



Dana Kidd Hall of Fame president

Athlete inductee, golf, 2014

As president of the Saskatoon Sports Hall of Fame, I am happy to bring greetings from the hard working volunteers who make up the board of directors. Without the hard work and dedication of our board of directors the Hall would not exist.

The 34th annual induction dinner on Nov. 2 was a great success. A big thank you to all who attended to celebrate the sporting achievements of the amazing people and teams who were inducted into our Hall.

A grateful welcome back to board members Keith McLean, Jacki Nichol, Eugene Hritzuk, Anna-beth Zulkoskey, Lisa Down, Bob Fawcett, Phyllis Wilson, Don Bates, Noreen Murphy and Dale Yellowlees. Thank you to the members at large who are helpful in so many ways.

This year the 35th induction ceremony and banquet is on Nov. 7.

We have confidence in your attendance to celebrate this year's inductees and support the Hall. Our banquet provides a platform to honour our city's many sporting accomplishments.

Nominations of candidates must be received by April 1 for that year's induction ceremony. The three categories are athlete, builder and team. We rely on nominations to recognize and honour people in the Saskatoon Sports Hall of Fame.

Nomination forms are available on our website:
saskatoonsportshalloffame@com

Don Smith

“***Jim Seaman** and **Malcolm Gilbert** were two of my physical education teachers while I was a student at Aden Bowman,” said ***Don Smith**, who is enshrined in the Saskatoon Sports Hall of Fame with the 1980-81 University of Saskatchewan Huskiettes volleyball team. “Both were great role models in terms of instilling an interest in becoming a physical education teacher. The fun they had with their students on a daily basis while teaching physical education was something that I realized would be a great thing to be able to do as a career.”

“As an athlete, playing for Malcolm on the senior boy's basketball team was a great experience. Being an American, Malcolm's love of the game was infectious. Both my brother, Al, and myself couldn't help but work hard each day at trying to perfect our game.”

“Unfortunately I never had Jim as a coach, but just noticing the way he coached the players on the (Aden Bowman) Bears football team I knew that he was having an impact on their ability to become better players.”

“Another former teacher and coach, **Brian Hilsen**, also inspired me to become a high school math teacher. Being a student in more than one of his high school math classes as well as a student in a University Math Methods class that he taught paved the way for me. It wasn't so much any one particular thing he said or did, but more in the way he taught his classes and his ability to instill in his students the neces-

Shirley Finell

“Certainly, both my life and teaching career have been influenced by physical education professors who have been inducted in the Hall, such as ***Lyle Sanderson**, ***Jim McClements**, ***Pat Lawson**, ***Howard Nixon**, ***Ches Anderson** and ***Mark Tennant**.

“Every bit as influential, and perhaps even moreso because



Don Smith and Shirley Finell taught high school in Saskatoon. Smith coached club, high school and university volleyball. Finell coached high school basketball, track and field and volleyball.

Taking charge

Athletes, coaches and officials
talk about who has inspired them

**Enshrined in Saskatoon Sports Hall of Fame*

city to attend to detail is what I remember most. As the coach of my only high school volleyball team while at Bowman, he made the sport fun by including me as a neophyte freshie as a member of the senior team. Although he did not have a wealth of technical knowledge about the game, his ability to let the players play — **Kim Goodman, Darryl Collister, Brad Edwards, Tom Denesuk, Mike Kylo, Eddie Leung** — was paramount.

“Truly in the Saskatoon Sports Hall of Fame for many reasons is ***Mark Tennant**. Again, it's not one thing that MT said, but what he did that influenced me as a coach and a person.”

“In 1980 I was a recently released member of the university men's basketball team. He asked if I would like to join the Huskiette coaching staff and be in charge of the physical training of the volleyball team. How could a person say no to that?

I quickly became a member of Huskiette volleyball family that has brought lifelong friendships with former players and coaches.

“His ability to let me do my thing, to suggest but not interfere, was something that made me confident in what I was bringing to the athletes and the team as a whole.”

“Learning through osmosis was evident to me as well. Just watching the way he went through a practice and developed a game plan for the opposition was a great experience. His confidence in my ability led me to coach not only high school volleyball, but club teams as well.”

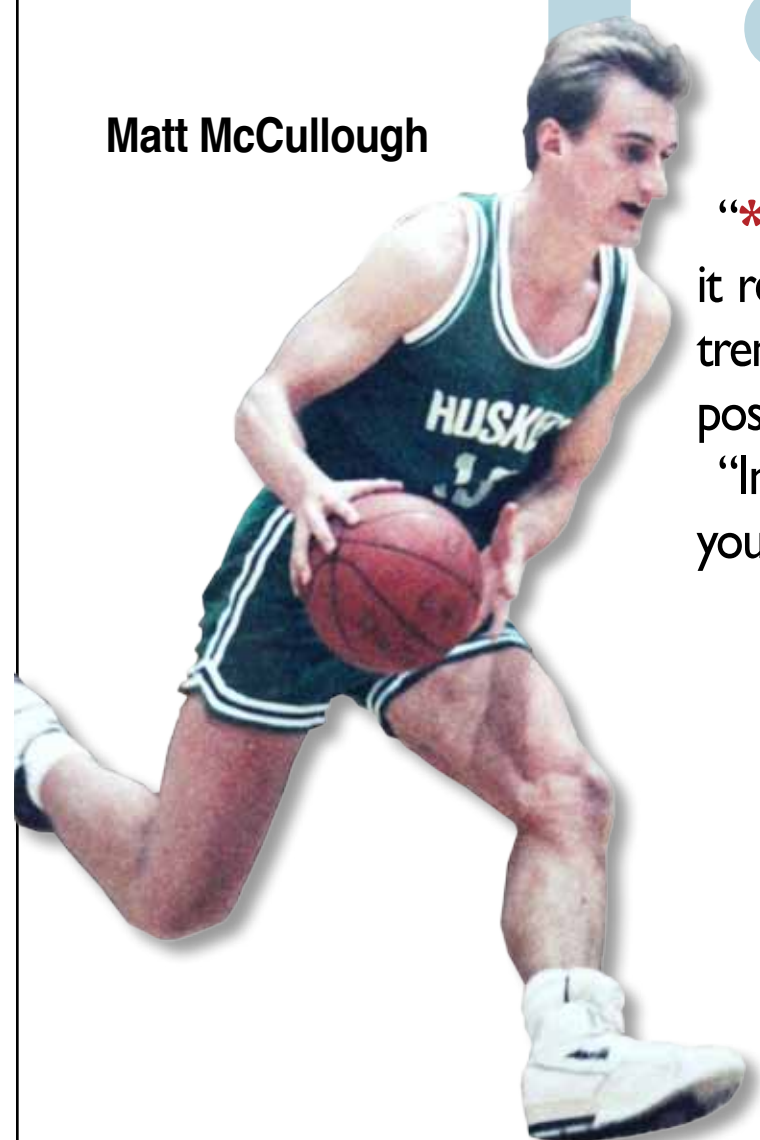
of the daily contact, were teaching colleagues who have been inducted, such as ***Doug Humbert**, ***Pat Wegner**, ***Kelly Bowers** and ***Irene Wallace**, not to mention the inductee that shares my home and my life on a very regular basis — ***Don Smith**. All of these people motivated and inspired me in their own way.”

