

2009 Alberta Volleyball Hall of Fame Award

Category: Officials

Inductee: Marilyn Bratton

Marilyn involvement with volleyball has been profound; she has seen success as a player, a coach and as an official. Marilyn was one of Alberta Volleyball's first senior referees and in 1964 she was the second female in Canada to receive a regional rating. Marilyn was the Referee in Chief for the Alberta Volleyball Association during the 1960's and continued as a referee until 1983. She trained and assigned referees for the Calgary High Schools and other tournaments in the region. In 1979 the NORCECA Junior Championships were held in Calgary. Marilyn was charged with the training and assigning of the minor officials for the event. Following this National Men's team moved to Calgary wherein Marilyn assigned several players to referee and earn a few dollars at a time when money was very tight for the athletes. Marilyn had been selected to accompany the University of Calgary men's team on their tours to Japan and Poland as their travelling referee.

Off court Marilyn along with her husband Robert were involved with several age-class programs. She travelled with the Dinosaur Juvenile Volleyball and the Alberta Juvenile Can-Am Teams serving lunch in the corner of the gyms during the late 70's and early 80's. On several occasions Marilyn opened up her home for out of town players on the provincial team and also provided temporary accommodation for national team players when they first came to Calgary. The University of Victoria Men's Volleyball Team also bunked in while participating in University of Calgary tournaments.

Marilyn is one of the early members of the volleyball community in Alberta. Her efforts to train and mentor volleyball officials have helped lay the ground work for the referees that have followed in her footsteps. A very modest individual, Marilyn can be credited with training such referees as Larry Lerbekmo, Errol Miller, Dennis Johnston, Al Legore, Cor Ouwerkerk, Al James, Al Taylor, Duane Tritter, Bob Hansell, Don Baldwin and Jim Day. For these reasons and many more we induct Marilyn Bratton into the Alberta Volleyball Association Hall of Fame.

