



## Denis Gingras

(Inducted in 2021)

### **Athlete**

Denis has been involved in handball for over 40 years as a high level player and has also dedicated his time taking responsibilities within BALLE AU MUR QUEBEC for many years.

Denis started his career at age 17, long hair falling down his shoulders with an attitude. He was so skinny he looked like a T-shirt hanger. He was playing handball at the CEGEP in Ste-Foy on courts of 18 feet by 16 feet with a ceiling 15 feet high. The name of the game was simple: serve and kill the ball. Several years later (Edmonton 2006), Denis won the world title in the Veterans Singles Division using the same strategy.

Before being recognized at the world level, Denis "Toto" Gingras demonstrated his excellence in numerous tournaments winning here and there national, provincial and open championships in Canada and the United States either in singles or in doubles events.

Living in the shadow of Danny Bell, his training partner, Denis was for many years Quebec's best well-kept secret. Low profiled, consistent, disciplined and in great physical shape despite being taken out of the game due to a serious back injury. He returned to the game to achieve the best performances of his life as an athlete. Note that until the end of his forties he still participated in the open events of tournaments and outweighed very good players half his age.

Denis is an asset to handball on and off the court. Denis also has been instrumental in organizing tournaments and is considered as a high level referee. He has been involved in coaching junior players and supporting them in competitions. Denis is a

very good example of the amateur part of handball by giving more to a sport than receiving from it.

On top of that Lucie Gauthier, his long-term partner in life, is also a fair level of handball player.

In conclusion Denis truly deserves this nomination to the Hall-Of-Fame. Congratulations from all Quebec players.

Here is a short list of his handball performances:

**World Championships:** 2006 Men Veterans Singles - ***Champion*** (Edmonton, Alberta), 2009 45+ Singles - Finalist (Portland, Oregon)

**Canadian Championships:** 1988 Open Doubles - Finalist (Edmonton, Alberta), 1989 Open Doubles - ***Champion*** (Regina, Saskatchewan), 2007 Senior Doubles - Finalist (Montreal, Quebec), 2008 Senior Singles - Finalist (Calgary, Alberta), 2009 Senior Singles - Finalist (Winnipeg, Manitoba), 2010 Masters Singles - ***Champion*** (Burlington, Ontario), 2013 Masters Singles - Finalist (Winnipeg, Manitoba), 2019 Master Doubles - ***Champion*** (Laval, Quebec)

**Other tournaments:** 1985 Maritimes Open, Open Singles - ***Champion*** (St-John, New-Brunswick), 1989 Manitoba Open, Open Singles - Finalist (Winnipeg, Manitoba), 1990 Manitoba Open, Open Doubles - ***Champion*** (Winnipeg, Manitoba), 1991 Quebec Open- Open Doubles - ***Champion*** (Quebec, QC), 2001 Albany Open Master Singles - Finalist (Colony, New-York), 2002 Boston Open - Open Singles - ***Champion*** (Boston, Mass.), 2003 Albany Open - Open Singles - Finalist (Colony, New-York), 2018 Albany Open - Masters Singles - ***Champion*** (Colony, New-York)