

2004 Alberta Volleyball Hall of Fame Awards

Category: Coach

Inductee: Lorne W. Sawula, Ph.D.

Lorne Sawula has a Bachelor of Physical Education (1967), a Master of Arts in PE (1969) and a Ph.D. (1975) from the University of Alberta. Educationally he has taught activity, sport administration, theory of coaching, history of sport, and other various sport and physical education related courses. He is published extensively around the world and continues to be involved in international and domestic volleyball clinics, committees, seminars and symposia in Canada and abroad. Organizationally he is familiar with running international events; being directly or indirectly involved with the NORCECA Volleyball Championships and various FISU and Olympic Games.

Canada gained his expertise when he became the Technical Director of Volleyball Canada in 1977 and later became the High Performance Director (1988-90). He was instrumental in starting Volleyball Canada's coaching certification and wrote many articles, books and manuals that were the foundation of today's programs. He was the first writer and editor of Volleyball Canada's Technical Manuals (I, II, III and IV) and co-authored the "Volleyball Development Manual" with T. Valeriot and "Soviet Gold" with T. Maxwell. Furthermore, he was deeply involved in the Federation of International Volleyball's (FIVB) International Coaching programs and their development.

Lorne Sawula is a Stage III course instructor for the FIVB and is certified as a Level IV Coach with Volleyball Canada. In 1982 he continued to work for Volleyball Canada, this time, as coach of the Women's National Team. Sawula took the team to the 1984 Los Angeles Olympics, two World Championships, three FISU Games and three Norceca Games. He went on to coach internationally in Switzerland (1990-93) where he led the Swiss National Women's team to victories over the USA, Russia, France, Germany and a bronze medal at the 1993 FISU. In 1994 Sawula coached the Australian women's national team and was the director of elite coaching for the Australian Volleyball Federation. He has worked for the Swedish Volleyball Federation as their Sport School Director, Women's Technical Director and Women's National Team Coach.

In addition to Lorne's international successes he also led the UofA Pandas to a CIS National Championship in the 1999-2000 season earning CIS Coach of the Year honours in the process. Lorne has since returned to Team Canada as Head Coach of the Women's program with plans on qualifying for the 2008 Olympic Games in Beijing, China.