

2023 Sask Volleyball Award Winners

Marlene Hoffman Volunteer Award

Intended for individual (s) who have donated their time and efforts to the promotion and development of volleyball within their local community

Denice Hrynowsky – RVC Summit Cougars QCVC Stealth - Denice tirelessly volunteers her time in so many different capacities with multiple different clubs in Regina. From teaching new scorekeepers, to taking care of jersey orders, to providing support in multiple different capacities! Her love of the game comes first even though her kids are all involved in the programs she supports. She is the type of person who would offer support in the name of sharing her love of volleyball. Volleyball in Regina is lucky to have Denice working in so many different capacities to grow the game in the city!!!

Lorne Polupski - There is no end to what this coach has done for his community and their surrounding area. He singlehandedly turned Moose Jaw into a place with a large club following after starting Thunder Creek Volleyball Club (TCVC). His teams have been successful and recently many of his athletes have gone on to play post-secondary volleyball. He implements jump training for the community, runs camps multiple times a year, organizes the entire club and always coaches multiple teams. He's respectful of opponents, other teams and programs and incredibly encouraging and uplifting to his athletes. He is their biggest advocate as well. He also recognized the great expense club and playing post-secondary requires and created a scholarship for graduates of his club to help pursue their goals. He's selfless, tireless and committed and is truly deserving of the Marlene Hoffman Volunteer Award.

Shelan Proust – Estevan Extreme - Shelan Proust has dedicated countless hours to Estevan Extreme Volleyball Club over the past 8 years through various roles, initially starting as a volunteer parent in 2015. This was really the true start of the club growing and Shelan just showed up, dug in and helped with whatever needed to be done, through managing her daughter's team and attending board meetings. In 2018 Shelan took on the role of Fundraising Chair and introduced various initiatives to assist the club with becoming financially stable, with the goal of trying to keep volleyball cost friendly so all athletes, regardless of financial background, could participate. Because Shelan couldn't just do one job at a time, she also head coached the 13UW team in the 2017/2018 & 2018/2019 seasons before also taking on the Vice President position in 2019. In 2019, the 14UW team needed an assistant coach...in steps Shelan! 17UW needs an assistant coach, sure, no problem, Shelan also will do that, while still being the Vice President and Fundraising Chair. Need anything done to make the club a success? Shelan literally signs up for it all as her passion for growing and sustaining the club was clear.

2020 found Shelan to "slow down" a bit as she was 'only' the Vice President of the club, but it was during this time that the club dealt with all of the rules & regulations of a pandemic. Shelan put in countless hours preparing documents, policies and protocols to keep the athletes on the court safely. Extreme also moved to a new facility where Shelan helped to hand paint the floor with the dimensions of a court, so athletes could have a facility that was utilized by only our athletes.

In the years following the pandemic, Shelan took on President of the club and under her guidance the number of athletes has risen to 107 in the 2022/2023 season, with athletes starting in 13UW, development programs, right up to 18UM. Shelan has spent significant time securing gyms, recruiting coaches, writing policies and navigating the always fun job of dealing with parents! Shelan has never stopped managing the teams her daughter plays on, above & beyond is simply what Shelan does. Estevan Extreme has welcomed beach volleyball & summer camps to the club in the past couple years, and the Smashball program has grown to be a wonderful success with there frequently being a waiting list to participate when it is offered. This season Shelan ran weekly development sessions for the grade 7/8 age for athletes that had not previously participated in the club volleyball program.

Just over two thousand nine hundred days have passed since Shelan became involved with Estevan Extreme and I am confident not a day has gone by where she has not been researching grants, sending emails for clarification on something, taken calls from parents, met prospective coaches for coffee, or sat at a computer designing yet another poster for another new program. This club has become her life and through her involvement, she has changed many lives and made Estevan Extreme Volleyball Club a household name in SE Saskatchewan. The athletes Shelan has coached are better for knowing her, and the coaches she has mentored will go on to continue to change lives with the insight they've gained from Shelan. Shelan is passionate about mental health in athletes and this year partnered with one of the 17UW athletes to have "Smash the Stigma, Mental Health Matters" on all of the warmup shirts for all age groups! There is no doubt that Estevan Extreme volleyball club would not be where it is today without the continual vision and drive of Shelan! Congratulations and well deserved!



