

## Anne Browne - Athlete/Builder



[Slowly, clap, clap, encourage; clap faster, faster than interrupt clapping] We just participated in something basic but vital to developing athletes and successful programs. Leadership, positive modelling, coordinating, encouraging and finally that push to compete “faster, higher, stronger”.

These are traits found in all our inductees tonight and I could tell

stories about all three and how they made our game better. But my role tonight is to present Anne Browne for induction into the Newfoundland and Labrador Basketball Hall of Fame as an Athlete/Builder.

Anne started basketball at Pius X School, and developed into a perennial all-star at the junior high and high school levels. And let's be clear she developed by practicing --the other day she recalled staying at the gym in her Pius X days one Saturday and practicing left hand lay-ups for 5 hours with friends like Mary Mandeville - a work ethic to get better at 12! As a member of the powerhouse Holy Heart of Mary school team, she went on to claim the 4A championship in each year of her high school career. She continued on to co-captain the Memorial University team from 1976-1981 in the AUS league. I read two recent messages from Glenn Taylor (CIS Coach) and Karen Murphy (MUN Athletic Director) Glenn said: “Anne was a dedicated player who made a major contribution to the development of MUN’s Women’s Varsity program. She was a coach on the floor, a tenacious defender she still managed to average 10 points per game and grab 3 rebounds as a guard and I told her she had to pass the ball inside in those pre-3 point shot days!” Karen Murphy commented: “You have made such an impact on the basketball community first as a player and then as a coach and builder. The impact you have had on the countless young women you have coached is huge. Memorial is proud to count you as our alumni”. Anne was also a recipient of the MUN Athletic Honor Society Award.

Anne was an elite multi-sport athlete. She played Canada Games Field Hockey and represented the Province in U14 & U16 tennis competitions. Anne played varsity field hockey and basketball while attending MUN, earning a Math degree. She was an alternate on the 1975 and a key player on the 1979 Canada Games Teams.

She went through her university career with no major injuries and never missed a game - maybe some luck but mostly due to preparation, fitness and body awareness. She understood the individual responsibility of preparation before it was in vogue and monitored by various strength & conditioning coaches, physiotherapists, psychologists and all the other team members that help today's elite athletes.

Later she competed with the provincial senior women's team from 1977-1982. Anne also displayed her talent, work ethic, and passion in the St. John's Women's Division 1 League earning several championships and individual accolades. Everybody wants to win....but as Zig Ziglar said, "You must plan to win, prepare to win and expect to win" Anne did that as an athlete and a coach.

She began her coaching career in Trepassey at Stella Maris in 1982 before moving on to St. Kevin's and eventually Holy Heart where she coached until 1993. Her teams won several SSNL and NLBA championships during this span. She also coached at St. Bon's, MacDonald Drive and Gonzaga High School. Once again she continued to display her coaching skills claiming several city, 4A and NLBA minor championships.

As I reflected on her coaching successes I believe Anne's best quality is her ability to provide a vision that attracted, nurtured and developed the talent around her. I recall how she convinced Loyola Sullivan and Don Walsh in Trepassey to take on more and more roles and provide more support to get the girls the competition they needed to compete. Her ability to bring parents into the team in a positive, productive role that increased her community reach, elevated her team's performances and solidified her community connection is inspirational. The proof is really in the continued connection she has with so many ex-players and their families. She quickly rhymed off where about twenty ex-players and their personal life situations the other night.....simply amazing. And many of the local ones still drop off cakes and cookies to her house during holidays -- now that's a coaching legacy!

One of her biggest contributions to the sport was the development of some of the provinces top athletes and basketball players including: Anne Marie Tobin, Tammy Pennell, Lauren Hawkins, Rebecca Langmead, Judy Dobbin, Shauna Gilpin, Kieley DeLong, current MUN players Rosie Stanoev, Jane Baird, Kelsey McGrath, just to name a few. Many went on to play at the university level and several have also developed into successful coaches across the country. Beyond the competitive drive that produced winning teams -- like the time Anne believed poor focus meant Gonzaga lost a doubleheader to Laval so they stayed and ran sprints

for 20 minutes AFTER the games.....well beyond that.....she has shown a much softer side.

Over the years Anne has opened her home to athletes and potential MUN athletes during the recruiting process. Her generosity and kindness continued as they stayed in the province and often referred to her as their “Newfoundland mother”. She was an extremely gifted but prepared high level athlete, a visionary coach, reliable cheerleader, loving Mom, mentor, counsellor and cook.