



1977/78 BCO MEN HALL OF FAME TEAM

BACK ROW L-R: MIKE SAYERS, SCOTT MURRAY, IAN GREGORY, KEITH GALLICANO, DOUG COMPTON, RANDY WAGNER, WOLFGANG NEUFELD,
FRONT ROW L-R: AL MARSHALL, JOHN MARKWART, WALTER NEUFELD, JERRY STORY, GARY VIGERS, BRIAN WATSON (COACH)

The BCO Men's team is the first and only group from British Columbia to win the Men's National Club Championship Gold Medal. This came at a time when the National Club Championships were considered the most prestigious and most difficult tournament to qualify and ultimately win in Canadian volleyball. The team, led by coach Brian Watson was the perfect compliment to a revamped BCO squad coming off a silver medal in the 1976-77 National Championships.

BCO took part in almost every tournament they could in Western Canada and the Pacific Northwest playing the likes of teams from Japan, Korea, Mexico and the USA which included many USA national team members. The team either won or medaled in most of these tournaments, proving they were going to be a powerhouse come Nationals.

In the tournament, BCO edged out Saskatchewan in the semi-final thanks to a crucial coaching move by Watson to sub in setter Walter Neufeld which proved to be the turning point. The team would win that match in five sets and go on to defeat Manitoba in straight sets to capture the 1977-78 Canadian National Men's Championships. The BCO program and team produced many former Team Canada athletes including Charles Parkinson, Mike Rockwell, Greg Russell, Al Kostiuk and several others that either represent Canada or play internationally.