Taking charge

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Matt McCullough



—Saskatoon StarPhoenix

“***Kelly Bowers** was inducted in 2011 and with his recent death it reminded me that his dedication to kids and young adults had a tremendous impact within our community. People like Kelly create positive energy for our youth and cannot be replaced.

“Induction to the Hall of Fame was a by-product of his passion for youth sport and certainly not the reason he did what he did.”

— **Matt McCullough** played basketball in the 1980s for the U of S Huskies. He coaches high school basketball.

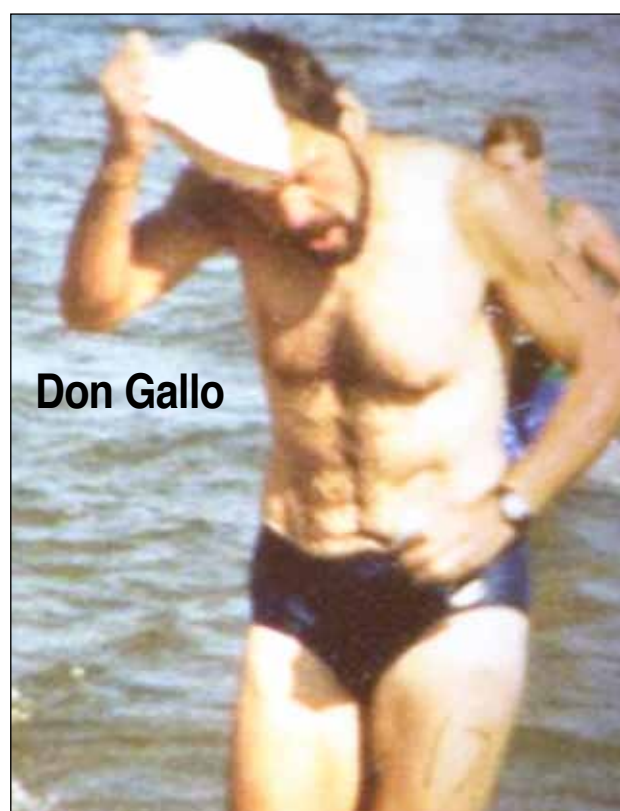
“I cannot say there was any single one who has influenced or effected me. Nevertheless I believe that the Power of the Moment that King referred to birthed from deep within me because I had this inter passion and great obsession and I enjoyed the team environment.

“Sports and/or work, that’s what I thrived on.”

— **Don Funk** is enshrined in the Hall as a builder in softball.



—Saskatoon StarPhoenix



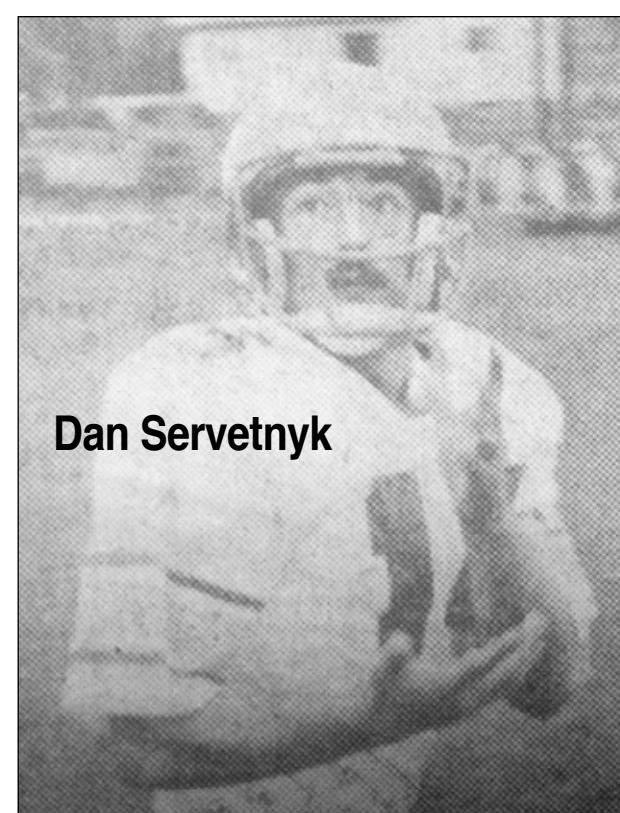
Don Gallo

“Sometimes it’s a call to action that inspires. While competing in the Vancouver Marathon 1985, I met a competitor with a Hawaii Ironman T-shirt . . . that T-shirt, you must understand, was MOST coveted. I chatted with him and told him I was from Saskatoon. He suggested that I start a provincial triathlon organization and join him in forming a Canadian triathlon organization. I incorporated the Saskatchewan Triathlon Association Corporation (STAC) that summer. STAC, our provincial sport governing body for triathlon, is now 35 years old.

