

Canadian Men's National Team Program Alumni Newsletter

March 2007 – Spring Edition - Issue #2

Introduction

It has been an exciting process over the past six months getting in touch with our alumni and re-building the rosters of national teams over the past 35+ years. I am really encouraged by the initial response and hope to continue to help build a stronger relationship between Canada Basketball and all of you who have made such a huge contribution to the men's national team program and the organization over the years.

This edition, as promised, is much more focused on the alumni with the two articles, an interview, a poem and a past team profile. I encourage your contribution and sharing to this project as the newsletter will only be as valuable to you as the contributions that you as a group are able to make.

For our current players – I really hope you take the time to use this vehicle to learn some of the history of those who came before you. There have been many great players, coaches, staff and teams over the years and they can provide you with valuable experience along your journey as a national team player.

Please email me at acook@basketball.ca or call me at 416 614 8037 ex 210 with any ideas that you have for areas you would like to see covered in the future.

Enjoy,



Andrew Cook
Canada Basketball





Canada Basketball Overview

As the national governing body for the sport of basketball, Canada Basketball is a rapidly changing and growing organization that is seeking to have a profound impact on the game at all levels (grassroots – elite) for all participants (players, coaches, referees, administrators and fans).

Canada Basketball is impacting the Canadian game in numerous areas including:



- Be One
 - Canada Basketball's National Membership Program www.beone.basketball.ca



- Steve Nash Youth Basketball
 - Canada's Basketball's Grassroots Development Program (September 2007 Launch)



- Canada Basketball Hall of Fame and Gala Induction Dinner



- U15 Club National Championships
 - Annual Inter-Club competition at the under 15 age for boys and girls



- U15 & U17 National Championships
 - Annual Inter-Provincial competition at the under 15 and under 17 ages for boys and girls



- National Teams
 - Men's & Women's (Senior, Development, Junior & Cadet) national teams compete under FIBA for medals in World Championships and Olympic games

- Jack Donohue International Classic
 - Annual tournament hosted in Canada for one of Canada's national teams
- Be One National Coaching and Referee Clinics
 - Series of clinics for coaches & referees developing knowledge of the FIBA game in Canada



- NEDA (National Elite Development Academy)
 - Centralized sports school for Canada's top high school players with National Team potential



- NIKE Centres for / de Performance
 - Elite skill training for the top 30 identified athletes in each region of Canada



- Be One All-Canadian Weekend
 - CIS / CCAA training and competition for All-Canadians to promote the *Canadian Choice*

- Rules Unification
 - Move to 1 set of playing rules at levels in Canada under the FIBA game

- NCCP – CBET Transition
 - Moving the coaching education system to Competency Based Education Training

Steve Nash Youth Basketball (SNYB) Announcement



CANADA BASKETBALL AND STEVE NASH PARTNER ON NATIONAL YOUTH DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

Canada Basketball, Steve Nash, the Steve Nash Foundation and a partnership group involving Vancouver residents David Sidoo, Kyle Washington and the Mackay Family of Vancouver, will be undertaking a national roll out of the Steve Nash Youth Basketball program beginning in September.

Steve Nash Youth Basketball is a developmental program designed for boys and girls ages five to 13. The program is designed to teach basketball fundamentals and further expose children to physical activity in a fun and positive environment. The program uses age-appropriate skills and drills in accordance with Canada Basketball's Long-Term Athlete Development Model.

"I am excited to take the Steve Nash Youth Basketball national," said Nash. "Together we are developing a sustainable program that promotes participation, physical fitness and teamwork, as well as an appreciation of the game of basketball. We hope to introduce kids to the game, develop their skills and create healthy opportunities, all in a safe environment."

Steve Nash Youth Basketball has been operating in the province of British Columbia under the direction of Basketball BC for the past six years and has grown to more than 8,000 participants in the province.



The model for Steve Nash Youth Basketball was established after extensive research of existing community basketball programs from across North America and follows the guidelines of Sport Canada's Long Term Athlete Development Model (LTAD). The program is flexible in nature to allow local organizers to adapt the program and implement it in their community while following the principles and philosophies of the program.

