

SASKATOON SPORTS HALL OF FAME

Saskatoon Field House 2020 College Drive Saskatoon, Sask. S7N 2W4 (306) 664-6744

September 2009
to November 2009
Newsletter

saskatoonsportshalloffame.com

Touching base

Diana Davis Duerkop, a builder inductee in 1994 and a former board member with the Saskatoon Sports Hall of Fame, now serves on the board with the Kingston and District Sports Hall of Fame in Ontario. Duerkop was a vice-president with the Canadian Olympic Committee and president of Synchro Canada . . . **Melissa Armstrong**, a daughter of Hall of Fame inductee **Chuck Armstrong** (University of Saskatchewan Huskies track and field, 1970-71) was named to the Canadian national women's baseball team for the third consecutive summer. Armstrong, a 19-year-old pitcher, will play basketball for the Briercrest Bible College Clippers this winter . . . **Janine Plantana**, a former board member with the Hall of Fame, was manager of the Saskatchewan track and field team at the Canada Summer Games in August in Charlottetown, P.E.I. The Saskatchewan athletics team won 17 medals, an all-time high since the Canada Games began in 1969 in Halifax . . . **Trevor Mirtle**, son of 2009 Hall of Fame builder inductee **Ian Mirtle**, was an assistant coach on Saskatchewan men's basketball team at the Canada Games.

Builder inductees **Keith McLean** (2006) and **Glenn Reeve** (1998) both served on the host committee for the International Softball Federation men's world softball championship in Saskatoon in July. Australia defeated New Zealand 7-0 in the final. Canada was third. The next major softball competition



McLean

on deck in Saskatoon is the Canadian junior women's championship, scheduled for Aug. 1 to 8 in 2010 . . . **Howard Nixon**, a builder inductee in 1986, was joined by more than 20 members of the 1959 University of Saskatchewan Huskies football team for a 50-year reunion on the Labour Day weekend. Nixon was head coach of the Huskies in 1959 and '60 when they returned to university football competition after a decade in hibernation. He said he still attends Huskies football games . . . The late **Mel Hepburn** was inducted into the Saskatoon Sports Hall of Fame in 1991 for his contributions as a figure skating judge and sport historian. Did you know he is also in the Saskatchewan Sports Hall of Fame for hockey? Hepburn was the stick boy for the Melville Millionaires in 1914-15 when they won the Allan Cup as Canadian senior hockey champions, defeating the Winnipeg Monarchs 7-6 in a two-game series . . . **Ziggy Szlagowicz**, inducted as a coach with the 1985-86 U of S Huskies women's track and field team, is based in Abbotsford, B.C., with the Valley Royals Track and Field Club. He had two of his athletes qualify for the Canadian team this summer for the world youth championships in Bressanone, Italy.

SUMMER IN THE CITY



Saskatoon StarPhoenix photos by Gord Waldner (top, middle left and above), and Richard Marjan (middle right)

The summer of 2009 in Saskatoon featured one big sporting event after another.

● Native culture was on prominent display as **Dakota Dunes** (top) played host to the Saskatchewan Open golf tournament, a Canadian Tour event won by **Andres Gonzalez** of the U.S.

● Saskatchewan's under-19 team (middle left) won the title at the **Football Canada Cup** at Griffiths Stadium

● Fans packed the park to watch **Canada** (middle right) compete in the **International Softball Federation men's world championship**

● **Auto Clearing Motor Speedway** was the site of roaring action in the **NASCAR Canadian Tire series**, won by **Scott Steckly** of **Milverton, Ont.**

President's message

Ed Bryant



Greetings to everyone and welcome to this edition of our newsletter.

Our induction ceremony and dinner is set for Nov. 7 at TCU Place.

We have a great selection of sports represented by our inductees this year.

These inductees participated at levels from amateur to professional and made a wide range of contributions to the sporting community in Saskatoon.

The Saskatoon Sports Hall of Fame is proud to be able to honour them.

The proceedings of Nov. 7 are a special evening for the inductees, their families, relatives, friends and acquaintances. We hope many of our past inductees will also be able to attend to make this a special event for our inductees and give them great memories of their special recognition.

Please assist the sporting community in honouring our inductees for 2009 by attending the Nov. 7 induction ceremonies.

Saskatoon Sports Hall of Fame inductees by sport

Athletes and builders

Alpine skiing	1
Badminton	2
Baseball	7
Basketball	13
Bowling	6
Boxing	1
Curling	9
Diving	2
Equestrian	5
Fencing	2
Figure skating	4
Football	13
Golf	15
Gymnastics	7
Hockey	32
Horse racing	2
Horseshoe pitching	2
Judo	2
Sprint kayaking	1
Marathon canoeing	4
Martial arts	4
Paralympics	2
Rodeo	2
Soccer	6
Softball	23
Speed skating	15
Swimming	6
Synchro swimming	4
Tennis	3
Track and field	35
Trap shooting	1
Volleyball	4
Wrestling	7

Teams

Baseball	2
Basketball	2
Bowling	8
Curling	23
Football	12
Hockey	3
Softball	14
Track and field	4
Volleyball	5

CATCHING UP with TIM IRVINE

■ Quarterback/receiver with the University of Saskatchewan Huskies, 1990 Vanier Cup champions, team inductee in 2000 in the Saskatoon Sports Hall of Fame

Where he is at: Tim is president, co-founder and a personal trainer with Totum Life Science, a fitness and sports rehab facility with three centres in Toronto. He has been in Toronto for 14 years. Tim, a Nutana Collegiate alumnus who has Bachelor of Kinesiology and Masters of Science degrees from the U of S said: "Every day at work is a different challenge. I like that. It fits my personality."