— **Don Gallo** is enshrined in the Hall as an athlete in triathlon. He is on the board of the Saskatchewan Sports Hall of Fame.

“When I was in Grade 11 I lost a wrestling match in the city championships to someone I should have beaten and acted very poorly. Coach ***Blaine Knoll** called me in and said I not only embarrassed myself, but also the school. I took the message to heart and went out the next day and beat the favorite and won the city and provincials and never looked back. It inspired me to not only try my best, but act my best.”

— **Dan Servetnyk** is enshrined in the Hall as an athlete in wrestling and football and with the 1978 Hilltops football team.



—Saskatoon StarPhoenix



Phyllis Wilson has graduated from competing in sports to being a coach, official and organizer. She serves on the board of directors with the Saskatoon Sports Hall of Fame.

“When I was a young teen I was one of the first members of the Riversdale Track and Field Club.

***Jurgen Wittenburg** was one of my first coaches.

***Bob Adams** and ***Lyle Sanderson** were also coaches I had; Bob at the Saskatoon Track and Field Club and Lyle at the U of S. I continued to compete in athletics — hurdles and then middle distance — until injury prevented me from continuing in my second year of university. When I could no longer compete, all three of these coaches suggested that I become an official, which I did. Ironically, high jump was my specialty. There was even a photo of me in the Star Phoenix on a ladder measuring the high jump at the K of C Games, circa 1969 or 1970.

“Then when I married ***Ross Wilson** and became a PE teacher I started to be involved in the running of tournaments. I did not continue officiating, because as a PE teacher I had coaching responsibilities as well as tournament jobs. There just was not enough time.

“I was tournament co-ordinator for the Mount Royal Girls Volleyball Tournament (1972-1974, pre ***Keith Cote**) and the Walter Murray Girls Basketball Tournament (1984-1990, pre MIT), but most notably Hoopla. We had gone to the inaugural Hoopla in Regina and it was so poorly run that we knew that we could do better. So for the next five Hooplas that were held in Saskatoon I was the tournament co-ordinator and we set the standard for what the tournaments should look like. When I stopped being co-ordinator they used the playbook for the next few tournaments. I was also involved with the hosting of the national senior men’s basketball championships in 1982 and the Jeux Canada Games (volleyball) when they were held here.

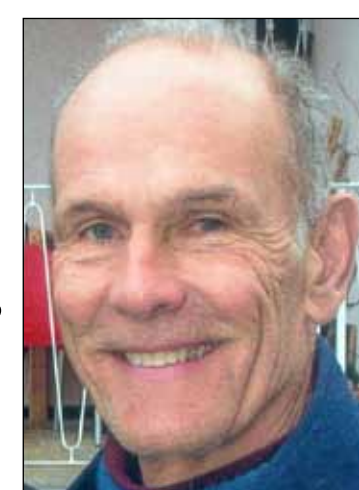
“So what I am saying in all of this is that those four people — Jurgen, Bob, Lyle and Ross — showed me that I could still be involved in sport, not as an athlete but as an administrator. And since organizing is one of my strengths and my athletic ability is only mediocre — I say I am athletic, and am not an athlete. I ended up doing what I was best at.

“Those inductees were all excellent leaders and each in his own way provided me with the Power of the Moment.”

“(Coaches) ***Bob Adams**, ***Clarence Garvie**, weekly summer track practise. Continued with track for a while at U Sask, mostly high jump. My best was 6-2; trivial today, and always came second after **Eugene Wedel**. When the Fosbury Flop arrived, did triple jump and relay. Lots of fun. We even took the train/bus to Regina, Prince Albert and Winnipeg for some meets. Still have my ribbons and medals.

“Most of my memorable teachers came after high school at Nutana, not during and not in sports. But I appreciated the help of home room and Latin teacher, **Mr. Leblanc**, who shared his lunchtime sandwiches at his desk to teach me Latin. I could not take his course in the regular schedule as I already had 12 courses in the year; a gross overload, including evenings and Saturdays in my final year. **Ms. Carter** was tough in French, but boosted my knowledge, which gave me a head start.”

— **Paul Copper** is a professor emeritus in paleobiology (geology history). He lives in France.



Paul Copper



Terry Lehne

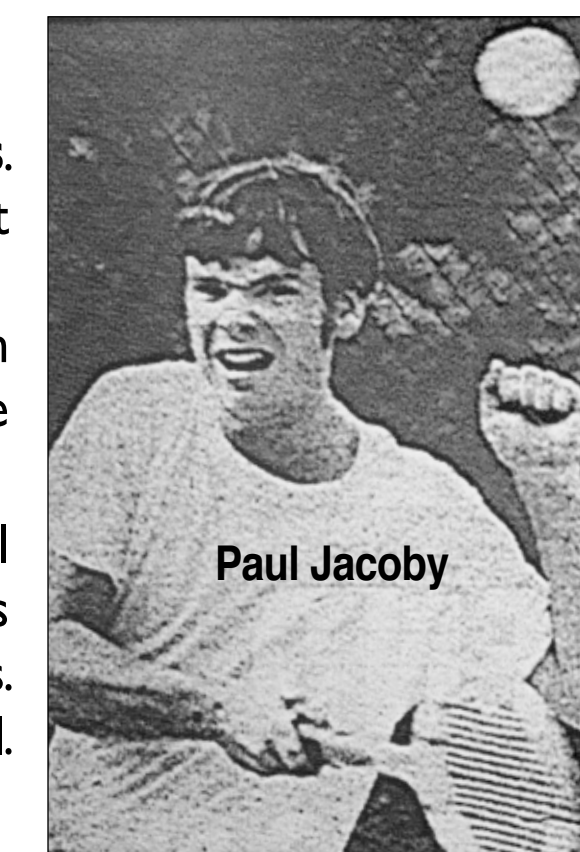
“***Dave King** was my Grade 9 hockey coach and Grades 10-12 football coach. He instilled in me the importance of preparation and passion. My take on that philosophy was to work harder than my opponent and care about what you are doing.”

