

2004 Alberta Volleyball Hall of Fame Awards

Category: Athlete

Inductee: Al Taylor

Athlete, coach, and builder are roles that Al Taylor has filled throughout his storied volleyball career and tonight he is being inducted into the Hall of Fame as an athlete. Al was a multi-sport athlete in high school excelling at football, baseball, gymnastics and volleyball. Luckily for Alberta and Canada Al chose volleyball and joined the University of Calgary in 1968, playing on the varsity team until 1972.

In 1972 Al formed the Calgary Volleyball Club (CVC) with the help of Myrna Empey and Al James and CVC would come to dominate the Alberta and Canadian Volleyball scene well into the early 90's. In 1973 the Canadian National Team would come calling and Al was named team captain for the 1976 Olympics in Montreal where the team finished 10th. During his tenure with the National Team, Al would compete in 2 FISU games, 2 World Championships, 4 Norceca Championships, and 2 Pan am games.

Al retired from the National Team in 1981, rejoined CVC and Older but Wiser which led to a string of gold medals at the Provincial Championships along with 2 National Championship wins in 1983 and 1985. Al's work ethic and competitiveness were legendary and his commitment and knowledge of the game enabled him to play and coach at the highest level.

After the Olympics in 1976 Al returned to Calgary to start his teaching and coaching career. Al coached at Dr. EP Scarlett and then moved to Sir Winston Churchill where his teams have won multiple City and Provincial Championships and continue to be perennial favorites every year. From 1986 to 1990 Al was the Head coach of the Canadian FISU games team as well as the Canadian B team program which produced many of the players who would go on to compete in Barcelona in 1992.

Al continued to play club volleyball throughout his years of coaching and teaching and enjoyed traveling and playing in tournaments across Canada. Al retired in his own words "at the ripe old age of 50" from competition in 2000 after playing in the Senior National Championships in Saskatoon.

With the World Masters Games in Edmonton in 2005 hopefully we'll see a return of Al Taylor and his Older but Wiser teammates to ensure another Gold Medal is brought home for Alberta and Canada!