

SASK VOLLEYBALL HALL OF FAME



Inducted 2024 – TEAM

1987 Men's Team SK Canada Games

Team Members: Head Coach – Tom Graham, Assistant Coaches – Todd Zazelenchuk, Lorn Wionzek, Evan Lukey
Players: Brent Brezinski, Boris Dragicevic, Tony Eisele, Travis Koch, Dion Pfeifer, Conley Pura, Terry Pylot, Mark Stebner, Brad Surjik, Darren Swanson, Darran Teneycke, Paul Thoroughgood, Al Tkachuk

The pathway to the 1987 Canada Winter Games gold medal really began with the 1985 Canada Summer Games gold medalists. Three members of the 1985 team started for our 1987 group. That continuity was a significant element in Saskatchewan's second successive triumph in 1987.

Two additional predictors of success happened early in the Canada Games trajectory. First, the team employed "Marty" as its mental skills consultant. "Marty" quickly established a program of consistent pre-competitive preparation and appropriate use of time between matches and between serves. The team bought in completely and put itself ahead of the curve on the mental training side.

Second, Dennis Pomeroy played a major role in our success. Dennis ran the volleyball factory out of Yorkton and contributed seven members to the 1986 National Team Challenge Cup (NTCC) and 1987 Canada Games champions. As Sask Volleyball president, Dennis also organized a trip to Puerto Rico, an experience that prepared the team in multiple ways (competitive and otherwise) for NTCC and Canada Games.

In August/1986, Saskatchewan captured the National Team Challenge Cup championship at home in Regina, defeating Quebec 3-1 in the final. That final was a testament to the mental fortitude of the team as the first set went 15-3 in Quebec's favour and the final set went 15-3 in favour of Saskatchewan.

Between the NTCC victory and Canada Games, Saskatchewan enhanced its position on top of men's developmental volleyball in Canada. First, the team engaged a strength and power program under the direction of Coach Evan Lukey with spectacular results. Second, the team travelled to the University of Alberta for a Christmas tournament in 1986. Our Canada Games group (all 18 years of age) defeated a veteran University of Alberta team 3-2 in the round robin and 3-1 in the final to win the event.

The outcome of our 1987 Canada Games was academic. The team went undefeated in preliminaries and defeated a much bigger Ontario team 3-1 in the semi-final (15-12, 15-17, 15-9, 15-1). In the final, Saskatchewan met Quebec again and won 3-0 (15-7, 15-11, 15-6). The team had increased the distance between itself and the rest of the pack between NTCC and Canada Games. It is proud to have been part of a golden age in Saskatchewan men's developmental volleyball, together with the group in 1985.