— **Terry Lehne** is enshrined in the Hall as an athlete in football.

“The inductee I most admire is ***Kelly Bowers**. What ***Dave King** called the power of the moment Kelly made into the power of a lifetime.

“The contribution he made to the youth of Saskatoon and the sports life of this city, right up until the day he died, is truly inspiring. It certainly inspired me.”

— **Paul Jacoby** played basketball and football in the 1970s for the U of S Huskies and was a provincial champion in tennis. He coached high school basketball.



Paul Jacoby

—Saskatoon StarPhoenix



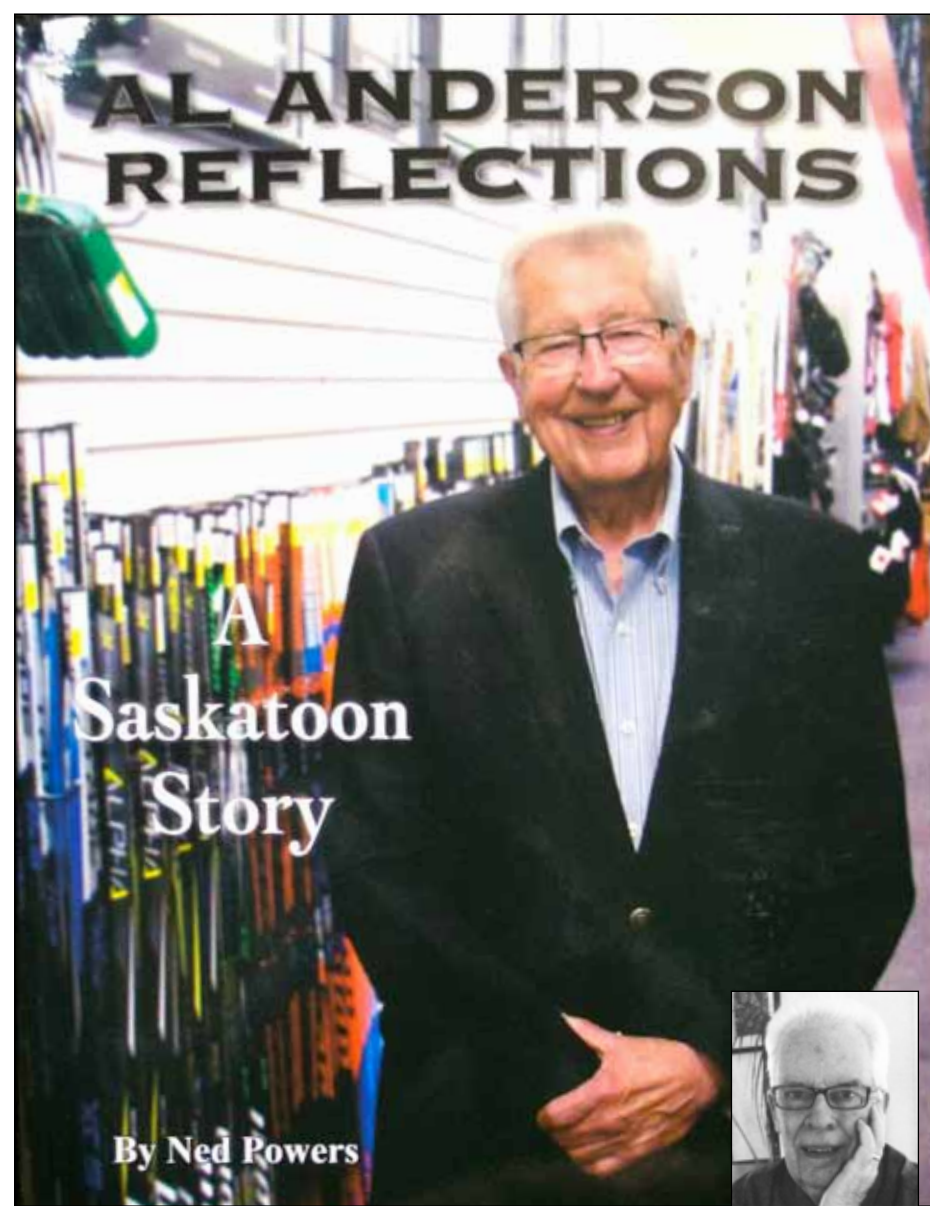
—Saskatoon StarPhoenix

Barb Hodges

“I think about my inspiring teammates from Bedford Road Collegiate — there are so many. One in particular is battling illness right now.”

— **Barb Hodges**

competed in basketball, speed skating, swimming, track and field and volleyball. She broke Canadian age-group records in swimming and Saskatoon high school records in high jump. She coached high school basketball and high school and club volleyball.



Read all about it

The story of philanthropist and sports sponsor **Al Anderson** is told in a new book by **Ned Powers**, a journalist and inductee in the Saskatoon Sports Hall of Fame.

Among those who receive prominent mention in the book are Hall inductees **Henrietta Goplen**, **Pat Lawson**, **Spero Leakos** and **Bob Stayner**.

