

2009 Alberta Volleyball Hall of Fame Awards

Category: Coach

Inductee: Howard Rasmussen

Howard started his coaching career in Drumheller in 1972 when he took off the fall semester from university. He coached the high school boys' team, won the provincial championship, and was from that point on "hooked on coaching".

He continued to coach high school volleyball while attending the U of C, but switched to men's club ball while in Edmonton. He went on to coach the Phoenix AA men's team, a cast of interesting characters to be sure. That experience, along with trips abroad with the Dinos, and many summers at Jasper Volleyball Camp gave him the confidence to develop a strong program in Drumheller where his teaching career began. For seven years in Drumheller (1976-1983) Howard coached high school boys and girls, club girls, and a men's team known as the Drumsticks.

The next stop was the University of Lethbridge where Howard coached the men's Pronghorn team. In the '85-'86 season he was asked by the Calgary Volleyball Club to coach the Older But Wiser men's squad. It was a collection of Calgary players that Howard coached to a Canadian title in Quebec City later that year.

After three seasons with the U of L he left to focus on school sport, first at Hamilton Junior High and later at Lethbridge Collegiate (LCI). From 1989 until 2000 Howard coached the LCI Rams and developed a program that continues to thrive today. Howard had some very impressive recruiting skills as up until his time at LCI Southern Alberta had been heavily dominated by the sports of basketball, baseball and track & field. It's a very impressive feat how Howard managed to convince so many of the players in Lethbridge to not only participate in this game, but to become a dominant force in Alberta for years to come.

In 2000 Howard moved to Sapporo, Japan to teach English and coach volleyball. He coached the Hokkai High School girls' team for 15 months before returning to Lethbridge.

Over his many years of coaching Howard was seen as an excellent role model for his athletes and a coach that everyone loved to play for. His positive energy was contagious and his dedication to give every player a meaningful experience garnered him the respect of his peers. As one of his fellow coaches stated "When Howie was around you always knew there would be a few laughs, I guess this is why he was able to create such a wonderful learning environment"

Howard continued to play Volleyball until 2007, but is now retired from playing and coaching. However, he remains an avid fan of his beloved sport of volleyball.

