

**CLASS OF 2019
BUILDER: HOWARD HUM**

**By Grant Granger
Chair, Burnaby Sports Hall of Fame**



**Induction banquet Thursday, Feb. 27
Reception 6 p.m., dinner 7 p.m.**

**Tickets: \$85
tickets09@shaw.ca 604-436-6372**

Hum-min' along with a whistle

Howard Hum's sport when he attended Alpha high in North Burnaby was basketball so he was a little surprised when a volleyball coach at the school asked him to become an official.

"I knew absolutely nothing about the sport," says Hum four decades later about getting his first volleyball officiating certification when he was in Grade 10. "That's how I got started, through high school and university. It was a perfect part-time job because I could pick it up and put it down as time permitted."

It didn't, however, pay enough for him to quit his day job, or the pursuit of one eventually becoming a chartered accountant. Through the years he scrutinized spreadsheets during the day and patrolled the net on weekends and evenings officiating at many high-level university and college matches making a lot of friends in the process.

"It was just an incredible group of officials," says Hum, who received national certification in 1984. "So the social aspect was good. I also liked the challenge of officiating."

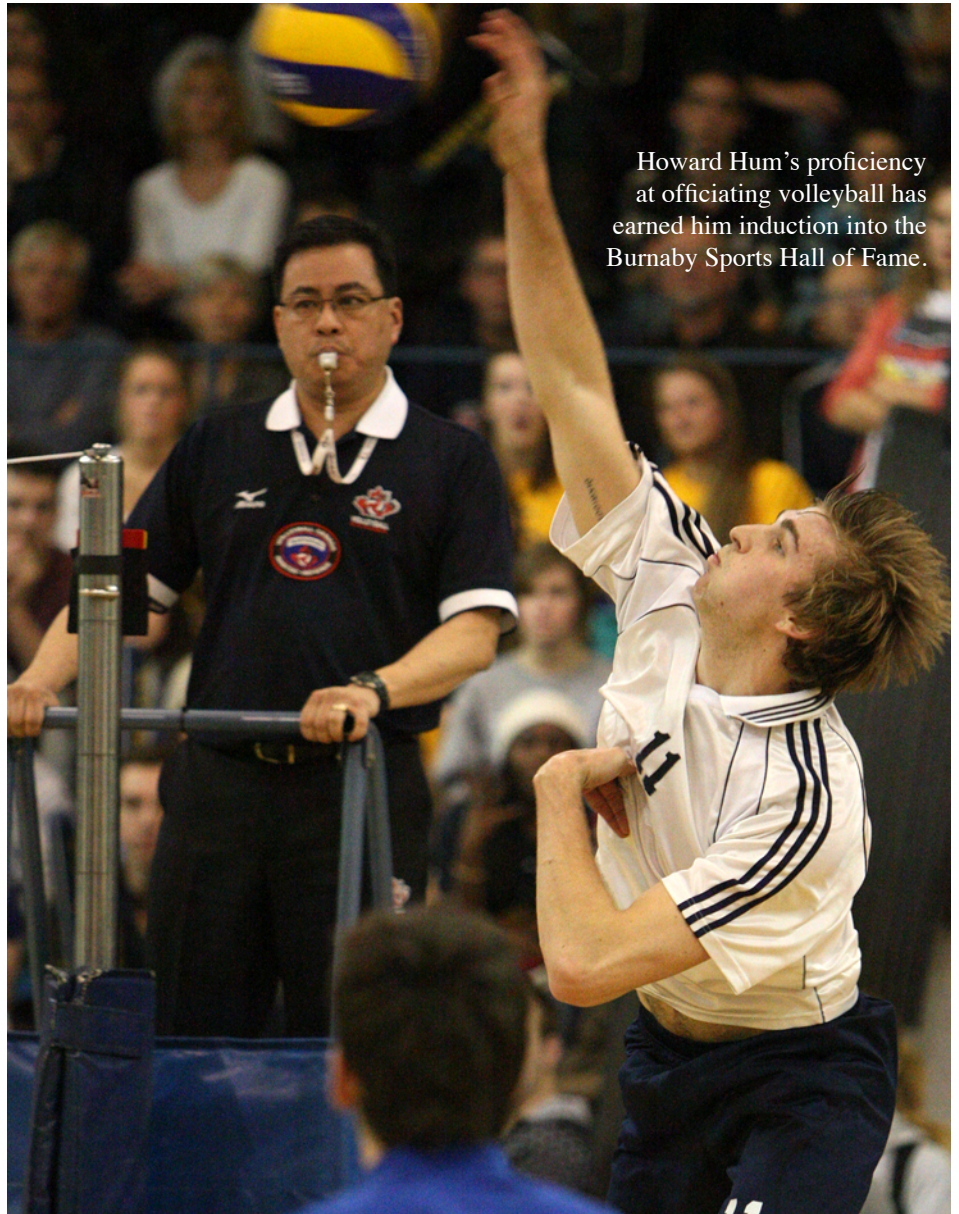
Hum, who remains a resident of the Brentwood area in Burnaby, even has some friends who are coaches. "Only half [hate referees]," jokes Hum. "I got to know a lot of the coaches so it was good to work with them."

"One of the key learnings of my career was accepting I was never going to be 100 per cent right, and once I put myself in their shoes and understood their emotions I was a better official. I developed empathy. I understood the rules but yet had empathy toward the emotions."

That self-assessment was backed by the late Sandy Silver, a Volleyball Canada hall of famer who was the volleyball convenor for the Canada West Universities Athletic Association, in a supporting letter for Hum's nomination as Sport BC's official of the year in 2014.

"Howard conducts himself with the highest degree of integrity," she wrote. "Howard is an excellent communicator and he is respected by coaches and athletes alike. He does not shy away from opportunities to discuss rules with coaches and how they will be applied. He also does not avoid conversation with coaches as to why certain calls in a match were made in order to help coaches understand the rules more fully."

It was about the time of the nomination that Hum



Howard Hum's proficiency at officiating volleyball has earned him induction into the Burnaby Sports Hall of Fame.

dropped his abacus for a stethoscope to become a paramedic, a service he continues to perform.

"For the past 14 years, Howard has demonstrated an unwavering commitment to growing the sport of volleyball by facilitating the development of local, provincial, national and international officiating candidates, expanding the leadership capacity of our sport," wrote his nominator Joanne Baskerville.

Hum was on Volleyball BC's executive board and was its treasurer from 2012 to 2014 before

becoming an executive board member of Volleyball Canada, which he still serves on.

"My main contribution was increasing the professionalism and the structure of Volleyball BC officials, quality standards, professionalism and compensation [but I was] assisted with some very good people around me," says Hum, who has also organized officiating at many international tournaments.

"Greater Vancouver has had the opportunity to host some good international tournaments."