Anderson played high school basketball at Bedford Road Collegiate, twice winning the northern title with the Redmen. He went on to play for 17 years in the Saskatoon Senior Basketball League, leading the league in scoring one year and being named an all-star several times. He coached junior varsity basketball at the University of Saskatchewan and the senior Commodores.



—Dr. Bill Turnbull/Saskatoon StarPhoenix
1949-50 Bedford Road boys basketball team.
Al Anderson, front row, far right

"I often found a certain emptiness in victories," Anderson said in a StarPhoenix article. "I don't remember many wins, but I remember a lot of the battles."

Anderson was involved in the Saskatchewan Indoor Games track and field from the start in 1965. He was the first special guest at BRIT, the annual Bedford Road Invitational Tournament, in 1970. He is a sponsor of the Saskatoon Sports Hall of Fame.

"Leaders by decree or election seldom perform," Anderson said. "Leaders by example always perform."

Al Anderson's Sports, a sporting goods business, opened in 1955 in Saskatoon on Avenue B

- Sold the first curved hockey stick in Saskatoon.
- Sold the first set of basketball uniforms in Saskatoon that had jerseys and shorts featuring the team's colours. They were bought by the Mount Royal Collegiate athletic program led by **Nick Patola** and **Don Necker**.

Touching base

With Saskatoon Sports Hall of Fame inductees

*Enshrined in Saskatoon Sports Hall of Fame

***Rick Reelle** of Saskatoon was on the coaching staff of the Canadian team at the world para athletics championships in November in Dubai, United Arab Emirates. Four athletes on the national team are coached by Reelle: **Austin Smeenk**, who was fourth in the 800 metres and fifth in the 100 and 200; **Jessica Frotten**, who was seventh in the 400, 800 and 5,000; **Ilana Dupont**, who was eighth in the 100; and **Alexandre Dupont**, who didn't advance to the final in the 800 and 1,500 ... Six inductees in the Saskatoon Sports Hall of Fame are coaches with the Saskatoon Hilltops, who won the Canadian Junior Football League title in November: **Donnie Davidsen**, **Dave Fisher**, **Shane Reider**, **Tom Sargeant**, **Brent Turkington** and **Jeff Yausie** ...

***Scott Flory** of the University of Saskatchewan Huskies was named the conference coach of the year in Canada West football for 2019 ... ***Dave Rogers** is the head coach of the Melfort and Unit Comprehensive Collegiate Comets, who won the 4A nine-man football title in the Saskatchewan High Schools Athletic Association for 2019-20.

Melfort defeated the Martenville Royals 51-15 in the final. Saskatoon's Holy Cross Crusaders, led by head coach **Scott Hundseth**, were defeated in the 6A final by the Regina LeBoldus Golden Suns 28-15. Bishop Mahoney Saints, led by head coach **Donnie Davidsen**, were defeated in the 5A final by the Yorkton Regional Raiders 31-23 ... ***Mike Humenny** is the head coach and manager of the North Battleford Junior Vikings, who won the bantam title in the Saskatoon Minor Football League ... ***Mark Tennant** was honoured at the recent International University Sports Federation (FISU) General Assembly in Turin, Italy for raising both the level of expertise and professionalism of FISU's summer sports events. Tennant was the technical chair for volleyball at 16 consecutive Summer Universiades from 1983 in Edmonton to 2015 in Gwangju, Korea and Vice Chair for all sports at the last two Universiades ... Tennant, who was head coach of the University of Saskatchewan women's volleyball program for 26 years, U of S track and field coach **Lyle Sanderson**, Huskies volleyball player **Darcey Busse** and three Huskiette volleyball teams — *1978-79, *1979-80 and *1980-81 — are enshrined in the inaugural hall in the Canada West University sports Hall of Fame.

The Huskiettes won the national volleyball title in those three consecutive years. Tennant was the head coach all three years, with 24 student-athletes, five assistant coaches and three support staff ... **Michael Linklater** of Saskatoon and the Thunderchild First Nation received the Inclusion Award for eliminating barriers in sport at the 42nd annual AthletesCAN Canadian Sports Awards. Linklater, a basketball athlete and clinician, started Boys with Braids, a campaign to encourage Indigenous youth to wear long hair and celebrate their culture.

Ben Coakwell of Saskatoon is a member of the four-man bobsleigh team that was named Canada's winter team of the year. The team of Coakwell, **Justin Kripps** of Summerland, B.C., **Ryan Sommer** of White Rock, B.C., and **Cam Stones** of Whitby, ON., finished third at the world championships in Whistler, B.C. **Erica Gavel** of Prince Albert is a member of the Canadian women's wheelchair basketball team that was a finalist for the People's Choice Award for performance of the year. The team won gold at the Parapan Am Games in Lima, Peru. Linklater, Coakwell and Gavel all competed in Huskie Athletics; Linklater and Gavel in basketball and Coakwell in football and track and field ... The gymnasium in Bedford Road Collegiate is now called the ***Kelly Bowers** Gymnasium. Bowers was a student, teacher and coach at Bedford.

Les Lazaruk of CJWW radio has been the play-by-play commentator of the Saskatoon Blades for going on 26 years, almost half of the team's 54 years in Canadian major junior hockey.



Ben Coakwell



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Radio play-by-play commentators of the Blades since 1972-73

- Jack Sandberg
- Peter Bell
- Wally Cameron
- Dennis Beyak
- Roger Millions
- Dane McKinnon
- Randy Atkinson
- Bill Clewes
- Les Lazaruk



Les Lazaruk

Cheers for Jewitt-Filteau

***Nancy Jewitt-Filteau** received the **Jim O'Sullivan** Award from Judo Saskatchewan for her long and significant contribution to the sport ... **Janine Beckie** was a finalist for Canada Soccer women's player of the year. Beckie played on the national team that reached the Round of 16 at the World Cup last summer in Paris, France. Janine's parents, **Sheila** and **Gary Beckie**, both played basketball for the U of S Huskies for five years in the late 1970s and early '80s. Sheila (Brennan) Beckie is a native of Regina. Gary, who grew up near Kenaston, was a student in Mount Royal Collegiate in Grade 12. His high school coaches, **Lloyd Howey** and **Nick Patola**, are both enshrined in the Saskatoon Sports Hall of Fame ... ***Laurie Wachs** of the Saskatoon Aqualenes and **Elise Marcotte** of Calgary won the **Sadie Calder Knight**

senior national championships at the Shaw Centre in December was a showcase for Saskatoon diving.