Our Vision:

To create opportunities across Canada for all children and youth aged 5-13 to:

- Participate in basketball,
- Learn and play basketball, using qualified coaching and programming,
- Learn to compete in a supportive and development-focused environment,
- Improve the "Health of the Nation".

National Team Profile – 1980 Senior Men's National Team

1980 Canadian Olympic Men's Basketball Team



Back Row (left to right) Dr. Andrew Pipe (doctor), Perry Mirkovich, Tom Bishop, Jack Donohue (head coach), Romel Raffin, Jim Zoet, Leo Rautins, Ross Quackenbush, Reni Dolcetti, Steve Konchalski (assistant coach), Ray Jones (trainer), arm of Ed Brown (manager)

Middle Row - George House (He was friend of Jack's)

Front Row (left to right) Harry Huss (FIBA official), Matthew Fisher (news correspondent with Canadian Press), Doc Ryan, Martin Riley, Varouj Gurunlian, Jay Triano, Howard Kelsey

1980 FIBA Americas Olympic Qualifier Results

Year	Location	Result	Record	Gold	Silver	Bronze
1980	San Juan, Puerto Rico	2nd (Qualified)	5-1	Puerto Rico	Canada	Argentina
Scores			Final Standings			
Canada 77	Cuba 74	(W)	1) *Puerto Rico (5-1)			
Canada 102	Mexico 79	(W)	2) *Canada (5-1)			
Canada 111	Uruguay 72	(W)	3) *Argentina (4-2)			
Canada 89	Argentina 86	(W)	4) Brazil (4-2)			
Canada 98	Brazil 81	(W)	*Qualified for 1980 Olympics			
Puerto Rico 84	Canada 67	(L)	5) Mexico (2-4)			
			6) Cuba (1-5)			
			7) Uruguay (0-6)			

1980 Summer Overview

The 1980 Senior Men's National Team traveled to San Juan, Puerto Rico for the Tournament of the Americas Olympic Zone Qualifier, knowing that they had to finish in the top three to gain a bid to the 1980 Olympic Games in Moscow, USSR. They did exactly that and here is how it unfolded...

The team began the qualifier with a win over Cuba 77-74 in overtime. Martin Riley put the game into overtime on the free throw line and scored the eventual winning basket in overtime. Rautins had 21, Zoet 15 and both Triano and Riley had 10 points in the win.

Game two was a one-sided win over Mexico 102-79. Canada next blew out Uruguay 111-72 with Rautins scoring 18, Kelsey 17 and Triano 16.

Canada then won their fourth straight game with an 89-86 win over Argentina. Triano led the way with 24 points, Zoet 17, Rautins 16 and Riley 14.

In game five, Canada beat Brazil soundly 98-81, with Romel Raffin scoring a career high 20 points on his birthday. This clinched the qualification of Canada, Brazil and Puerto Rico to the Olympic Games in Moscow.

Unfortunately, accompanying this result was news from Ottawa that Canada would support the boycott for the 1980 Olympic Games in Moscow.

Originally it was thought that the team would have to choose once it qualified, but in fact the choice was made for them by the government of Canada. The following was a quote from Head Coach Jack Donohue mid-way through the tournament before the decision was made:

"We geared this way all along," Donohue said. "We've stayed away from talking about Moscow even before the boycott thing came up. I don't believe in giving my players two goals at the same time. For two weeks, all we want to think about is the American section of the Olympic qualifying tournament. That's been our only goal for the past two years. When we earn the bid to go, then we'll sit down and talk about it. Personally as the coach of the national team, I'd like to go. But, as a guy living in Canada, I say no."

In the end, Canada lost to Puerto Rico in the tournament final, with the game marred by a brawl. Canada was awarded the silver medal for their second place finish in the tournament.

"We accomplished what we set out to do, qualifying for the Olympic Games four days ago. We set new goals and maybe we set them too fast. We wanted to win the tournament," said Coach Donohue refusing to make excuses for the loss.

A bitter-sweet ending, with the great success and accomplishment of qualifying for an Olympic Games being overshadowed by world politics. As you can see in the following section, despite the overwhelming disappointment of the players, the joy truly was in the ride.

Personal Testimonials from Team Members

"There is a quote that states that "basketball does not build character; it reveals it." What was revealed in this team was an unprecedented work ethic and a sense of camaraderie found on few teams. Unfortunate circumstances prevented us from competing on an Olympic court, but given the chance to do it again, I would willingly compete with every member of the 1980 Olympic Team."

