

MEDIA RELEASE

TUESDAY, JUNE 19

To Honour and Inspire

The Central Okanagan Sports Hall of Fame proudly welcomes 6 new inductees in 2018.



ATHLETE CATEGORY:

ROB DIRK

Rob has played over 300 games in the NHL for 5 teams, including the Vancouver Canucks. Mainly playing as a stay-at-home defenceman, Rob was also head coach for 8 years in semi-pro leagues. He currently lives in Penticton, BC, and is head instructor at the Okanagan Hockey Academy.

ATHLETE CATEGORY:

CHAD FOLK

Chad played as an outstanding offensive lineman for Okanagan Sun Football as league all-star and league outstanding offensive lineman. He played Led Butte College to a pair of Bowl victories and undefeated seasons, 12 seasons with CFL Argonauts-Grey Cup and 2 Grey Cup titles. He currently lives near Toronto, ON.



ATHLETE CATEGORY:

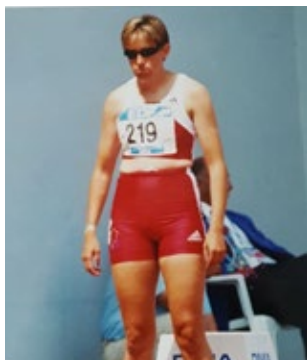
HEATHER MANDOLI

Heather finished in 4th place at the 2008 Summer Olympic Games in Beijing, China in women's eights in rowing. She was a NCAA standout with Michigan University, an outstanding athlete at KLO (rugby, volleyball, and basketball) and Kelowna Female Athlete of the Year in 2008. She currently lives in Washington State, USA.

PIONEER/BUILDER CATEGORY:

ALLAN SIMPSON

Allan is a 1989 National Media Award winner from USA Baseball. He won the Canadian Baseball Hall of Fame Award in 2004, the Special Recognition Award from Baseball Canada in 2005, and was inducted into the Canadian Baseball Hall of Fame in 2011. He also wrote about baseball in Canada and abroad, inspiring Canadians to play pro ball.



ATHLETE CATEGORY:

TRACEY MELESKO

Tracey is a multi award-winning paralympic athlete. She is a 4-time BC Special Olympics gold winner in track & field, and a 4-time Canadian Special Olympics gold winner. She competed at the World Special Olympics, winning 2 gold, 1 silver, and 1 bronze, and competed in the Paralympics Games in 1996 & 2000 winning 2 silver and 1 bronze. Tracey switched to Cross Country Skiing, winning gold at Provincial & National Games, gold, silver and bronze medals at the Special Olympic World Games in 2005, and 2 gold and 1 silver medal in Nordic Skiing at 2017 World Games. She currently lives in Kelowna, BC.



BUILDER CATEGORY:

HUGH WONG

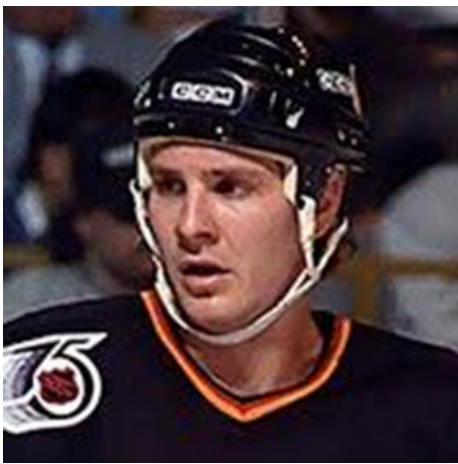
Hugh dedicated 40 years of service to building Volleyball in the Okanagan. His debut experience as coach of a Kelowna junior boys' volleyball team in 1975 sparked his passion for coaching and sport leadership and was one of the original founders of the "Team BC Midget" program (the first in Canada in the age class). In 1992 he founded the Kelowna Volleyball Club and served as President of Volleyball Canada from 2007-2013. Hugh was inducted into the BC Volleyball Hall of Fame in 2015, and in 2016 he won the Daryl Thompson Award and was recognized at the 50th Athlete of the Year Awards in Vancouver, BC.