Nancy (Robertson) Brawley was an assistant referee, **Steve Carroll** and **Mary Carroll** are the lead coaches with the host Saskatoon Diving Club and four Saskatoon divers — **Margo Erlam**, **Quinn Gariepy**, **Jamie Spilchuk** and **Ryan Wiens** — competed in nationals. Brawley has been involved in diving since the 1960s, competing in the 1968 and 1972 Olympics, the 1970 Commonwealth Games and the



Saskatoon Sports Hall of Fame

- **Guy Fuller**
Team inductee 1991, 1996 Hilltops football
- **Michael Fuller**.....Guy's son
Team inductee 2007 Hilltops football
- **Jack Nepjuk**
Team inductee 2001, '02, '03, '07 Hilltops football
- **Beth Nepjuk**.....Jack's daughter
Team inductee 2002 Hilltops football
- **Gord Wintermute**
Builder inductee, hockey
- **Kurt Wintermute**.....Gord's son
Team inductee 1991 Hilltops football
- **Ron Zerr**
Team inductee 1970, 1971 U of S Huskies track & field
- **Ron Zerr Jr.**.....Ron's son
Team inductee 1996 Hilltops football

1971 Pan-American Games. She has gone on to be a diving coach, an international diving judge and the director of the officials program with Diving Canada. Brawley was the team leader of the Canadian diving team at the 2004 and 2008 Olympics and has served on the board with the Saskatoon Diving Club. Erlam finished third in women's 3-metre and fifth in platform at winter nationals. Wiens finished third in men's platform and third in 10-m synchro with **Bryden Hattie** of Victoria ... **Dave (Tiger) Williams** of Weyburn played in the Western Canada Hockey League and the NHL for 17 years. In his 1984 book, *Tiger: A Hockey Story*, Williams pulls no punches when talking about Saskatoon's ***Keith Magnuson**, a defenceman with the Chicago Black Hawks. "He certainly wasn't a great player," Williams said. "But he had something a lot of great players lack: he had tremendous heart, a constant willingness to fight, to compete. I've described how he once pounded me and helped send me on my early trip to the minors, and from that incident onwards I always watched him closely. He was probably the most competitive defenceman I ever played against" ... **Bev Dickinson** of Saskatoon received the Leadership Award from Gymnastics Saskatchewan. Dickinson has been active in gymnastics since the 1990s, from local to international levels. Dickinson and ***Keith Russell** of Saskatoon are partners in Ruschkin Publishing & Consulting Inc., specializing in the support and development of gymnastics with training, workshops and coaching.



Bev Dickinson

Wayne Hellquist of Regina received a Special Award of Merit from Gymnastics Saskatchewan. Hellquist has been a consultant to Gymnastics Saskatchewan for 16 years. He has also been on the Canadian Olympic Committee for 25 years and the vice-president of World Para Volley, formerly World Organization Volleyball for Disabled (WOVD), since 2009.

David Bailey, a 20-year-old pharmacy student from Toronto, was at the first track and field meet in 1965 in Saskatoon's downtown Arena. Bailey was on an East York team with **Bill Crothers**, **Dave McClure** and **George Shepherd** that won an invitational distance relay race. Seven months later at an outdoor meet in San Diego, Bailey was the first Canadian ever to run the mile in less than four minutes. His interest in track started a decade earlier, taking up running because it gave him an opportunity other sports couldn't after he lost sight in his right eye in an accident when he was 9 years old ... **Andrea (Weber) Diener** of Watson, SK., was a kinesiology student at the U of S in the mid-1990s and on the Huskie Athletics All-Academic team in track and field. Diener, 44, broke a Canadian Masters Athletics record in weight throw at a recent meet in Edmonton. Diener, a mother of four, is a member of the St. Albert Mustangs Track and Field Club in Alberta. She won one gold and two silver in throws and bronze in triple jump in the North, Central American and Caribbean region Masters Athletics championships last summer ... **Al Hackner** of Subury, ON., has a long link with Saskatoon. Hackner was skip of the rink from Northern Ontario that was defeated by the Saskatoon Nutana crew of ***Jim Wilson**, ***Tom Wilson**, ***Ron Mills** and ***Rick Folk** in the final of the Canadian Brier in 1980. Hackner beat the Nutana rink of **Art Paulsen**, **Nick Paulsen**, **Bob Miller** and ***Eugene Hritzuk** in a semifinal in 1985 en route to winning his second Brier title. Hackner returned to Saskatoon twice in 2019, finishing second in the Canadian masters championship last April, and as the coach of the **Glen Muirhead** rink from Scotland, which were quarter-finalists at a World Curling Tour event in December ... The Saskatoon Blazers were defeated by one goal in the semi-final, while the Saskatoon Contacts were defeated by one goal in the quarter-final at the recent 42nd annual Macs midget boys hockey tournament in Calgary. Blazers head coach **Scott Scissons** is a son of ***Jim Scissons**, who is enshrined in the Saskatoon Sports Hall as a golfer. Contacts head coach ***Marc Chartier** is enshrined in the Hall with the 1982-83 Huskies hockey team.

