selected and accepted the opportunity to attend the training camp in Whistler, BC. Brooklyn's work ethic and determination to succeed has not gone unnoticed as she gets set to join Steve Manuel and the current #1 ranked CIS women's volleyball team, the UBCO Heat, for the 2016-2017 Canada West season.



**18U Male – Matthew Meyer** – Matt had a great year in 2015, leading his club team to a provincial title, and helping Team Sask to a 3rd place finish at the Western Canada Summer Games. On the court Matt boasts a great arm, which has allowed him to be one of the top left side attackers in the province. His ability to be a solid passer along with the attacking has made him into a great all-around player. Matt has more to offer than just skill, as he has been a leader on and off the court, comes with an intense competitive attitude, and a lot of confidence. Matt is a well deserving recipient of the 18U athlete of the year!



**21U Female – Emily Humbert** – Emily is in her 4<sup>th</sup> year of the College of Kinesiology at the U of S. She has been an All – Academic student in all 4 years. She has received the REdzone Sport Scholarship which is awarded to the student athlete who demonstrates academic achievement, athletic performance and community involvement/volunteerism to a sport. Emily is a Canadian Sport and Exercise Physiology Certified Personal Trainer and is part of a team of presenters that presented at the Physical and Health Education Canada National Conference in Banff on the topic ‘Cutting students from school sports teams: Easing the pain of the non-selection process’. Emily is the co-captain of the Huskies Women’s team, is an assistant coach in the Huskie Volleyball club, is a dancer and teaching assistant with the U of S School of Dance for wheelchair dancing, and commentator for the web cast at Sask Volleyball events. Emily also received the Sask Volleyball Laurie Anne Leier Memorial Award in 2012.



**21U Male – Colin Fraser** – Colin had an outstanding year in the 2014-2015 season. As a rookie with the Huskies, he was called to action many times especially in the first half when the team ran into injury problems. Colin was a steady contributor and it garnered him a First Team Canada West All Rookie Award. He was subsequently named to the CIS All Rookie Team at Nationals held in Saskatoon. Colin continued his stellar play leading the Huskie 21U team to a silver medal placing at the Alberta Provincials. When the indoor season ended, Colin then represented Saskatchewan in the Beach competition at the Western Canada Summer Games. He teamed with Dax Whitehead to earn a bronze medal after a narrow loss in the semis. Colin is one of the top volleyball athletes in his age group not only in the province but in the country. He will be counted on to have a significant impact on the Huskies present and future. Colin received the Sask Volleyball 16U Male Athlete in 2012.



## **2015 Provincial Championship Teams**

### **INDOOR**

13UW – Saskatoon JCVC Fierce

14UW – Regina QCVC Royal Elite

14UM – Regina RVC Goats

15UW – Regina QCVC Royal Elite

16UW – Waldheim Briercrest

16UM – Prince Albert Smashing Bananas

17UW – Regina CVC Cougars

18UW – Regina CVC Cougars

18UM – Prince Albert NSVC Tigers

Senior Men – Setting Ducks

Senior Women – Xenas

Master Women – Whatever

Master Women's Terry Morrow Spirit of the Game Recipient – Robyn Flaman

### **BEACH**

16U Women – Fire (Sarah Hazen/Katie Mullen)

16U Men – Tropics (Shae Little/Travis Walls)

18U Men – Box 6 (Robin Kohl/Gatlin Thiessen)

Senior Women – Cobras (Sam Galenzoski/Tammie Huggins)

Senior Men – Weasel Riders (Joel Dyck/Brett Wegner)

## **Saskatchewan Players on National Teams**

Youth National Men's Team – Derek Epp

Senior Men's Indoor Team – Gavin Schmitt – Saskatoon

Senior Men's Indoor Team – Braden McLean, Birch Hills

Senior Men's B Team – Bryan Fraser, Saskatoon

Senior Women's B Team – Lindsey Larson, Humboldt

Master's Women's Team Canada Global Cup 50's – Sherry Saxton-Richards, Assiniboia

The 1980 Canadian Jr. Women's National Team was inducted into the Volleyball Canada Hall of Fame in May 2015. Gisele Rongve was a member of that team.

Sask Volleyball inducted Lifetime Members into their own Hall of Fame at the inaugural ceremony in April 2015. Leroy Starkes (Builder), Marlene Hoffman (Builder), John Neilson (Builder), Anne Cote (Coach), Hank Lorenzen (Builder), Mark Tennant (Coach/Builder), Keith Cote (Coach), Wayne Hellquist (Builder), Debbie McGuire (Builder), Gord Rook (Builder), Don Pfeifer (Referee), Darcey Busse (Athlete), Joyce Senyk-Gamborg (Athlete), Tim Bjornson (Builder), Wezer Bridle (Referee), 1978-79 U of S Huskiettes (Team), 1979-1980 U of S Huskiettes (Team), 1980-1981 U of S Huskiettes (Team), 1987-1988 U of S Huskies (Team).