Reni Dolcetti

"The 1980 Olympic team was the first CDN men's Olympic team to ever qualify (via play in) in a very tough Americas zone. The team played awesome, with every player bringing his "A" game nightly and tying for first place. This set the stage for back - to back - to back FIBA Olympic qualifications for 1980 (first place qualification / Moscow Boycott), 1984 (LA: Fourth place Olympic finish) and Seoul (1988: eight place Olympic finish): These three consecutive Olympic qualifications, together with the 1983 FISU gold medal (when true A National Teams competed in the FISU Games) still remain unprecedented in Basketball Canada's history."

Howard Kelsey

"This was an incredible team with unprecedented character. Every member of this team was talented and extremely devoted to the "TEAM" concept. There were no weak links, the team was 12 deep as they say. The picture was taken in Puerto Rico, where we competed in the pre-Olympic tournament for a birth in the 1980 Moscow Olympics. Not only did we qualify, and were the only team to do so, we beat everyone with the exception of the home team (that is another story...). I am certain that THIS team would have won an Olympic medal had we attended, it was truly special.

I'm sure everyone has fond memories of that team, most of us had played together for many hours and many years, so it's fair to say that we knew each other well and played for the same goal. I'm sure that I could go on and on, but time is short. I will however, add a funny story: after one of our games, as was customary, the tournament organizers were allowed to pick one player to drug test. After having tested one of us, they wanted to test another player as well. As a matter of principle, coach Donohue refused; they insisted, he still refused. Finally he said "We will ALL pee in the bucket and they can test the urine as they wish. Suffice it to say, they never got what they wanted, they were forced to let us go. P.S. We were happy to be tested since the chosen athlete had to drink beer in order to give a urine sample."

With fond memories from a great 1980 team,
Varouj Guronlian

"I was a newcomer to the team; in fact, I never had a tryout for the National Team until I got an invitation to this camp. I always had a dream to represent Canada in Olympic competition as for me, playing at that level was the ultimate athletic accomplishment; it was pure as we all did it for the love of the game and to perpetuate a tradition of athleticism which had links to Greek culture thousands of years ago. There was an honour in that, and a source of great pride.

I feel lucky in making that team, as it is something that will stay with me for the rest of my life. I often think of those days and can't help but smile as I have so many fond memories. It was a perfect time for me...playing a game I love with a team of extraordinary people, each with a fierce drive to succeed and yet so willing to give their friendship and support unconditionally. I have yet to this day to find a collective group of individuals of such a high caliber.

This group is special, one of those times when it all comes together to make a magical mix and try as I may, I just can't express how much it meant to me to be a part of it all."

Perry Mirkovich

"The 1980 Team was probably the best team that I've played with. Many people around would say that Jack never took the best talent that was out there, and they might have been right, but the team played so well and got along so well that it was just an awesome team. There were some other teams I played with later on that were more talented but they would never have beaten us because everyone just fed off of one another. I remember that anytime that I saw Coach D before he passed away he would always tell me and anyone around me that the 1980 team was the best team that he had ever coached so that's saying something. My hats off to everyone on the 1980 team. It was a fantastic time with a great bunch of guys."

Jim Zoet

"The 1980 Olympic Team in my opinion was our best team ever, certainly not the most talented, but without a doubt the group that exemplified "team" more than any other I had ever been a part of. When we socialized, 12 guys went out together. When there was a fight in the game, 12 guys fought. If one guy was down, 11 other guys picked him up. Our practices were a war, but finished with a good laugh over dinner.

It was a team where everybody understood their roles and had a focus and goal of winning a medal. Had the boycott not occurred, I firmly believe that we would have been fighting for the gold in Moscow."

Hey guys how about our corner bar down the street from the hotel? They loved us until the last game against Puerto Rico when we had the brawl. After that we were public enemy number one."