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Going the distance

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The floor is yours

*Enshrined in Saskatoon Sports Hall of Fame

The Field House has been resurfaced. Called Mondotrack World Series, it is the same synthetic track material used for the 2019 world championships in Doha, Qatar, the 2016 Rio de Janeiro Olympics and 2020 Tokyo Olympics. The Field House has served a smorgasbord of sports since opening in 1979.

team handball



—Regina Leader-Post
Donna Von Hagen, left

Women's team handball is the first sporting event contested in Saskatoon's new Field House in August 1979.

Because work on the centre is still in progress and a rubberized playing surface is not yet installed, its concrete base is covered with indoor-outdoor carpet for team handball competition at the Western Canada Summer Games.

Three goals by Regina's **Donna Von Hagen**, an alumnus of Central Collegiate, are the difference as Saskatchewan defeats B.C. 13-10 in the Games' opening match.

volleyball

Although the Soviet Union is boycotting the 1984 Los Angeles Olympics, it keeps Saskatoon in the loop.

The Soviets, reigning world champions in men's volleyball, play Canada in an international exhibition match at the Field House just two weeks before the Olympics.

Middle blocker ***Don Saxton** of Plenty and the University of Saskatchewan Huskies is in the starting rotation as Canada hammers the Soviet Union for the first time in history.

Canada goes to the Olympics and finishes fourth, as of 2020 its best finish ever.



—Saskatoon StarPhoenix
Don Saxton

track & field



—Saskatoon StarPhoenix
Billy Olson

An athlete from Texas puts the Field House on top of the world.

Billy Olson of Abilene breaks the world record in pole vault at the annual Knights of Columbus Saskatchewan Indoor Games in 1985.

Olson raised the record seven times in 1982 and '83, but had an off-season in 1984.

"I was beginning to doubt myself," he said.

"True story: I was at this business meeting in Dallas recently. We're standing around introducing ourselves to each other and this guy says 'Billy Olson? Did you know there's a famous pole vaulter who has the same name?'"

wrestling

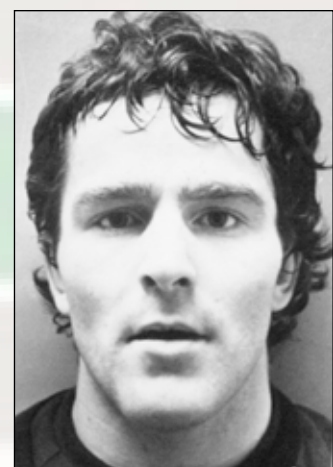
Turning out the lights in the Field House wrestling room is just part of the plan for ***Gord Garvie** as head coach the University of Saskatchewan Huskies.

As they are practising Garvie suddenly flips the switch. "Keep going," he says.

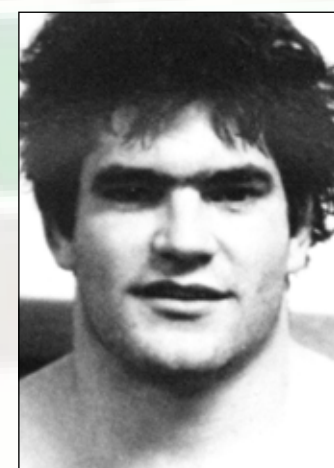
The wrestlers pair off in the dark, not knowing who is fighting who. That is Garvie's idea. Adjust. React. Learn how to respond to uncertainty. Stay aware. Be prepared.

Gerald Lashyn competes in the 95+ kg division, **Andre Regnier** at 61 kg. They meet in the dark.

"He's twice as big as me," said Regnier. "He also fell twice as hard. When he fell, the Earth shook." Regnier and Lashyn both win their weight class at the 1986 conference championships — Regnier is named the wrestler of the meet — and are third at nationals.

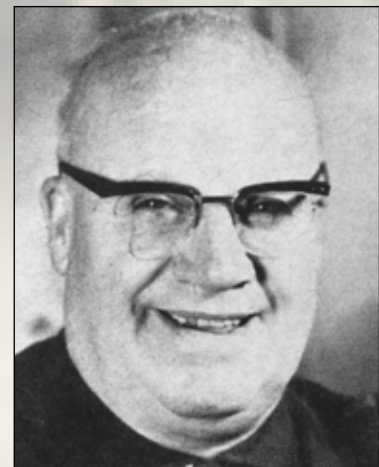


—Saskatoon StarPhoenix
Andre Regnier



—Saskatoon StarPhoenix
Gerald Lashyn

multi-sports



Hugh Tait

Saskatoon Sports Hall of Fame has its first induction in January 1987 in the Field House.

Builder ***Hugh Tait** is in the inaugural class. Talk about Hall of Fame calibre.

Tait promoted gymnastics and swimming, boxing and wrestling, track and field and baseball.

He was the first president of the Saskatoon Bowling Association. He was one of the founders of the Merchants men's softball club.

Tait had a game plan for football. In 1946, the local Navy Club played only one game, but wanted to continue some way, some how. Tait and **Kent Phillips** took the lead, holding meetings to organize a new football club. In 1947 the Hilltops were born.

When the Hilltops played host to the national final in November 1953, Tait canvassed the city the week before the game, asking people if they could lend tarps to cover the turf at Griffiths Stadium. He said he'd shovel snow off the field if he had to.

On a clear and firm field, the Hilltops defeated Windsor AKO 34-6 for their first national title.

sprint kayaking

The South Saskatchewan River goes into hibernation in the winter. Because Saskatoon's ***Corrina Kennedy** can't be on the water, it's time to cross-train.

She is one of only two Prairie paddlers on the Canadian national sprint canoe-kayak team of 21 athletes in 1995. Land-locked and in the dark of winter, she zips on a snow suit and bikes 15 minutes every day to the Field House to work out.

The next summer, Kennedy goes to Atlanta for the 1996 Olympics. She reaches the final in both of her events, finishing fifth in the K-2 and K-4 500 metres.



