

## 2005 Alberta Volleyball Hall of Fame Awards

### Category: Builder

Inductee: Bob Bratton

Dr. Bob Bratton has been heavily involved in volleyball as an athlete, coach, official, author, administrator, and every other possible position you could think of for over thirty-five years. As a result of his valuable contributions to volleyball Bob is being inducted this evening into the Alberta Volleyball Hall of Fame as a Builder.

Bob began playing competitive volleyball at George Williams College in 1957 and his team finished second in the National Collegiate Championships. Bob went on to teach high school in Winnipeg where he started the first boys high school volleyball program in 1959-1960. In 1961 Bob accepted a job at the University of Alberta (Calgary Branch) and helped out with the University volleyball team while he played on a club team. That year he was notified about the Alberta Volleyball Association's Annual General Meeting. Bob and his wife Marilyn attended the meeting out of curiosity and left that day with Bob as President and Marilyn as Secretary of the association.

Over the next twenty years Bob held every executive position with the Alberta Volleyball Association. During this time he served a term as Vice-President of Volleyball Canada and chaired several national committees, national championships, and international tournaments. He was also active with the Calgary Volleyball Association and Calgary Minor Volleyball.

Dr. Bratton coached the University of Calgary from 1962 to 1976. Over that period Bob and his teams conducted several player and coaching clinics throughout Alberta. The University of Calgary was the first Canadian university or club team to tour internationally; they traveled to France, Germany, and Holland to gain experience and develop links for future international contacts.

In 1965 Bob toured Canada with the USSR and USA in the first major tour of international volleyball in Canada. He traveled as the tour's official representative of Volleyball Canada and as a referee. One of the stops was in Calgary and Bob signed a personal promissory note at the bank to cover the costs of the tour. In the end they were very successful in Calgary attracting fans from all over Alberta with an overflow crowd of 1800 spectators, which was unprecedented for the sport of volleyball at that time.

Bob was the first National Referee from Alberta, when he was appointed at the 1963 Canadian Championships in Toronto. He conducted several referee clinics over the years and established the Master Official Program in Alberta. Bob assisted in training the officials for the FISU games in Edmonton, and refereed the games with his wife Marilyn.

Bob wrote the "History of the Canadian Volleyball Association" and acted as editor for the CVA rule book. He eventually decided to publish his first book, Power Volleyball

for the Player, Teacher and Coach. Subsequently 300 Plus Volleyball Drills and Ideas, 400 Plus Volleyball Drills and Volleyball Team Tactics and Training were published. Mr. Bratton was instrumental in developing the level I-IV Coaching Technical Manuals. He also assisted the Coaching Association of Canada with initiating their theory programs.

Bob believes he has had the good fortune of working with many excellent players and coaches who have made a major contribution to volleyball in Canada. Names such as Al James, Art and June Willms, Kit Lefroy, John Plantinga, Duane Tritter, Al Taylor, Brian Watson, Howard Rasmussen, and Greg Ryan to name a few. A modest man, he still finds it difficult to deal with the "ME" concept. In almost every aspect of his involvement in volleyball over the years it has been in collaboration with many other people and he truly believes it has been a team effort with his wife Marilyn as the most important cog in the wheel.

Bob's invaluable contributions to our sport were formally recognized by Volleyball Canada when he was inducted into the Volleyball Canada Hall of Fame in 2003 and Alberta Volleyball is very proud to be able to induct Dr. Bob Bratton into the Alberta Volleyball Hall of Fame in 2005.