Leo Rautins

Alumni Article – will2win.ca Profile

will2win.ca Profile
NT Alumnus – William Njoku

William Njoku was a member of the Senior Men's National Team from 1994-1998 playing in two FIBA World Championships (1994, 1998). Will now resides in Toronto where he runs his own motivational speaking business will2win. The following article was written by Paul Johnston of the East York Observer.



www.will2win.ca

Tossing three basketballs high in the air, a former NBA draft pick and Canadian National Basketball team member held the attention of an entire student body. Will Njoku spoke to students at St. Patrick Catholic Secondary School as part of Black History Month celebrations on Friday, Feb. 23. He delivered an hour-long presentation entitled *"Setting Your Feet, Aiming High and Following Through Every Day."* The presentation included audience participation, games, juggling and humor to address topics such as bullying, peer pressure, self-esteem and goal setting. "I really want (students) to understand that the distractions and things that happen in their lives, they're there and they're real, but within them they have the solution," Njoku said.

Born in Ghana, Njoku and his family immigrated to Canada in 1976 when he was four years old. After attaining a degree in psychology from St. Mary's University in Halifax, Njoku was drafted by the Indiana Pacers in what led to a 10-year career in professional basketball. Despite his on-court successes, Njoku says it's his current work that gives him the greatest satisfaction. "I knew that one day the cheering would stop and I'd have to move on. It's not even close, this is so much more rewarding," Njoku said. "There's so many more people that I'm able to reach, and I'm entertaining them in a different way. This is an opportunity that I'm so blessed to have, created for myself, that I've been invited to share with the people." Njoku says the message he delivers is one his audiences already understand. "It's a reminder. I'm really re-enforcing what the teachers and parents are already saying," Njoku said. "Ultimately, they just need to hear it from a different medium, and I love being that person."



Melissa Garnes, a third-year science and biology teacher at St. Patrick, says Njoku's message is a timely one. "I think his message comes at a really good time, because we've just started a new semester and I think it's really important to stress the importance of setting goals for yourself," Garnes said. Garnes believes Njoku's visit was especially important to St. Patrick students. "Unfortunately in our community we don't have a lot of role models, especially a black, male role model, so I think that by having him here that will also send a positive message to the kids," Garnes said.

For Njoku, the personal reward comes through the changes he is able to create. "It's awesome to see even just one particular student locked in, and see them change right in front of you," Njoku said. "And there's nothing better than that. It's just a great feeling to see the kids involved, participating and happy. That feeds my spirit as well, lets me know that what I'm doing is valuable but it's also fun. "The experience is also an age-defying one for Njoku. "Oh man, I just get to be a teenager again for an hour," Njoku said. Information on Njoku, his message and his presentations can be found on his website, www.will2win.ca



Alumni Article – Kelseyhansen.com Profile

**Kelseyhansen.com Profile
NT Alumnus – Howard Kelsey**

Howard Kelsey, a member of the men's national team program from 1977-1988, has been very active in the Canadian and International basketball community since his playing days concluded. Kelsey founded the Metro Vancouver Basketball Foundation (MVBF) in 1999 with his brother Doug and Vancouver business icon and close family friend, Randy Sung.



www.kelseyhansen.com

Select national team members and Hall of Fame members Lars Hansen, Misty Thomas and Ron Putzi were then invited to join the Board of Directors to help further develop a premier, pre-season high school (and other divisions) participatory basketball Tip Off Classic in North America. This event distinguished itself with a unique vision to stress character development, insisting:

1. All players must play in every game
2. Teams are selected from all high school levels (A, AA, AAA)
3. Teams are selected from both the private and public school systems
4. Scholarships are rewarded for academic excellence and community service, as opposed to pure athletic prowess

In 2000, **The HSBC Basketball, Cheer & Dance Classic** was launched with unprecedented media and corporate support at the high school level with (32) boys teams and a sixty + team Cheer & Dance division in year one and has now become the largest participatory high school Tip Off Classic of it's kind, with over (130) teams competing in seven divisions: High school boys, high school girls, First Nations, disabled, Youth with Developmental Challenges, and a massive Cheer & Dance division. A new Elementary school boys & girls division will launch next December, 2007. This event has met unprecedented success, raising over one million CDN. in sponsorships and awarding students over (300) post secondary scholarships since inception. Media coverage and corporate interest has also been outstanding, with spectator turnout regularly filling the (32) preliminary round host high schools and host UBC for the annual December Championships.



