

# SASK VOLLEYBALL HALL OF FAME



**Inducted 2026 – ATHLETE**

## **JOEY STABNER**

Joey played on the Canadian standing volleyball team for 12 years. During his career, Canada became the first non-European nation to win a World Championship, defeating host nation Poland in five sets in 2002. Stabner began playing high school volleyball with Kinistino, where he served as team captain and led the squad to a provincial championship. His first major success came when he was selected for the Sask Zone 8 Winter Games team, which won the gold medal. He later played club volleyball with the Prince Albert Toppers Juvenile team, earning a silver medal at the national championships. Following this performance, he was invited to join the Canadian national standing volleyball team.

At just 18 years old, Joey boarded a plane for Poland to compete internationally for the first time—an eye-opening experience for a small-town Saskatchewan athlete. During that competition, he was recognized with the **Best New Player** award. Upon returning home, he tried out for the University of Regina Cougars, where he made the team and earned a starting lineup position as a rookie.

Stabner attributes his love for team sports to the success he found through overcoming his disability and proving that he belonged alongside other elite athletes.

Career highlights include leading Team Canada to qualification for the 2000 Paralympic Games, where he famously broke a ball during a competition match. He won a silver medal at the 2000 Paralympics in Sydney, Australia, followed by a World Cup silver medal in 2003 and World Cup gold in 2005, hosted in Regina. Joey also captured World Championship gold medals in 2002 and 2004—achievements that few national teams in any sport can match.

Joey was inducted into the Volleyball Canada Hall of Fame with his team in 2000 and again in 2002. He was inducted into the Saskatoon Sports Hall of Fame as an athlete in 2016 and into the Prince Albert Sports Hall of Fame in 2024 as a member of his club team. After retiring from Team Canada, Joey remained deeply involved in the sport, coaching club volleyball in Saskatoon for 10 years. He remains extremely appreciative of everything volleyball has given him throughout his life.