Fame: Among those who work out at Totum fitness centre are David Thomson, chair of the Thomson Corp. and owner of The Globe and Mail; Larry Tannenbaum, chair of Maple Leafs Sports and Entertainment; Ben Kowalewicz, lead singer for Billy Talent, which won a Juno award as Canada's band of the year; entertainer Jane Siberry; and from the rock group Rush, Geddy Lee and Alex Lifeson. "Every one is a bit different," Tim said. "You have to adapt the (training) program to the personality of the client."

Family guy: Tim's wife, Stacy, also from Saskatoon, is a co-founder of Totum and works as a chiropractor and strength/conditioning specialist with the club. The Irvines have three children: Estella, Matt and Jackson. "Between children and work, we're in a full-court press all the time," Tim said, laughing.

Wonder years: "The thing that stands out for me about that (Vanier Cup) team was how well we all got along together. The more I'm involved in business the deeper I draw on that background. I'm very proud of it. I brag about it all the time. What is it I brag about? The people. There's that old saying 'They have your back.' That was this team. They would support you. We were hard working, honest, no ego. We had a good system, but more than that, we followed the system. I think that holds up with (the Huskies) even now."

Unforgettable: "Two plays. The first was my first series (at quarterback) with the Huskies. It was in the Border Bowl (exhibition game) against Alberta. Doug Siemens started the game. The second quarterback played. Then I got in. My first pass was to Paul Beitel. I didn't even see him, but I tossed it to him anyway. He caught it for a touchdown.

"The second is the Vanier Cup. Late in the game, our defence is on the field. St. Mary's quarterback Chris Flynn is scrambling and I'm on the sidelines, sweating bullets. Don Bristow chases him down. That play is crystal clear. I can see it like it was yesterday."

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Hall of Fame board of directors



—Photo by Gord Waldner of The StarPhoenix
Football coach Kelly Bowers

KELLY BOWERS

got an early start to the football season this year. Bowers, a board member with the Saskatoon Sports Hall of Fame and inductee with the 1991 and '96 Saskatoon Hilltops, was on the coaching staff of Saskatchewan's under-17 team at the Football Canada Cup in July at Griffiths Stadium. Saskatchewan placed fourth in the under-17 event and won the under-19 championship.

With the onset of fall, Bowers is now helping coach the Bedford Road Collegiate Redmen senior team as well as coaching in the Kinsmen League and doing colour commentary of University of Saskatchewan Huskies games with Melfort CK 750 radio.

Bowers started coaching football at Bedford Road in 1974 and for 34 of the past 36 years, he has coached high school, Kinsmen League or Hilltops football, sometimes a combination of two in a season.

This summer's event marked the first time Saskatchewan has held the Football Canada Cup. **Barry Radcliffe**, a Hall of Fame team inductee with the 1990 and 1996 University of Saskatchewan football Huskies, was chair of the organizing committee. Also helping to run the show were **Jeff Yausie** and **Brian Guebert**, Hall of Fame team inductees this year with the 2003 Saskatoon Hilltops.



Danaher

BARB DANAHER

an athlete inductee in 1986, played in the Saskatoon city women's golf championship for the 52nd time this season.

"I keep saying to myself, 'Barbara don't play any more.' But I want to keep the ladies tournament going," Danaher told **Kathryn Wilms** of The StarPhoenix.

Danaher, a member of the Riverside Country Club, has won the city amateur championship 17 times.

She represented Saskatchewan in interprovincial competition for 25 consecutive years.

Joe Zeman

1914-2009

Hall of Fame builder

Joe Zeman was grassroots Saskatchewan.

Born Feb. 6, 1914 on Sec. 12, Tp29, Rge8 near Outlook, he grew up on the farm at Kenaston.

His mother's people came from the Rusyn village of Porac in what is now Slovakia while his father came from the Slovak village of Kravany.



Zeman

Joe had a flair for language in general, Slavic languages in particular. He enjoyed verse, would often recite it. Social dancing came less easily, but he could cut a rug.

He liked singing. Trained in the art of debate, taking the other side came naturally to Joe, infuriatingly so at times.

His early life was marked by the death of his mother. From tragedy came resourcefulness.

As the oldest child he had to take on adult responsibilities. One was learning to cook. His specialties were soups and stews.

Joe never asked how you were — he asked if you'd eaten, his way of giving love and affection.