B.C. Attorney General Justice Wally Oppal, Vancouver Mayor Sam Sullivan, (former Mayor Larry Campbell and now) Senator Larry Campbell and Vancouver Chief of Police Jamie Graham regularly join an impressive line of major corporate sponsors awarding worthy recipients their top of the line Nike shoes, trophies and approx. **\$135,000** in scholarships annually.

Sponsors are listed on the website www.kelseyhansen.com and include: HSBC Bank, Canada (Title sponsor), PricewaterhouseCoopers, Nike, Dairyland / Saputo, Global TV, Milestone's, The Vancouver Sun / The Vancouver Province, CORUS radio, The Society of Notaries Public of BC, TEAM 1040 radio, PCL buses, The Keast Foundation, Prosports Careers, Arbutus Roofing.

With the successes of the HSBC Classic, executives of the annual BCHSBBA Boys AAA Basketball Championships invited MVBF to procure the first ever title sponsorship for the grand daddy of Canada's high school provincial basketball championships, The BC Boys Provincial Basketball Championships. In 2005, MVBF and TELUS teamed up with BCHSBBA senior executives to announce a four year, \$260,000 TELUS title sponsorship. Last year, **The 2006 TELUS-BCHSBBA Basketball Championships** were held at the PNE Agrodome to rave reviews. This March 13-17, 2007, Sportsnet will cover the TELUS-BCHSBBA Final live: This represents the first time that a provincial high school basketball final has been televised live on a major network in Canada.

Former National Team member and current President of Basketball Alberta, Ken Larson, and select Basketball Alberta executives recently used the template of the HSBC Classic and launched a sixty-four team HSBC Calgary Higher Hoops Classic in December of 2006.

MVBF Founder, Howard Kelsey, also co-hosts an approx. (2,000) person, seven sport event in Puerto Vallarta, Mexico each May (basketball, Pro Beach volleyball, tennis, aerobics, soccer, 5 KM Fun Run):

The Sidral Aga Puerto Vallarta Int'l Sports Classic is hosted at the (grand luxury class) Sheraton Buganvillas Resort, where numerous former CDN. national team members, NBA and international pros and their families have attended for the past fourteen years.

This year's event is May 11-13, 2007 and all are welcome. www.puertovallarta.net, events section, month of May, www.sheratonvallarta.com.

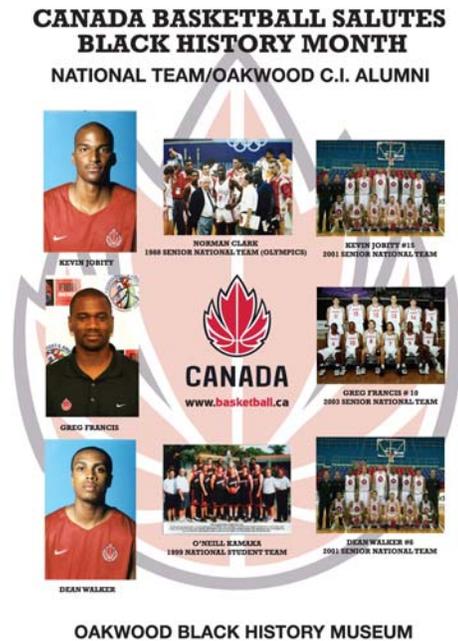


Portland: Youth division champion with Greg Wiltjer, Jerome Kersey, Howard Kelsey

View event video at: <http://www.hoop-hype.net/basketball-video.html>

Kelsey and Sheraton resort owner, Gemma Garciarce, on the invitation of corresponding Mexican government officials, have Co-Chaired the development of an (8,500) seat, multi-use Convention and Performing Arts center to be launched soon in Puerto Vallarta. Kelsey and former national team member, Ron Putzi also recently donated funds for an impressive court upgrade to Kitsilano Beach, generally regarded as Canada's Venice Beach and the mecca of beach hoops in Western Canada.

Alumni – CB Salute to Black History Month



Alumni Submission – Poem – Lars Hansen

Lars Hansen played for the men's national team from 1972-1978. He submitted this poem for the newsletter:

The nail.

