

2007 Alberta Volleyball Hall of Fame Award

Category: Athlete

Inductee: Errol Miller

Errol Miller's involvement in volleyball dates back to the 1950's. Errol began playing volleyball when the sport was still quite young in Canada. His first experiences in volleyball were in his teenage years at the YMCA in Edmonton. After playing a season on the Junior Bears basketball team at the University of Alberta Errol decided to join the volleyball squad which was coached at the time by Costa Chrysanthou. He played four years with the Bears from 1959 to 1963, as well as one season in 1969 when he returned to the U of A.

After his university days Errol began to teach at Victoria Vocational High School. During those years, he played for the Edmonton Safeway Volleyball Team. This team played matches against NAIT, U of A, army teams and Provincial matches against the University of Calgary and other teams from the south. The Safeway Volleyball team competed at the National Championships for several years, during this time Errol was sought after by other teams to compete with their club at the National Championships.

In 1969 Errol was invited to try out for the National team and made it, making him the first ever Albertan to play for Canada Men's National Volleyball team. This also represented a start to the recruitment of volleyball players from Western Canada for the national team programs.

The opportunity to play for Team Canada was the pivotal moment that launched Errol's involvement in volleyball for years to follow. After his stint with the national team, Errol returned to Edmonton and collaborated with other players from the area to form the Phoenix volleyball club. Errol's involvement as a founder, coach, and player helped make Phoenix one of the most productive and successful volleyball clubs at that time, with many teams competing in several divisions. Errol helped organize the first Alberta Volleyball junior development camp, and was also involved in the early days of the Jasper Volleyball Camps. He even had a brief stint as the coordinator for Volleyball Canada.

Errol also immersed himself in the role of a coach, filling several positions over the years. He has coached various high school, college, and club teams, and has also been a part of many camps and clinics in the Edmonton area. Most notably, Errol coached a previous hall of fame inductee, Terry Danyluk. Our understanding is that without Errol's influence on Terry, he may have grown to be the next Steve Nash in basketball. Through his various roles in the early days of volleyball in Alberta, Errol's actions have had a profound affect on our sport. We owe much of the development and current popularity of the sport to Errol. We can admire his success not only as an athlete, but also as an influential builder and coach.