The first time Grade 12 was offered in his hometown he was in the graduating class. From there he returned to Outlook for his first year of university; the only Catholic at the Lutheran college, he was ecumenical before it was "in."

Up at Normal School in Saskatoon, Joe was called into the principal's office for not applying himself to his studies. It seems he was caught up in his extracurricular activities, a pattern that emerged in full creative force in Joe's life, where avocation was as important as vocation.

Graduate he did, but it was the Depression, there were no teaching jobs. During that time in his life he learned the art of recycling.

In 1937 he entered the College of Agriculture at the University of Saskatchewan. Two years later, he met the shy and lovely Jessie Shewan. Joe married well.

They had four children. Their home at 503 5th Avenue was the hub of the community when he organized sport for his two oldest sons. As a boy he had played sport in "stolen moments" away from farm work. At university he indulged his passion.

Later, in his years as an agricultural economist for Canada Department of Agriculture, in between doing crop-yield surveys in rural areas he was busy arranging baseball games.

After harvest he would begin to write up his report. There didn't seem to be any urgency. Sometime in the winter, in between hockey games, the report would be written and mailed to Ottawa.

In those years, Joe's life had a seamless quality. Its rhythm was determined as much by the seasons as the calendar.

One winter he coached five hockey teams.

Don't worry, his brother Frank told Jessie, Joe will get out of sport when the kids grow up. He never did — his focus just shifted is all.

By the early '70s, after managing the first Canadian national baseball team at the Pan American Games in Winnipeg in 1967, he started his volunteer board member phase. An archivist, he saved the minutes from every meeting he went to, no mean feat considering he belonged to 18 different sport, culture and heritage organizations at one time.

Late '70s, he got on a plane for the first time and flew to Czechoslovakia to meet his six first cousins. Got such a kick out of them he flew back four more times.

Early '80s, he and his daughter wrote a book on Saskatchewan hockey.

In the '90s, Joe became a fixture on coffee row, five coffee rows to be exact.

That was somewhat curtailed a few years ago when Joe ran into a bus, totalled a car and quit driving. Bus driver gets out, says to Joe are you all right? Turns out he had played ball (or was it hockey?) for Joe.

In his prime Joe seemed to know everyone in Saskatchewan. He was great with one-liners, knew how to work a banquet room. Yet at the same time he was a thinker.

Alone in the early mornings in the solitude of his living room, who knew what Joe was thinking when he played his endless game of solitaire, worked a crossword or read history.

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Ross Wilson

ROSS WILSON

a Hall of Fame builder inductee in 2008, welcomed more than 50 players and staff back for an all-years Saskatchewan Huskies women's soccer reunion on the second weekend of September.

To mark the occasion, Wilson, a former Huskies soccer coach and

later the athletic director at the U of S, compiled a history book spanning the 25 years of the women's soccer program.

The alumni presented commemorative T-shirts to

the current Huskies team which read: *Risk everything, fear nothing, live with no regrets.*

Wilson said of the almost 200 former players and staff he contacted, many are still involved in sport, including **Karen Bodnar**, who is coaching a boys 13-14 team and **Laura Chase**, who is in kinesiology at California State Polytechnic University in Pomona. Both Bodnar and Chase were on the first-ever Huskies soccer team in 1984.

Five Huskies have represented Canada in international soccer competition:

Lara Guzik, Erin Hammett, Kaylyn Kyle, Joan McEachern and Sam Simpson.



—Photo by Greg Pender/The StarPhoenix
Shannon Comerford

CLAUDE SEGUIN

a builder inductee in 2007 and head coach of the Saskatoon Fencing Club, had 10 of his athletes ranked in the national top 10 in the 2008-09 season: **William Brooke** (cadet epee) and **Marissa Evans** (cadet women sabre) were rated No. 1 in Canada, while **Shannon Comerford** hit No. 2 in senior women's foil.



—Photo by Richard Marjan of The StarPhoenix
Fencing coach Claude Seguin

Night to remember

The annual Saskatoon Sports Hall of Fame induction dinner, one of the highlights of the year on the local sporting calendar, is scheduled for Nov. 7 at TCU Place.

Kevin Waugh of CFQC TV is the master ceremonies and Simon Hiatt of Shaw Cable 10 is the citation reader.

Jerry Shoemaker will respond on behalf of the 2009 inductees.

Plaques of the new inductees will be added to the Hall of Fame display at the Saskatoon Field House.

Tickets for the induction dinner are \$60 for adults and \$35 for children 12 and under. Tickets are available at Al Anderson's Source for Sports, the Field House, Olympian Sports or by phoning 979-0684.



Saskatoon Sports Hall of Fame

24th annual induction ceremony
Nov. 7 at TCU Place

ATHLETES



Len Breckner
baseball/softball



Darcey Busse
volleyball



Lisa Mattern
track and field



Larry Tyson
bowling

BUILDERS



Kee S. Ha
taekwondo



Ian Mirtle
multiple sports



Bill Seymour
hockey



Jerry Shoemaker
curling



TEAM
2003
Saskatoon
Hilltops



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