

TO: BASKETBALL CANADA HALL OF FAME CLUB

FROM: PAUL THOMAS

SUBJECT: BULLETIN #22 (Winter, 2015)

GREETINGS

Thanks to those of you who contacted me after receiving the **BULLETIN #22**. It was good to hear from old friends and to know of your interest in the **BASKETBALL CANADA HALL OF FAME**. And you certainly should be interested. If you added up the number of members listed in **Bulletin #21**, you should realize that you are a part of a very small select group. There have been only 113 basketball people elected to the Hall of Fame in its history, (not including those named as members of teams that have gone in) and only 40 of us are living. **WOW!!**

You should feel very special and very proud. If you include this year's class, the numbers change to 115 and 42.

BASKETBALL CANADA HALL OF FAME – CLASS OF 2015

No one received enough votes in the 'Regular' category, but two candidates were elected in the Veterans Category – Athletes.. **JIM ZOET** and **GEORGE STULAC** are now members of our Hall of Fame .

JIM ZOET (pronounced ZOOT) had a long and outstanding career as a player on several different levels including the NBA.

. Born in Uxbridge, ON, December 20, 1953, this 7'1", 240 lbs. stud played his high school ball at Port Perry for coaches Ron Firth and Aarena Decker who were responsible for his early development. He earned a basketball scholarship to Kent State University where he was a defensive power for Coach Russ Hughes. After two years he transferred to Lakehead University for his last two years of university ball under Coach Arne Donovan. He led Lakehead to a national championship and earned All-Canadian honors both years.

Jim then made Canada's 1980 Olympic Team. Disappointedly this team boycotted the Olympics so he was thwarted from an Olympic experience.

After this, Jim played basketball in many locales including Detroit where he was a member of the Detroit Pistons of the NBA. After his brief NBA experience, Jim's basketball travels continued with playing experiences in Holland, England, Argentina, Mexico, and the Philippines. He returned to Canada and played with the Estonia Club in Toronto, and later played in the World Masters. He has retired as a player, and has settled in Mississauga with his wife, and two kids. .

Jim continues to give back to the game through clinics and camps.

He is a very deserving Hall of Famer.

You can welcome him to our 'club' by email – footer1@rogers.com.

GEORGE STULAC, born June 28, 1933, was an amazing all-around athlete. He was so good in so many sports that it possibly hindered him from becoming an even greater basketball player than he was .

He participated on 3 Olympic teams – two in basketball and one in decathlon – and almost made it four Olympics when he was named an alternate on the Olympic swimming team in 1952

Look at this list – he competed at the university levels in football, basketball, gymnastics, track and field, decathlon, and swimming.

In basketball George played on the 1956 and 1964 Olympic teams.

He also made the 1968 team which failed to qualify for the Olympics.

In decathlon he won a bronze medal in the 1959 Pan American Games, and then competed for Canada in the 1960 Olympic Games.

George continued to play senior basketball in Toronto for a number of years while he taught and coached in the Toronto Secondary School System.

George would have made the Hall of Fame several years ago but he was a reluctant hero. He didn't want such recognition.

This year the committee decided to ignore his wishes and voted him in.

He certainly is deserving.

George's address is 166 Howard Park Ave., Toronto, ON M6R 1W1

THE INDUCTION CEREMONY

The Class of 2015 Induction Ceremony will take place during the Pan-American Games which will be held in Toronto. At half-time of Canada's game with the Dominican Republic, (Tuesday, July 21, 2015), Jim and George will be inducted.

It would certainly add to the festivities if you could attend this game to welcome these two new hall of famers. Let me know if you are able to make it, and I'll approach Canada Basketball to see what role we can play.

CANADIAN BASKETBALL

March Madness is upon us and, I am sure, all of you have interest in it, at varying levels of intensity. It is a very exciting time of the year for basketball people. The NCAA bracket is probably printed in every newspaper across our country, and every Canadian sports writer, sports caster, or sports host talks about it. I have a beef -

why isn't the same exposure given to our Canadian championships?

Our university basketball is of an extremely high level, it is exciting, and the national championships are well presented; but I bet the percentage of Canadians who can name the final 8 teams is very small.

Very few Canadians realize that our university teams can hold their own with all but the top NCAA teams, and every year, our top university teams beat many of the top NCAA teams in August exhibition games.

Yet, for the most part, our Canadian teams draw small crowds and small interest. Can we do something about it? Possibly.

Most of us have made connections with the media over the years. If all of us were to present a case to sports writers and sports casters that we know, we might cause growth in interest. Why does every paper in our country publish soccer results from around the world, but pays little exposure to our Canadian teams? It can only be from interested people making a strong case for such publicity over the years. Perhaps we can do the same. Bug you media connections.

My second question is

why isn't the same exposure given to the Women's game?

The Women's championships in Canada were outstanding, but the coverage, although it seems to be improving every year, is lacking. In the States the women's game has gets a lot more TV coverage than it use to, but few newspapers carry a women's bracket, as they do the men's .Let's 'lean on our connections' and see if we can help.

CANADIAN NATIONAL TEAM ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

In the last bulletin I introduced you to the new CNTAA. **HOWARD KELSEY**, along with **DAVID TURCOTTE** and **MISTY THOMAS**, have continued this monumental task and you have to be amazed at what they have produced and continue to produce.

On your computer, google - canada one athletic foundation. Then Canada One Foundation will come up at the top of a list of entries.. Hit that and a volleyball picture with five boxes underneath it will come up. Hit the far right box – CDN National Team Alumni Association; and you are into the website.

Then start examining the various headings – and enjoy. You'll find your own picture(s) and a ton more of historical pictures, all involved with those who have represented Canada in international competition. You will be amazed, not only at the number, but also at the accomplishments; and you will be equally amazed at what Howard, David, and Misty have accomplished in only a few short months.

I am sure you will agree that they have done a wonderful service to Canadian basketball. Until they did this, there were virtually no records anywhere of our international basketball accomplishments.

Incidentally, in the very near future, the Canadian National Team Alumni Association will have its own web-site – it may have happened by the time you read this – so it will be even easier to get to.

FROZEN HOOPS

Another website you should know about is Frozen Hoops.

This came to light with Howard's et al efforts.

This organization is the baby of **CURTIS J. PHILLIPS**

who must be a basketball junkie to end all basketball junkies.. I haven't been able to make contact with him, but I dearly want to. I want to get to know somebody who has done what he has done for the history of Canadian basketball.

Phillip has undertaken to write about every Canadian basketball player of note. He must have interviewed, by phone, many, many players already, and apparently intends to interview every one who is brought to his attention. You will note that he is writing a book on the top 150 Canadian players of all time plus two other books; has "played" with and against some of the biggest names in basketball; has developed camps, clinics; is a prolific writer who has been recognized internationally; and on and on. I could go on for pages just from examining his web-site, but I will leave that up to you. My hope is to meet him some day and talk about Canadian basketball as it was many years ago.

This guy is a special part of Canadian Basketball.

That's it for this issue of the Bulletin. Do contact me with information about what you are doing so that all of us can keep in touch with each other and keep up to date with what we are doing. Welcome Jim and George with a call or email, and best wishes for success in all you do.

DOC - (home) 519-255-7555, (cell) 519-980-7655,
email -14paulthomas@gmail.com

NEW WEBSITE

As I am just finishing this up the new website is announced, so ignore what I said earlier and simply go to nbtaa.com. Congratulations, Howard, Dave, and Misty.