

SASK VOLLEYBALL HALL OF FAME



Inducted 2020 – TEAM

1985 Men's Team SK Canada Games

In 1983 Frank Enns took over the Saskatchewan Men's provincial team program and began a search for players that would ultimately change the success of Team Saskatchewan volleyball over the next several years. Taking a mix of proven winners from provincial high school champions and very raw talent, the coaching staff worked towards preparing the team for the Canada Summer Games in New Brunswick in 1985.

Early results were mixed. In the summer of 1983, the group lost in the final of the CanAm Championship. But in 1984, results in a large California tournament and the Quebec Plus tournament in the summer showed the team had much developing left to do. Though there were flashes of excellence, the team lacked the consistency to survive the type of challenge that the Canada Games would provide.

After training during the winter, spring and the first part of the summer of 1985, the team travelled to California for a set of exhibition matches. There, the team defeated the US Junior National team, which included several future volleyball Olympians. On return to Canada, they competed in the National Team Challenge Cup in Calgary. After winning several matches, including grueling 5 set matches against Nova Scotia and British Columbia, Team Sask lost to the Canadian Junior national team in five sets for the title. Rather than a bitter disappointment, the players saw it as a sign that they could be a serious contender at the Summer Games.

The 1985 Canada Summer Games posed a huge challenge. Five future Canadian Volleyball Olympians were playing for other provinces. However, Team Sask seemed to be peaking, as they swept Newfoundland, New Brunswick, Alberta, and British Columbia in the round robin, all by 3-0 scores. The challenge of Nova Scotia awaited in the semi-final, but Team Sask played its best match of the tournament and swept Nova Scotia 3-0, winning 15-1, 15-5, 15-5. On the other side of the tournament, Manitoba had defeated all comers, setting up a final between two unbeaten teams. After winning the first two sets, Team Sask trailed 13-8 in set 3. A determined rally brought them to gold, winning 15-11, 15-10, 15-13. Even more impressive than capturing gold, they finished the tournament winning every match that they played 3-0.

Team Members: Head Coach – Frank Enns, Assistant Coaches – Evan Lukey, Don Laing Players: Brock Blomquist (Perdue), Darwin Daae (Torquay), Brad Dusyk (Montmartre), Jerome Hepfner (Richmond), Jerome Linnell (Hafford), Marlin Olfert (Swift Current), Rob Pasishnik (Yorkton), Mark Stebner (Yorkton), Darren Swanson (North Battleford), Blaine Tandler (Yorkton), Darran Teneycke (Young), Sean Yeo (Lumsden)