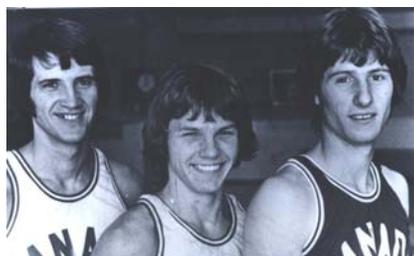
Life is a nail...
A rusty vein of reality
With more character than victory
Bent and browning
Like an old soldier guarding
A wall for our hats.

As a shiny silver spike,
Laying claim to the carpenter's dream
Had the good sense to ask the savior
For a hand...When no one
Would hold the hammer.
Like the artist's pictures hang thankful Often a treefort stands grateful The nails cling to the timber.
Buried like an answer.

Lars Hansen
(The Nail c1988-2006)

Alumni Profile Interview – Bob Town

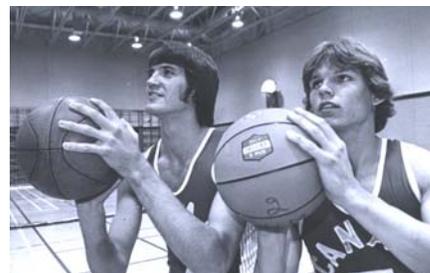
Bob Town, from Winnipeg, Manitoba, first played for the Senior Men's National Team as an alternate for the 1971 Pan Am Games under Head Coach Peter Mullin. Bob was then a member of the team under Head Coach Jack Donohue in 1972, 1973, 1975 and the Olympic Team in 1976.



Bob Town, Martin Riley & Rick Watts



1972 Canadian Senior Men's National Team



Bob Town & Martin Riley

1) Give us an update on what is going on in your life (family, job, hobbies etc.)

Family - I have been happily (my wife may disagree) married for 31 years. Barbara and I have 2 boys, 24 and 20. Both boys were very active in sports in High School and continue to participate. My older boy, Sean, played Volleyball at the University of Winnipeg and finished second at Nationals in 2002. He plays Senior Men's Volleyball and coaches school and club volleyball. My other son, Andrew, currently attends University of Winnipeg and played his second year on the volleyball team that won the National Championship at McMaster this past weekend. My wife and I were able to attend and enjoyed watching him play. We are very proud of both boys.

I work as a High School Principal at J H Bruns Collegiate in Winnipeg. The school is Grade 9 - 12 with 780 students. I have been a High School Principal for 22 years. This is my fifth year at Bruns. I still play basketball with friends once a week (Ross Wedlake from the 1972 National Team plays as well) and try to stay active and in "shape".

2) What years did you play for the national team?

My first year with the National Team was as an Alternate for the 1971 Pan Am Games team. I was an "official" team member in 1972. This was Jack Donohue's first year as Coach. We competed in the Pre Olympic Tournament in Augsburg, Germany. The top two teams were to qualify for the Munich Olympics. We finished third.

In 1973 I made the team again. We traveled and played in a number of countries. That was the year of the World Student Games in Moscow. In 1974 I did not make the team. In 1975 I played for the National Team in the Pan Am Games in Mexico City.

We also played in the USA, did a tour playing 8 College teams including St. John's, Fordham (in Madison Square Garden as a prelim to the Notre Dame (Adrian Dantley) vs. Russia game), Duke, Niagara.

In 1976 I played with the National Team as we competed in the Olympics in Montreal. After qualifying for the semi finals by finishing second in our pool, we had two chances to win a medal. Unfortunately we lost to the USA and then played the USSR for Bronze. They beat us and we finished fourth, out of the medals. Our team was very disappointed. Many of us had given up so much and worked so hard for 3 or 4 years for the goal of winning a medal at the Olympics and we had come up short.

Besides the major games mentioned, the team traveled and played throughout the world during my four years. I have been fortunate to have played in Cuba, Mexico, Brazil, USA, most provinces in Canada, France, England, Bulgaria, Poland, Yugoslavia (at that time), Italy and Germany. I also played on a traveling team called the Gillette All Stars for 4 months in 1972. Ted Stoesz from Winnipeg was part of this team. The rest of the team were Americans. We played throughout Europe - Italy, Portugal, France, Germany, Netherlands, Sweden, Finland, Norway.

3) What was the highlight / favorite moment of your national team career?