Dennis Pomeroy Referee of the Year Award

Rick Cartman – Rick has been refereeing for a number of years locally, but has been much more involved at the provincial scene lately. He has attended numerous Sask Cups and has done some mentoring and evaluating of other officials at the local level. He not only officiates indoor volleyball, but also is a beach referee. He is presently finishing off his Level 3 status. He has been assigned to officiate ACAC matches at Briercrest, as a 1st or 2nd referee. He has also works 'lines' for them as well. He is highly involved and presently sits on the Provincial Referee's Committee representing Zone 3. He is a hard worker in support of volleyball and willing to do whatever is needed to promote the game. He has taken on a more leadership role and assisted with the running of the high school district clinics in South Central. This year he has taken on additional duties for assigning at the local level. He has done a great job of assigning 14 club tournaments in Moose Jaw this season. Congratulations Rick and thanks for your contributions to Volleyball in Saskatchewan.



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:

Don Laing Male Developmental Coach of the Year - Mark Harrison RVC 14U - Mark is a young coach making a huge impact! From working with athletes as young as 9 years old to athletes in the club system looking to better their technical skills - Mark covers it all and he does so with the athletes' experience at the forefront of his coaching philosophy. He truly supports athletes in a meaningful way and meets them where they are at without judgment. He has had some great success with his 14U RVC teams these past few years and we know he will continue to create a great first experience for so many young male athletes in Regina! The men's game is growing in Regina and he is definitely a part of the reason why!



Anne Cote Female Developmental Coach of the Year – Cory Gratton Momentum 13U - Cory creates an amazing environment and wonderful club feel for young athletes to practice in. The positivity radiates from the court when the girls are at practice with Cory! Cory has lead a group of 20 athletes (2 teams) to some incredible achievements but it's his humble, calm and confident style of coaching that has laid the foundation to a life-long love of volleyball. He is so kind and so patient. His quiet confidence and guidance shows the athletes how to be winners and also how to lose gracefully. He doesn't win games on the sidelines, he wins them in practices, week after week challenging the girls by never letting them get comfortable. He is always watching, looking for improvements and slowly guiding them with corrections. He is the type of coach that can get a point across without ever getting upset. He has a way with the girls to have fun while learning. He makes them want to get better at what they do. He keeps them grounded and yet allows them to fly. He is the type of coach every athlete should have the chance to learn under.



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

Frank Enns Male Performance Coach of the Year –Adam Ewart – Chaos 18U - Adam is a long-standing pillar in the volleyball community. He has been involved at all levels of the game and involved in various aspects including playing, coaching, mentoring, evaluating other coaches, and teaching other coaches to coach. He has been instrumental in growing the game and providing a deeper understanding of the game to athletes and coaches.

For the past 30+ years Adam has coached, he has provided high performance coaching and innovations to his teams. He has extensive knowledge of the game both technically and tactically. He keeps up to date with technical aspects and new training methods to help develop skills in an efficient and effective way. His tactical knowledge and detailed observations really pushed the Saskatoon CHAOS 18UM club team far this season. His ability to analyze opponents for deficiencies and utilize the strengths of the CHAOS players to capitalize, was key to the success of the team this 2023 club season. He led them to be champions of both Sask Cup 1 and 2, and to Provincial Champions. As a performance coach he has not only helped other athletes, but he has helped many other coaches learn to be better coaches. He is always mentoring on his off time at tournaments. He is always willing to help and provide feedback in a constructive way to help foster confidence in not only his athletes but his fellow coaching peers. Congratulations Adam on an outstanding season and being a support to athletes and coaches in the province.

Mark Tennant Female Performance Coach of the Year – Jay Magus – Huskies 18U - Jay is a great coach who led his team to an outstanding season, finishing 1st at Provincials and making a quarter final in Div 1 Tier 1 at Nationals. He is committed to both the growth of the team and also the individual growth of each athlete that he coaches. In addition to the 18U team, Jay also coaches the Huskies 15U Premier team who won the 15U Provincials, Best of the West and finished 3rd at Nationals. Jay is outstanding technically and his teams typically have great setting, very good passing, and great team tactics and strategies. He is dedicated to improving himself and he travelled to NEP as a guest coach for 2 days last November, and led a workshop for Regina area 13U/14U coaches on developing athletes at that young age! Jay has had numerous athletes from his teams be selected to National Team Programs over the past few seasons, and continues to be involved with Team Sask as part of the coaching staff as well.



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 –Spencer Mayerle 18U Chaos. The prestigious Darcey Busse memorial award is presented to the male athlete who best exemplifies the combination of athletic and academic excellence, and Spencer is the epitome of this distinction. Spencer's volleyball journey began at the age of 12 when he first stepped foot onto the volleyball court for the Chaos volleyball club. Since that moment, he has been an integral part of the club, not only showcasing his talent but also exemplifying the values of dedication, sportsmanship, and teamwork. With each passing year, Spencer's passion for the sport grew, and he dedicated countless hours to hone his skills and refine his game. He also began to spend a bit of time in the weight room.

