

2007 Alberta Volleyball Hall of Fame Awards

Category: Builder

Inductee: Myrna Empey

Myrna Empey has been involved with volleyball as a coach, instructor, administrator, and leader. Her contribution to the development of volleyball in Alberta, as well as Canada, for over 20 years has led her to be inducted into the Alberta Volleyball Hall of Fame.

Myrna has been coaching volleyball since 1965 when she began at William Aberhart High School. Although involved with the senior girls volleyball team, she also helped coach many other sports throughout the school. In 1967, Myrna moved over to Henry Wise Wood High School, and brought home a Provincial Championship. Myrna was an Assistant Principal at several different schools and during her tenure she coached girls and boys teams at all levels. In 1998 she retired from the Calgary Board of Education.

After completing her Level Three coaching certification in 1978, she continued to share her passion for the sport with youth and spent time at the Shalako Volleyball Camp and Jasper Volleyball Camp. In 1980 she coached the Calgary Team at the Alberta Winter Games, and participated on the Canadian Coaches Tour of Europe.

Apart from coaching, Myrna has been a dedicated volunteer in sports administration. She began as volleyball Chairperson of the Calgary Senior High School Athletic Association (CSHSAA). In 1966 she began managing the Calgary Cals women's volleyball team. Myrna then joined the host committees for Touring International teams. During this time she was manager of the National Women's Team that represented Canada at the Pan Am Games, World Championships and the Montreal Olympics. From 1976-1980 she assisted with the administration of the National Women's Senior Volleyball Team, and traveled to South Korea and Dominican Republic for the NORCECA Zone Championships. Myrna also helped with the Junior National Teams and was the Assistant Head of Delegation for the National Teams tour to China.

Myrna was a founder of the Calgary Volleyball Club which included athletes from the midget level up to senior AA. She also held an Executive position with Alberta Volleyball and was on the Board of Directors for the Canadian Volleyball Association. In 1980, she was on the Organizing Committee for the NORCECA Zone Junior Volleyball Championships in Calgary, and was the Head of Delegation for the Canadian Teams.

Myrna has proved to be a great inspiration to those throughout the volleyball community. Now that she is semi-retired she has time to golf, curl and walk her dogs, but still spends time supporting amateur athletics. Though she may not be as involved today, her passion and dedication for our sport have not been forgotten. In honour of her accomplishments the CSHSAA/Calgary Booster Club Female Volleyball Player Award for high school has been aptly named the Myrna Empey Award. This award is for female volleyball players in the Calgary area and is based on academics, citizenship and volleyball skill.