



Burnaby Sports Hall of Fame

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Located in the Bill Copeland Sports Centre, 3676 Kensington Avenue, Burnaby

Canada captain to be inducted into Burnaby Sports Hall of Fame

The captain of Canada's only FIFA World Cup soccer squad who played with and against some of the game's greats will be inducted into the Burnaby Sports Hall of Fame along with six other individuals and a team.

Bruce Wilson's formative soccer years were spent in Burnaby playing for Norburn A.C. which won the 1966-67 provincial championship before he moved on to a stellar professional career in the North American Soccer League.

Wilson will join lacrosse legends Eric Cowieson and Alex Carey, Simon Fraser University women's softball coach Mike Renney, auto racing pioneer Al Ores, the champion of minor lacrosse in south Burnaby George Pittendrigh, Burnaby Lake Rowing Club mainstay Glen Smith and the 2009 Burnaby Lake Rugby Club women's team as inductees during a banquet at the Metrotown Firefighters Hall on Thursday, Feb. 28, 2019.

After the Whitecaps, Wilson went on to play for the Chicago Sting, the New York Cosmos and Toronto Blizzard. He was selected to three NASL all-star teams.

Wilson made 57 international appearances for Canada including the 1984 Olympics in Los Angeles where they reached the quarter-finals. Wilson then captained Canada at the 1986 FIFA World Cup in Mexico, the only time Canada has qualified for the sport's most prestigious event.

Since then, Wilson has spent more than 30 years heading up the University of Victoria men's soccer program winning three Canadian titles and nine Canada West championships.

Wilson was inducted into the B.C. Sports Hall of Fame in 1990, the Canadian Soccer Hall of Fame in 2000 and the U.S. Soccer Hall of Fame in 2003. In 2012, the Canadian Soccer Association selected him as a member of the nation's all-time team in celebration of the organization's 50-year anniversary at left fullback.

Others to be inducted Feb. 28 are:

ATHLETE

Alex Carey, lacrosse

Carey learned his lacrosse in East Burnaby before playing junior for the Mount Pleasant Legion 177 which won the Minto Cup, Canada's national junior championship, in 1956. He was on two Vancouver Carlings/Burrards Mann Cup championship teams in 1961 and 1964 missing out on the 1963 Mann Cup because of injury. Carey accumulated 228 goals, 251 assists for 480 points in 334 regular season games in the Western Lacrosse Association with the final six years playing for the Coquitlam Adanacs. Carey had another 84 points, including 38 goals in 81 post-season games for a career total of 564 points.

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Eric Cowieson, lacrosse

Cowieson cut his lacrosse teeth at the Confederation Park box in North Burnaby, a hotbed for talent in the 1960s, winning several minor championships with Norburn. He played in three Minto Cups in the four years he played junior for Burnaby Cablevision, winning in his final year of 1977. Cowieson played 18 years — including being captain for 14 seasons — with the New Westminster Salmonbellies winning the Mann Cup four times. Despite being known primarily as a defensive player, Cowieson managed to score at a clip of 1.65 points per game in his career.

BUILDER

Al Ores, auto racing

The Slovenian-born Ores was a mechanic who took racing lessons at the Westwood Motorsport Track in Coquitlam in 1968 on a bet with two of his workmates at the shop he worked at. One spin around a wet track on a rainy day and he was hooked. Ores went on to race and build cars up and down the west coast, and has mentored many a mechanic and racer ever since. He was inducted into the B.C. Motorsports Hall of Fame as a pioneer in 2002.

George Pittendrigh, lacrosse

Pittendrigh was first introduced to lacrosse in 1908 and he ended up introducing the sport for many a decade to many a young boy as a coach, organizer and executive member of South Burnaby minor lacrosse. Besides all those duties, his commitment to the sport extended to even clearing land on the vacant lot next door to his 13th Avenue home for neighbourhood boys like Carey to come play.

Glen Smith, rowing

In addition to being a team physician for Canada's rowing team at the 1981 world under-23 championships, Smith was a founding member of the Burnaby Lake Rowing Club, was a member of its executive for 26 years and a national umpire for the sport for more than 35 years.

COACH

Mike Renney, softball

Renney, who started coaching the Simon Fraser University women's softball team in 1994, coached the Clan to a 640-368 win-loss record. His squads won four NAIA titles (1999, 2003, 2005, 2010) with 20 of his athletes playing for Canada's senior team. Renney coached with Canada at three Olympics (1996, 2000, 2004). Renney was named the National Fastpitch Coaches Association (U.S.) coach of the year three times, NAIA softball coach of the year four times, and Sport BC coach of the year in 2003. He was also inducted into the Softball BC Hall of Fame in 2012 and the NAIA Hall of Fame in 2014.

TEAM

2009 Burnaby Lake Rugby Club senior women's team

This star-studded squad defeated the touring Japanese national team, the only time a Canadian women's club team has defeated a national team. At the time the team was the current and the defending provincial champions.

Contact: Grant Granger, chair Burnaby Sports Hall of Fame, 604-803-9571

Tickets: Will be available in January by emailing tickets09@shaw.ca. They will also be available for purchase by contacting Rosemary Magus at 604-436-1672. Tickets are \$85.