One remarkable aspect of Spencer's character that sets him apart is his infectious sense of humour and a smile that never seems to leave his face. Known affectionately as "Spenny" to his friends and teammates, he brings a radiant energy and positivity to every practice and competition. His unwavering enthusiasm uplifts the spirits of those around him, fostering a supportive and cohesive team environment. Spencer embodies the true essence of an outstanding teammate, constantly encouraging and inspiring his fellow players to reach their full potential. This year he helped the Chaos squad capture 2 Sask Cups, and a provincial championship.

While Spencer's contributions to the Chaos team are indeed impressive, his commitment to academic excellence deserves equal recognition. It is a testament to his discipline and determination that he excels not only on the court but also in the classroom. Balancing the demands of competitive athletics and rigorous academics is no easy feat, yet Spencer manages to excel in both domains. His dedication to his studies, along with his exceptional time management skills, has allowed him to maintain outstanding academic achievements.

Next year Spencer plans to put his goal of becoming a professional body builder on hold and instead “Spenny” will be taking his talents to Briercrest College. He will continue his academic studies while also embracing the opportunity to train and compete under the guidance of Coach Nigel Mullan. As Spencer embarks on this new chapter of his life, we have no doubt that he will continue to exemplify the qualities that have brought him to this moment. His unwavering commitment to his education and athletics will undoubtedly shine as he navigates the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead. Congratulations once again Spencer, on this well-deserved recognition, and good luck in the future at Briercrest.

Marilyn Walter Memorial Award — Drew Jacobson Wolfpack 18U - Drew Jacobson is the epitome of someone that wins this award. Like Marilyn, Drew has a terrific old soul and dry humour, that was absolutely loved in Marilyn. Drew attended Mount Royal camps years ago and was coached by Marilyn, where Marilyn would comment that ‘at least someone gets my jokes’ when Drew would laugh. Drew is an exceptional athlete, and is moving on to play for one of the top teams in the ACAC next season, and has been accepted into the Bachelor of Nursing RN program. Drew consistently has marks in the 90’s and always finishes the year with Great Distinction. Her commitment to her teammates is unmatched- she is a terrific leader, athlete, ambassador for the sport and student. She is humble, kind, respectful of officials, coaches and other teams and programs, and just elevates anything she becomes a part of. Congratulations Drew and good luck in your future athletic and academic endeavors!



Greg Hatch Spirit of the Game Awards

Presented to the province's male and female volleyball players who best exemplify team work, fair play, hard work and the love of the game.

Kenzie McGillivray Momentum 13U - Kenzie is the complete embodiment of what the Spirit of the Game award represents. This young athlete comes to practice with focus and intention. She has consistently demonstrated a commitment to improving her skills and understanding the game. Kenzie is a wonderful teammate who understands that the success of the team very much depends on being a good teammate. In a match, Kenzie is a competitor that brings a work ethic and an energy level that her teammates rally behind. Kenzie's competitive spirit, commitment to improving, and positivity will serve her well in volleyball and in all her future endeavours. Every team needs a Kenzie!

Olivia Orosz Huskies 15U - Olivia is a key member of the 15U Provincial Championship team, playing the setter position, and only being in Grade 8! This position placed a lot of pressure on her to perform, and she handled that pressure with grace, enthusiasm, and a love of the sport, her team-mates and the opposition. This kid loves volleyball. Her hard work on and off the court, her dedication to improving, and her love of competition easily captures the Spirit of the Game! She is a worthy recipient of this award!

Leo Korchinski Huskies 14U – Throughout the season Leo was a leader on the court and off of it. Serving as team captain, Leo was often looked to set the example for other players, a lofty responsibility indeed. As a beginner team, the season was full of learning and fun, but also some frustration. Leo was able to handle all of this with resilience and class that would equal or exceed much more experienced players. His enthusiasm and effort were contagious. He was often the player to pick others up, even when he was not at his best. As a captain, Leo made the players around him better and fostered the love of volleyball in his teammates and coaches. Leo has a bright future in the sport of volleyball as an athlete and eventually as a coach. For these reasons, Leo truly embodies the Spirit of the Game.

