

**Mike Ceresia**  
**Racquetball Canada Hall of Fame**  
**Acceptance Remarks**  
**May 2018**

Good evening everyone,

I started playing our great game in 1979 and fell in love when I hit my first shot. Nobody on the planet practiced harder and hit more racquetballs than I did from 1979 to 2004. In the early years, I practiced for four to five hours a day, 7 days a week. I started at 17 and had to catch up to the deeply talent group of players in Ontario and the rest of the country,

Racquetball Canada opened the door for my teammates and I to play in the most important International Racquetball tournaments on the schedule . . . the World Racquetball Championships. It is cliché but I definitely played my best when I wore the red and white and represented our country.

The Team titles and the World Championships were my top goal and I want to thank every teammate that I played with for their preparation and efforts at these events.

I was fortunate enough to meet a lot of excellent people when travelling across the US, Canada, South and Central America, Europe and Japan. There are so many people to thank and I can't mention them all tonight.

With that being said, I want to thank National Team Coach Gary Ness for his contributions and also to congratulate him on his induction tonight, He understood how to create the right atmosphere for success and always had the player's backs. Also, thank you to Ron Pawlowski for his calming influence and his head coaching skills in Hamburg, Germany.

Also, I would like to thank my long time physiotherapist D'arcy Bain for his commitment to keeping us all healthy. He always had the right thing to say and had the magic touch that helped us prepare for the most important matches.

Thank you to Lindsay Myers, Ross Harvey and Brian Valin for showing me the level I needed to get to if I wanted to be the top player in Canada.

Also, thank you to my wide-range of practice partners, Racquetball Canada administrators, volunteers, sports psychologists and support staff.

Thank you to Simon Roy for being a great friend, excellent teammate and outstanding doubles partner.

Jim Hiser also deserves a big thank you from everyone involved in racquetball and I. He demonstrated class, self sacrifice and commitment to International and United States racquetball. He had been a great friend for the past 35 years.

Thank you to my Mom and Dad for opening the racquetball doors in the early years and for helping me understand competition and what it takes to be a winner.

Lastly, I want to thank my truly excellent wife for her support, advice, counselling, energy and for understanding my addiction to racquetball. She made the journey a team effort and is the most incredible person I have met in my life.

Thank you.

**Mike Ceresia**

