



VOLLEYBALL BC - RAY LEPP SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT BIOGRAPHIES

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RAY LEPP VOLLEYBALL SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT – AKASH GREWAL



Akash Grewal has been playing volleyball since she was 11 years old. She has played at many different levels, including high school volleyball at York House where she was part of the team that won the AA Provincial Championship for the first time in the school's history. Not only was she an important part of the volleyball team, she was also an outstanding athlete on the basketball, soccer, swimming, and ultimate frisbee teams.

Since 2015, Akash has played club volleyball for Thunder Volleyball club in Vancouver, BC. Along with her club experience, she was an active member of Sideout Beach Volleyball. With this training and support, Akash won the 15U, 16U and 18U Beach Provincial Championships.

Akash went on to represent British Columbia at the 2019 Canada Cup for Team BC Selects where she helped earn a bronze medal. Akash is continuing her volleyball career as a member of the 2023 USPORT Championship UBC Thunderbirds team and represents Canada as a member of the Next Gen Beach program.

Along with her athletic achievements, Akash is noted as being a fantastic leader both on and off the court. Her passion and work ethic rubs off on her teammates and has helped to create an environment of hard work, positivity, and success.

Some of Akash's personal achievements are:

- Gold Medal – AA Girls High School Provincial Championship – York House
- MVP – AA Girls High School Provincial Championship – York House
- 15U, 16U, 18U Beach Provincial Gold Medals
- Bronze Medal – Canada Cup – Team BC Selects
- 2023 USPORTS National Champion – UBC Thunderbirds
- Bronze Medal – 2023 Volleyball Canada Beach National Championships



RAY LEPP VOLLEYBALL SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT – SEBASTIEN MANUEL



Sebastien Manuel, or Seba as he prefers to be called, has been playing volleyball all of his life. Seba has experienced many different levels of volleyball, including high school where he helped lead his team to a Provincial Championship and has recently been selected as Kelowna's Male Athlete of the Year.

Seba has also played club volleyball for many years and was pivotal in the Jr. Heat's Bronze Medal at the 2022 18U Boys Provincial Championship, as well as their Silver Medal at the 2022 18U Boys National Championship. He was so pivotal, in fact, that he was selected to the tournament's All-Star team, highlighting the best 18U players in the country.

Seba has been an active participant of Team BC programs, participating in the Team BC Red & Blue team. He then went on to represent British Columbia at the Canada Cup and Canada Summer Games in 2022. Since then, Seba has gone on to play for the UBCO Heat Men's Volleyball team where he was selected to both the Canada West and USPORTS All-Rookie team.

Along with these on-court achievements, Seba has been working to pass on his knowledge and passion to the next generation of athletes through coaching. He has started by coaching grade 9 boys at Okanagan Mission Secondary, assisted with a 15U boys team for Kelowna Volleyball Club, and was even involved as an assistant coach for the Thompson-Okanagan boys zone team at the BC Cup.

Some of Seba's personal achievements are:

- Gold Medal – 2021 AAA Boys High School Championship – Kelowna Secondary
- Kelowna Male Athlete of the Year
- Bronze Medal – 2022 18U Boys Provincial Championship – Jr. Heat
- Silver Medal – 2022 18U Boys National Championship – Jr. Heat
- All Star Team – 2022 18U Boys National Championship
- Canada Cup – Team BC
- All-Rookie Team – USPORTS & Canada West – UBCO Heat



ABOUT RAY LEPP

Ray Lepp was a founding member of Volleyball BC, formerly the BC Volleyball Association (BCVA), in 1965, and continued as a Board Member until 1978. He held the positions of President or Vice President for 10 of his 22 years on the board.

In his early years, Ray played volleyball in Estonia in a very strong school and club system. Having recognized that the profile of volleyball in Canada was low, he worked tirelessly to increase interest in the sport. Some of the major programs for the BCVA included recruiting international coaches to BC, the Winfield Volleyball Camp, and the Pacific Rim Championships.

Ray was certified as a National Official before the Pacific Rim Championships and travelled to the tournament as the head of the delegation for the Pacific Rim program. During the 1960's and 1970s, Ray coached the UBC Men's Volleyball Team for a total of 10 years. At one time, six players on the Canadian National Team had been coached by Ray at UBC.

In 1989, Ray helped fundraise money for the Estonia National Team, who was touring BC, and whose flight was suddenly stopped in Toronto. With the funds raised and Ray's personal contribution, the team made it to BC.

With Ray's passing, he donated funds through his will to provide a permanent endowment that would support this scholarship in perpetuity.