

2004 Alberta Volleyball Hall of Fame Awards

Category: Athlete

Inductee: Barb Broen

Barb Broen started playing volleyball in grade 9 at Hardisty Junior High School in Edmonton. After winning the City Championship at Hardisty she moved on to play for the Tigers at McNally Composite High School where she would continue to experience success. The Tigers would win 2 City Championships and 2 Provincial Titles out of the 3 years Barb played. In 1983 Barb was selected to the Alberta Winter Games team which won a silver medal at the Jonquiere, Quebec Games. Up until this point, Barb's exposure to volleyball had been strictly indoors. In 1981 George Tokarsky arranged a few trips to Kelowna and Penticton where Barb gained exposure to the Outdoor game. Moving on with her volleyball career, Barb began her University eligibility at the University of Alberta. After her University season was over, Barb continued to play only this time she was representing the National Team. She played for Team Canada, headed by Coach Lorne Sawula, for two years and participated in the 1984 Los Angeles Olympics.

After her National team experience was over she still felt the desire to play volleyball. Barb returned to University only this time she joined the University of Sherbrooke. She was able to lead her team to a silver medal at the CIAU's in 1988 capping off her university career. Barb began teaching in 1989 when she accepted a position in St. Albert as a Physical Education instructor. Not to be kept off the courts, Barb began to play beach volleyball in the AVA summer series for fun. Her love for the game was too much to keep Barb at her teaching position so in 1992 she took a sabbatical and returned to the Canadian National team. Not being able to get enough of volleyball, Barb played as much beach as she could while she was staying in Edmonton. It paid off for her in the long run because in the summer of 1994, Barb won the Amateur Canadian Nationals in Wasaga Beach along with her partner Colleen Venne. This was the beginning of a blossoming beach career as she also won her first Canadian Professional Tournament at the Jose Cuervo event in Toronto that same summer.

The following season Barb decided to commit full-time to Beach and entered in her first International FIVB event in Hermosa Beach California with partner Margo Malloway. The team experienced some great success by qualifying for the 1996 Atlanta Olympic Games. For the 1996-1997 season, Barb returned to the FIVB World Series with partner Guylaine Dumont and the two won the National Championship. Barb also improved her FIVB ranking and finished the year with a 9th place finish in Pusan Korea. In her last year on the FIVB World Series, Barb and partner Cathy Tough finished a season high of 13th place. In 1998 Barb returned to teaching and coaching at John G. Diefenbaker High School in Calgary. In the 1998 – 1999 volleyball season, Barb returned to the FIVB World Circuit one more time with partner Christine Lussier and they went on to finish fourth at the Pan American Games.

With a history of great volleyball under her belt, Barb retired after the 1999 season. Even though her volleyball career was over, Barb continued to look for a new challenge. In 2000 Barb ran her first marathon in Edmonton and competed at the 2003 Ironman Triathlon in Penticton BC. Barb continues to teach and coach at John G. Diefenbaker High School in Calgary. Her volleyball success has followed her into the coaching ranks as her teams have already won three city championships.