

2004 Alberta Volleyball Hall of Fame Awards

Category: Official

Inductee: Bill Ward

Bill's involvement in volleyball began as a teacher and coach. Soon after he realized there was a shortage of trained referees in Alberta Bill joined the officiating ranks.

In the early 70's there were no organized programs for officials in the Edmonton area. Bill along with his wife Lynda and Dennis Johnson formed the Edmonton Volleyball Officials Association in 1971. He was the assignor in the Edmonton Zone for several years and during that time evaluated hundred's of young officials. He was instrumental in developing policy for the Alberta Volleyball Officials Association (AVOA), and chaired many committees in the early years.

He taught many officials the fine points of the game through his mentorship and positive attitude. Bill always had a great rapport with coaches and players when he was on the stand. He has been a role model for several of Alberta's senior officials and through the years has helped many of them in the province become stronger not only as officials, but as individuals as well.

Bill attained the status of National Official in 1975 and through the years he officiated at many National Championships including two Canada Games. Bill regularly worked CCAA and CIAU (now CIS) matches in Alberta until the time of his retirement in 1997. Details and dates tend to be forgotten over time but it's easy to remember an official and builder who had a tremendous impact on young officials who credit their love of officiating and skills on the stand to Bill Ward.