Damien Court PAVC 15U - Damien Court is a remarkable young volleyball player whose passion for teamwork, leadership, and his sport is fantastic for such a young individual. With an unwavering dedication, Damien's love for volleyball radiates through every aspect of his life. As a player and teammate, he continuously strives for self-improvement, pushing himself to new heights and inspiring those around him in the process. His commitment to the game and his teammates is evident in his relentless pursuit of excellence, making him an invaluable asset on and off the court. Damien Court is a true embodiment of the spirit of teamwork. Congratulations Damien!



Athlete of the Year – Indoor

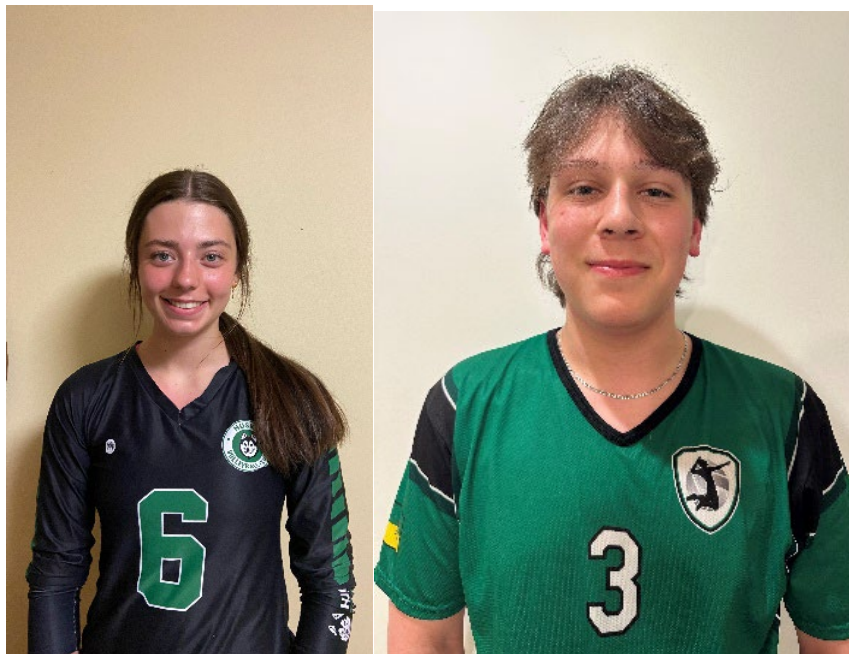
16U Female – Shae Steinley – Wolfpack 16U - Shae Steinley is a remarkable 16U Wolfpack Volleyball Club player who has exceptional talent, solid dedication to her team, and knows how to use this ability to perform in big matches. Even after taking time off to heal her injury, Shae was slowly able to work her way back to being a force on the court. She continues to establish herself as an integral part of her team's continued success at provincial tournaments and championships. Whether it's delivering powerful attacks or controlled passes on serve-receive, Shae consistently demonstrates a level of skill and finesse that is noticeable in her age class. As team captain, Shae possesses great team leadership and is a positive influence on the court, cheering on her teammates, and a reliable and coachable player. Shae also leads by example, treating her opponents with respect and fairness both on and off the court. Her success during the club season is good sign of things to come, and we eagerly await the next great achievements that she will undoubtedly reach in the years to come.

16U Male – Reuben Veith – PAVC 16U - Reuben had an excellent 16U season with the PAVC 16U men. In his first season as an outside hitter, his serve reception and side-out attacking were at a very high level for a first year outside hitter. Reuben was able to score points on a regular basis with his serve, attack and block. Reuben's overall skill level helped elevate the PAVC Smashing Bananas 16U men to win gold at sask Cup #2 and 16U provincials. The PAVC men finished in 11th place at the 16u Nationals in Edmonton. Reuben displayed a skill level that was better than most of the outside hitters at this competition. The PAVC coaching staff is extremely happy with Reuben's development over the past 2 seasons, and are looking forward to helping Reuben with his development in the future.



17U Female – Sara Gray – Huskies 18U - Sara is an outstanding volleyball athlete. She would always start in position 4 to maximize her time in the front row and attacking balls. Once back row she has a great jump serve, and is lights-out on passing and defense. She has a very bright future in volleyball in terms of provincial teams, national teams, and post-secondary, but is also kind and humble on and off the court. She is one of the best 2006 age athletes in Canada evident by her selection to the Biosteel Games, selection to the U19 National Team last summer, and selection to the NEP program this fall! Congratulations Sara on another successful volleyball season!