There were many amazing memorable moments. Beating the Russians in Maple Leaf Gardens in 1976, playing in all those countries and cities, the great teammates I met and competed with, listening to O'Canada as you stand in a Canadian basketball uniform before a game starts, and on and on. However, the one memory that will always be the highlight occurred my last year.

To play in an Olympics, representing your country is a pretty amazing concept. I had dreamed of it for many years (I volunteered at the basketball venue in 1967 Pan Am Games in Winnipeg and that probably was the start of the dream). When I realized I was going to play in 1976, I was excited, proud and initially a little disappointed it was not in a country somewhere else. That changed pretty quickly when I thought about all the traveling I had already been able to do with the Teams and how special it was to represent Canada in Canada.

What was truly amazing, and something that will always make the hair stand on the back of my neck, bring a lump to my throat and make me emotional when I think about it, is the day of the Opening Ceremonies for the Olympics. All the athletes from the different countries assembled outside the Olympic Village to march into the Stadium (about a 2 mile walk). Being the host nation, we were the last country in the procession. There were people lining the walk, both sides, all the way to the stadium. They were clapping and wishing us well as we walked by. As we came closer to Olympic Stadium we could hear the announcement of each country as they entered, and the response from the capacity crowd. When it was our turn and we walked in, the crowd stood and cheered. It was truly amazing. I get choked up just thinking about it.

That was an unbelievable moment.

4) What was the toughest team you ever faced while with the national team?

We played against a variety of unbelievable teams. The best were from the USA or Russia. I believe the two toughest teams were both USA teams. Pros were not allowed to play at that time, although players on teams from the European countries were truly being paid to play for their club teams and therefore "professionals" in my mind. The USA teams at the World Student Games in 73 in Moscow and the 76 Olympics consisted of college players.

Most of these players went on to play pro in the NBA. Some became General Managers after their playing days (Ernie Grunfeld, Mitch Kupchak). The 73 team had David Thompson (a phenomenal athlete / player), Quinn Buckner, Scott May, Maurice Lucas, Marvin Barnes and others. The 76 team had Phil Ford, Ernie Grunfeld, Mitch Kupchak, Adrian Dantley, Walter Davis, Scott May, Phil Hubbard.

5) How has playing on the national team had an effect on the other areas of your life?

I believe it assisted me in setting goals for myself, provided a strong work ethic, and certainly made me appreciate how fortunate I was to live in Canada.

6) How do you see your involvement in basketball continuing now that your playing days are over?

I have coached basketball for many years, starting in 1973. I coached Varsity Boys from 73 - 81. Took some time off when I became an administrator and my boys were young. Started coaching my boys for a number of years from 92 to 2001 at different levels both at school and the club program. The past two years I have co-coached Girls basketball at my school with Jane Edstrom, the Physical Education teacher. This year we won our Junior Varsity league championship and play in the Provincials this weekend.

7) What steps would you like to see Canada Basketball take to keep the alumni involved as an active part of the organization?

I would hope that Basketball Canada could collect a list of all players and keep them involved in what is happening through a Newsletter (by email would be easiest). I am not sure how involved some would be able or want to be. Receiving information updates would be welcome I am sure.

8) What message would you pass along to our current and future National Team athletes?

I believe you need to have a dream or a goal, and you work hard to achieve that goal. That applies in life as well as basketball. As Jack Donohue often said "If you fail to plan, you plan to fail."

2007 Men's National Team Program – A Look Ahead

2007 is a huge summer for the men's national team program starting at the top with Senior Men focusing on qualifying for the 2008 Olympic Games in China. The FIBA Americas Men's Olympic Qualifier takes place in Las Vegas from August 22 – September 2, 2007. The top two teams from this tournament will automatically qualify for the Olympics while finishers three through five will advance to a world qualification tournament July 7-13, 2008.



The Junior Men will be attending the 2007 FIBA U19 Junior World Championship taking place in Novi Sad, Serbia from July 12—22. The team will have high expectations for a top eight finish and an opportunity to match the 2005 Young Men's feat of winning a medal in Argentina.



2007 also sees the return of the FISU – World University Games which will take place in Bangkok, Thailand in August. Canada Basketball uses this tournament as an opportunity to send its future Senior National Team athletes in the form of a Development National Team, with our athletes gaining valuable multi-sport games experience.

