



TEAM CANADA MEN'S VOLLEYBALL

Currently ranked 12th in the world, the Canadian Men's National Volleyball Team has taken many steps forward since it began international competition in 1959. The 2001 – 2004 quadrennial involved some of its biggest steps ever, including achieving a 10th place ranking in the world – the highest ever achieved.

A disappointing end to the last quadrennial was evident when Canada failed to qualify for the 2004 Athens Olympics, but that has been put in the past and the team is now focused on new goals. Now under the guidance of Glenn Hoag, the team is re-energized and motivated like never before. Team Canada finished the 2006 season with a 24-15 record, including and medaled in each competition they attended prior to the World Championships, including:

Gold – Anton Furlani International Cup (Ottawa Canada)
Bronze – Pan American Cup (Mexico)
Bronze – Hubert Wagner Memorial Tournament (Poland)

Despite suffering injuries to key players just prior to their departure for the 2006 World Championships, Team Canada still finished in 11th place, just 3 spots away from their goal of top-eight. The return of many key players from the past season will help Canada keep on track for this Olympic Qualifying year. These include veterans such as Paul Duerden, Murray Grapentine, Steve Brinkman, and Chris Wolfenden, to name a few. Canada will also have added depth, with the likes of young talent such as Fred Winters and Louis-Pierre Mainville.

Canada also boasts many up-and-comers that make up its A2 team, products of last year's inaugural Full-Time Training Centre. Mark Dodds, Nicholas Cundy, Brock Davidiuk, and Kris Brand are just a few of the names to watch in the coming years.