17U Male – Nathan Musschoot – HHVC 17U - Nathan brings an extremely high level of passion, hard work, and dedication to the sport of volleyball. He was a co-captain this past season with his HHVC 17U team and also continues the club's tradition of showcasing the high-performance side of the sport. Nathan is insightful, inquisitive, and tenacious in pursuing his goals - a very rare combination for a young athlete in our province. He, along with his teammates, steadily improved in each tournament they attended in the 18U division in Saskatchewan. They went from 11th in Sask Cup 1, to 7th in Sask Cup 2, to 5th at Provincials. They ended their season on a very impressive trajectory and Nathan was a major reason for that success. They finished T-13th going 3-4 at Nationals in Calgary, making it to a Div 1, Tier 2 quarterfinal. HHVC finished first in the province in their respective age group once again this club season, which can be attributed to Nathan's performance and how he leads his teammates around him. Nathan will be a heavily recruited young man going into his grade 12 season in the fall and we are very proud of his club season and this award. Congratulations Nathan!



18U Female – Sophia Magus – Huskies 18U - Sophia is a great setter! She uses her height and athletic abilities to quickly move the ball around the court to various attackers. More importantly, she is learning to make very good decisions on who to set when, changing tempos depending on the pass and attacker, and continues to work on speeding up of the offense. She has led the Huskies 18U Premier team against the best in North America through tournaments in Vegas, Oregon, Vancouver, and Calgary with her volleyball and leadership abilities. She is a 6-rotation player with a great jump serve, strong blocking abilities, and sound defensive skills. Her skills were recognized via the Royal Rumble Tournament with an All-Star recognition, her early recruitment to the University of Saskatchewan, selection to the Saskatchewan Canada Games team, and her selection four times by the Women's National Team program (2021 NEP, 2022 U19 Team Canada, 2022 NEP, and 2023 U19 Team Canada). Finally, Sophia is doing all of this with grace. In the gym there is constantly younger athletes joining the older athletes for training. She is an outstanding role model for younger athletes, and even her peer group. She is kind, hard-working, competitive, all while blazing a trail and setting a wonderful example for other Saskatchewan athletes to follow that have postsecondary and national team goals.

18U Male – Peyton Folk – RVC 18U - Peyton has had a unique and successful journey throughout his young volleyball career. For the past three years Peyton has been one of the top setters in the province and just 6 months ago Peyton led his high school team to a silver medal in the Regina city championships. During the club season he made the rare transition from setter to left side for the RVC 18u team. Not only was he able to perform the completely different skill set, but he thrived to have the strongest passing rating and kill efficiency of his position. However, the most valuable aspect of Peyton's performance can not be quantified by any statistic. As the captain, Peyton was able to lead both by example and with his voice. He possesses the valuable skill to find the right time to give words of encouragement, words of accountability, and words of acknowledgement when teammates need it most. Peyton was able to lead his team to a provincial silver medal and a berth to the top men's division at nationals. Peyton will be moving to Lethbridge to play for the Kodiaks next year where he is sure to have a positive and significant impact. Congratulation Peyton!



21U Female – Bailey Balaberda – U of R Cougars – Bailey completed her second season with the University of Regina Cougars. A local product from Greenall Highschool, and the Cougar Club system, she started every match for the Cougars and was named the team's MVP for the 2022/2023 season. She lead the team with 195 kills in 24 matches, while adding 14 aces, 18 solo blocks, and 142 digs. While adding numerous stats to the stat line, Bailey is also a great leader and an amazing teammate who is always looking out for her teammates.

21U Male – Ethan Smith - U of S Huskies - Ethan joined the University of Saskatchewan Huskies after a successful club career with Prince Albert Smashing Bananas. After a red shirt year where Ethan began his libero journey, he quickly took to the position and invested every piece of himself into it. Last summer he helped lead Team Sask to a Canada Games Gold as an assistant captain. In his first year of eligibility with the Huskies he was named to the Canada West all-rookie team. Ethan has quickly rose to the top tier of liberos in the Canada West and the country and in the process earned an invitation to try out for the Junior National Team. Ethan accomplished all this while also earning Academic All-Canadian honors as one of the Huskies top student-athletes.



Saskatchewan Players on National Teams

Junior Men's Team Summer 2022

Practice Team

Lucas Musschoot
Noah Opseth

U19 Youth Women's Red

Sara Gray
Gabrielle Flaman

U23 Men's Team 2022

Dylan Mortensen
Skyler Varga

Senior Men's Team 2022

Derek Epp

U19 Youth Women's Summer Travel Team

Sophia Magus
Jay Magus Assistant Coach
Tania Harrison Mentor Coach