

2006 Alberta Volleyball Hall of Fame Awards

Category: Official

Inductee: Basil Barnes

Basil's contributions to volleyball have spanned a number of decades and included a variety of different roles. He began his involvement in the sport back in 1964 when the game was different from the one we know today. At the time women played nine a side and were allowed to help the ball over on service. Basil recalls running many practices and drills which he encouraged his players to serve low so front row players could redirect the ball adding a very interesting spin to the offensive capability of the serve!

Basil's career as an official began in 1971 when he moved to Bonnyville. At this time he was involved as a referee in both basketball and volleyball, however later gave up basketball to focus his efforts on volleyball. He refereed at many National Championships and was very active at the University and College level. Basil's officiating resume boasts several international matches as well, including his role as a major official at the World University Games in Edmonton. Officiating volleyball has also taken Basil across the country allowing him to proudly visit each province and territory while developing numerous lifetime friendships.

Basil is commonly known for his sense of humour along side his calm demeanor on the stand. He was asked to participate in a study at the University of Victoria to evaluate the pressures on officials when they were working, and he was wired to record his heart rate. All officials involved in the study recorded definite variations in their heart rate and when the tension went up in the match, so did the officials' heart rate - except Basil - his heart rate never varied, to the point where the people running the study thought there was something wrong with their equipment. This experiment is a reflection on the type of official that Basil was throughout the years.

He has taught many officials the fine points of the game, running official's clinics throughout the province. Basil developed a great rapport with coaches and players when he was on the stand, earning their respect with his personable and fun loving demeanor. Basil's officiating career lasted until 1994 when he stepped down from the stand after 23 years of refereeing our sport. Basil currently works as a lawyer in Edmonton and has continued to advise Alberta Volleyball on their legal matters. Basil was renowned by his peers as a wonderful person to work with and had a calming influence in every situation. Making jokes to players and fellow officials during timeouts was one of his most notable trademarks. Congratulations and thanks for all your years of service to the sport of volleyball.