

Vincent Gagnon
Racquetball Canada Hall of Fame
Acceptance Remarks
May 2022

Congratulations to all the other inductees into the Hall of Fame.

I am receiving this honour for all the years I spent in the world of Racquetball but you don't get these results alone.

It all started with the Quebec junior team and the wonderful moments I spent at tournaments. Thanks to all my teammates and coaches who were part of this experience.

I will never forget all the weekends spent at tournaments, so I'm also grateful to all the participants (my opponents too), and the organizers of these events, many of which are here tonight. I loved spending those moments around and on the racquetball courts. And of course thank you to all those who were worked with Racquetball Quebec and Racquetball Canada to support these activities.

Beyond those events, there were all the moments representing Canada in international competitions. Thanks to Racquetball Canada for giving me these opportunities and the support for the tournaments.

Thank you to everyone who helped me qualify, whether it was by being my doubles partners or indirectly by being there on Saturday or Sunday mornings to enjoy the game of Racquetball together.

To all my teammates during these years on the national team, some of which are here tonight, thank you.

Thank you to the wonderful and excellent team of coaches at Racquetball Canada, many of whom have spent more years coaching than I have competing and who have always succeeded in bringing Canadian athletes to the highest level of Racquetball. You are a very inspiring group.

I never had the talent to coach like these coaches (this is confirmed by my children who listen to me for a maximum of 10 minutes in a Racquetball court), but I have tried to give back to the sport by being involved mainly in Racquetball Canada committees. Thanks again to Racquetball Canada and all those I have served with for all the discussions and your passion for Racquetball. It's a whole different aspect of the sport compared to competition, but it's also been a great learning experience for me.

I stopped competing with the arrival of my second child Adam. However, I still competed for a few years after the birth of Elliot. Thank you to my girlfriend Karine for supporting me in the last years and for allowing me to experience one of my most memorable competitions at the Pan American Games in Toronto.

Finally, I remember a discussion with my father after my career was done where we discussed the fact that I could have been better if I had changed my training and known my personality better at a younger age. However, I look back on it sometimes and think that I didn't mention the most important thought; I still believe that I could have been better, but I don't believe that I could have been happier with my career for what it has brought me personally.

So once again, thank you all!

Vincent Gagnon
Class of 2020

