

## Donna Brenton – Athlete



Donna Brenton played many sports but she was most recognized in basketball. She was first introduced to the game in 1971 in her hometown of Marystown. From there her basketball career saw her playing locally, provincially, nationally and at the university level. From 1977-1988 there was not

been a more dominate female basketball player then Donna. Her consistent MVP, All Star awards, top scorer, top rebounder awards during this time speak to her success.

Donna was a member of Memorial University women’s basketball team from 1973-1977, helping MUN to an Atlantic varsity title in 1975. Atlantic Varsity was similar to AUS of today but it was for small colleges. MUN played against universities like St. Thomas, Mount St. Vincent and Acadia, the smaller universities but a pretty good feat for the time!!

It was an even bigger accomplishment for Brenton who really never learned the game until her first year of university. In 1971 Donna was introduced to the game at the high school level. She played for 2 years with Marystown Central High and they won the Burin Peninsula Championship twice!! Quite an accomplishment seeing they never had a “real” gym to practice in that first year, they used to go to the community hall and set up rollaway baskets with sandbags. It wasn’t until grade 11 when the new school was built -Marystown Central High that they finally had a “real” gym to play in. In 1973 Donna received the Marystown Central High School Female Athlete of the year and in the same year she was chosen Marystown Female Athlete of the Year for her success in the sport!!

Donna followed in her big brother Dave’s footsteps and went on to attend Memorial and play varsity basketball. She attended Memorial University where

she graduated with her Physical Education/Education Degree in 1977. It was here that Donna learned the fundamentals of the game from her first coaches Ed Brown and Joe Wadden. Glenn Taylor came along and taught her the tools to add a new dimension to her game. She was the first legitimate female post player in the province. Donna spent half her career double teamed, she literally owned the key!!! On top of her dominance on the court, Donna also proved to be a tremendous team player. It was this dominance, her desire to learn and her endless hours in the gym that helped her leap to the forefront on the MUN varsity team. On top of the accomplishment of winning the Atlantic Varsity Title, the team won the St. John's League three times and again Donna consistently won MVP, top scorer and most rebound awards. Donna's overall contributions to Basketball at MUN earned her membership in the University's Athletic Honor Society

One of Donna's most memorable memories of her basketball career was representing her province in the 1975 Canada Game in Lethbridge, Alberta. It was her first legitimate National tournament and it opened her eyes to what it took to compete at that level. It was a thrill to play against athletes from all over the country.

After Memorial Donna went on to play in the St. John's senior women's league, with teams which dominated the league in the early '80's. From 1977-1988 Donna's team won the right to participate in six National Senior Women's Tournaments. They also participated in 11 Senior Women's Provincial Tournaments. Donna was consistently being chosen for All-Star teams, MVP and Top Scorer Awards. In 1988 Donna played in her last Provincial Tournament in Placentia and was named MVP.

Ask any player/coach from that era who they thought was the top female basketball player in the province, rest assured Donna Brenton would be the tops on everyone's list!!