—Saskatoon StarPhoenix
Corrina Kennedy

football

The Ottawa Rough Riders win the CFL Grey Cup three times in the 1960s with Canadian **Russ Jackson** at quarterback. Jackson comes to Saskatoon for another big game in 2006. Age 70, he is here as a special guest at the Vanier Cup, the Canadian university championship.

Before the Saskatchewan Huskies and the Laval Rouge et Or take to the frozen field at Griffiths Stadium, Jackson is next door at the Field House, meeting and greeting. The place is packed.

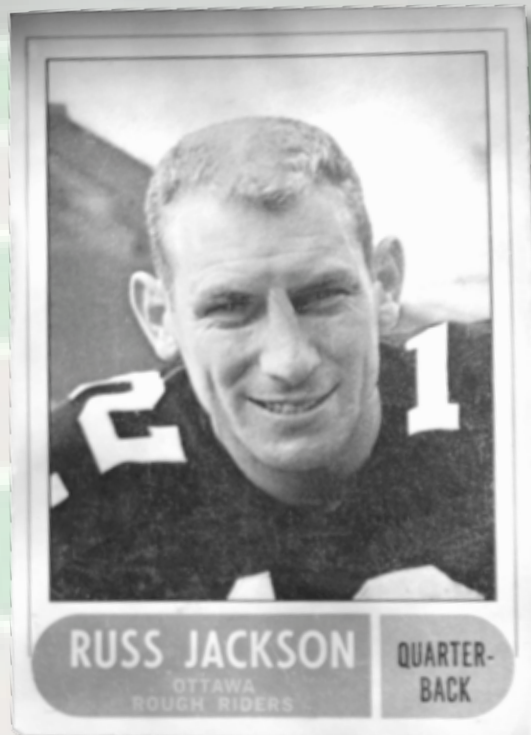
As Jackson walks into a clearing on the straightaway on the Field House track, someone on a motored golf cart is headed straight at him.

Jackson is looking one way, the cart driver another. Jackson is about to be T-boned.

At the last second, Jackson looks. He sees.

He ducks the hit ... as always.

—Field House photo by Carpell Surfaces



RUSS JACKSON
OTTAWA ROUGH RIDERS
QUARTERBACK

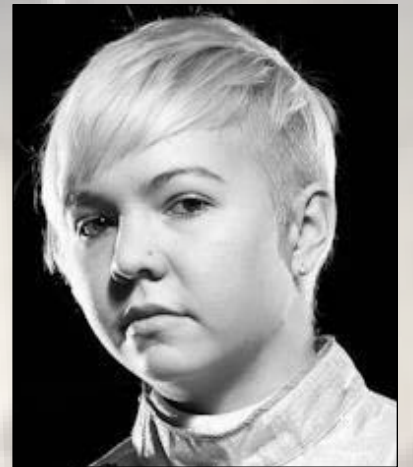
fencing

Today the Field House, tomorrow the world.

Jean-Pierre Seguin, 15, of Saskatoon, and **Shannon Comerford**, 13, of Grandora are medallists here in the 2001 Canadian fencing championships. Seguin wins the world epee title a year later in Turkey. Comerford goes to worlds in Bulgaria in 2004 and in Austria in 2005. When nationals return to the Field House in 2009, Seguin and Comerford are back for more, now developing their fire and finesse in the senior division.



—Saskatoon StarPhoenix
Jean-Pierre Seguin



Shannon Comerford

gymnastics

Gymnast **Rhett Stinson** is seasoned in international competition. He competes in the 1997 world championships in Switzerland and the 1995 FISU World University Games in Japan, 1997 in Italy and 2001 in China.

He bottomed out in 2001. He blew a knee. He thought about retiring from the sport.

After extended rehab, he went to the '02 national championships in Winnipeg, winning the Canadian title in parallel bars.

At 26 and competing in the Field House, Stinson hits an all-time high at nationals in 2003. He repeats as P-bars champ and finishes fourth all-round at the Canadian championships in Saskatoon.



—Saskatoon StarPhoenix
Rhett Stinson

baton twirling

Going to the Field House is graduation day for Saskatoon's **Cindy Goldie**.

Competing in the Field House in the 1996 Saskatchewan baton championships, she pockets three gold and two silver.

Two years later, at the Canadian trials in the Field House, Goldie adds a bronze in senior solo.

Getting instruction in ballet and modern dance plus her background in gymnastics make Goldie a fixture on Canada's national baton team throughout the '90s, competing at worlds in Italy and France, the United States and the Netherlands.



—Saskatoon StarPhoenix
Cindy Goldie

diving

The Saskatoon Diving Club trains as much as it can at the Harry Bailey Aquatic Centre in 2000-01, but pool time is limited.

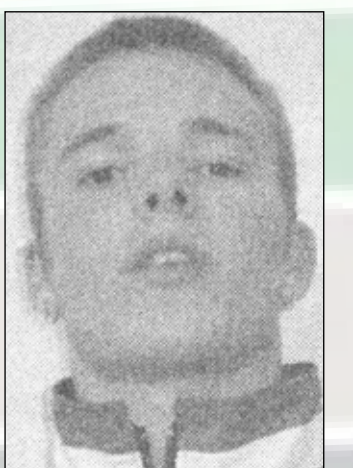
Coach **Lorn Wionzek** wants more time. He says the divers need more time. They adapt.

Twice a week every week the club goes to the Field House for dryland training, practising aerial twists and somersaults in landing into foam mats.

The big splashdown is in August of 2001. Lorn's son **Aaron Wionzek** wins a gold medal in one-metre at Canada Summer Games in London, ON. Aaron is the only Saskatchewan diver ever to win gold on springboard in the history of the Games.



Lorn Wionzek



Aaron Wionzek