

Mr. Frank T. Butler

Inducted into the NLBA Hall of Fame in 1985 as a “Builder”



Frank T. Butler has played a major role in the development of basketball at the city, provincial and national level. While still achieving many plateaus as a player, Frank became a corner stone as a builder. He has served as a player, official, coach and administrator.

As a player Frank was a top scorer noted for his deft shooting touch and mastery of the jump shot. He was the first local player to effectively use the jump shot.

In the mid sixties he helped initiate the development of a provincial officials association. He was a willing candidate to do any job that was asked of him.

His commitment to the sport extended to the national and international arena where he served as president of Basketball Canada for two consecutive terms of Office (1976 – 1980). He was also a member of the International Mini Basketball (1972 – 1974 Basketball Canada). 1972 – 74 he was Director of the Canadian Amateur Basketball Association, and held the position of Vice President from 1974 – 76. 1980 he was Director of Sport Federation of Canada, and 1978 – 1981 a member of the Canada Games Society. He was on the 1976 site selection committee for the 1976 Pre-Olympic tournament for Basketball Canada (Hamilton, Ontario). Chef de Mission for Canada at the World Junior Pan American Basketball championships (Brazil 1976), and presented to the Federation of International Basketball Association (FIBA) in 1977 the concept of World Cup Basketball Championships (Munich).

Be it as a teacher, St. John’s League Executive member, past-president of the Association or as a professor at Memorial University, Frank has touched many students and players in a positive way.

In 1966, Frank was selected to the MUN Athletic Honor Society. In 1984 St. John's Basketball Assoc. inducted Frank into the Hall of Fame; and he was inducted into the Sport Newfoundland and Labrador Hall of Fame on October 26th, 1996.

During his playing days, Frank enjoyed exceptional success. From 1961 - 1968 Frank played in the Provincial Senior “A” championships where in most tournaments he was chosen an All-Star. From 1964 - 1967, Frank played for his home province at the Canadian Senior “A” Championships. In 1967 he captained NL at the First Canada Games held in Quebec City; he was in fact the team’s captain.

As a builder, Frank assisted in organizing the St. John's Metro Basketball League. He served as Secretary/Treasurer and President of NL Amateur Basketball Association before serving as a Director, Vice-President and eventually, President of Basketball Canada.

From 1978 - 1981 Frank was a member of Canada Games Society and also in 1980 was a Director of the Sport Federation of Canada. Frank was Chef de Mission for NL at the 1973 and 1975 Canada Games. During this time, he also acted as an Administrator for the first NL Summer and Winter Games.

Frank's ability as an organizer speaks for itself. Besides serving in leadership roles on executives, Frank also coached MUN's Varsity Men's Team and helped with the organization of officials. His involvement as a Chairman on the "Green Paper on Recreation" shows his deep desire to improve Sport/Recreation in our Province. Frank's past and present involvement with sport and recreation has set a high standard to follow.