These new members will officially be inducted into the Central Okanagan Sports Hall of Fame at the Induction Ceremony on November 22 at the Coast Capri Hotel beginning at 7AM. Tickets for the breakfast event will be on sale at the Okanagan Heritage Museum in October.

2018 INDUCTEE - ATHLETE

ROB DIRK

To Honour and Inspire



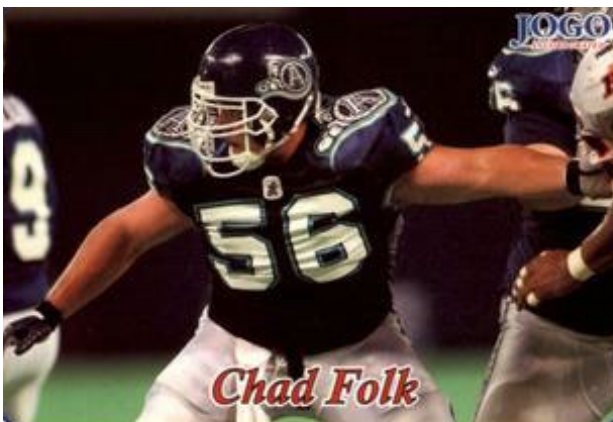
- NHL over 300 games played (5 teams including Vcr Canucks)
- Stay-at-home defenceman (not much offense)
- 8 years as a head coach semi-pro leagues
- Currently head instructor Okanagan Hockey Academy
- Lives in Pencticton

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CHAD FOLK

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- Outstanding offensive lineman for Okanagan Sun
- League all-star, league outstanding offensive lineman
- Led Butte College to a pair of Bowl victories and undefeated seasons
- 12 seasons with CFL Argonauts-Grey Cup and 2 Grey Cup titles
- Lives near Toronto

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2018 INDUCTEE - ATHLETE

HEATHER MANDOLI

To Honour and Inspire



- Olympic rower Women's 8s (4th at 2008 Games in Beijing)
- NCAA standout with Michigan University
- Kelowna Female athlete of the year in 2008
- Outstanding athlete at KLO (rugby, volleyball, basketball)
- Lives in Washington State



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2018 INDUCTEE - ATHLETE

TRACEY MELESKO

To Honour and Inspire



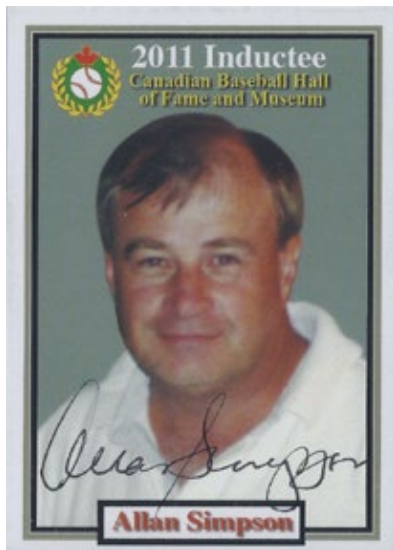
- 4-time BC Special Olympian (track & field)
- 4-time Canadian Special Olympian winning gold medals at each
- World Special Olympian winning 2 gold, 1 silver and 1 bronze
- Paralympics Games athlete in 1996 & 2000 earning 2 silver medals and 1 bronze
- Switched to Cross Country Skiing winning gold at provincial & national games
- Gold, Silver and Bronze medallist at Special Olympic World Games in 2005
- At 2017 World Games, 2 gold and 1 silver in Nordic Skiing
- Lives in Kelowna

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2018 INDUCTEE - PIONEER/BUILDER

ALLAN SIMPSON

To Honour and Inspire



- 1989 National Media Award from USA Baseball
- 2004 Cdn Baseball Hall of Fame Award
- 2005 Special Recognition Award from Baseball Canada
- 2011 inducted into Cdn Baseball Hall of Fame
- Wrote about & promoted baseball in Canada and abroad
- Inspired Canadians to play pro ball

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2018 INDUCTEE - BUILDER

HUGH WONG

To Honour and Inspire



- 40 years of service to building Volleyball in the Okanagan
- Founded Kelowna Volleyball Club in 1992
- President of Volleyball Canada (2007-2013)
- BC Volleyball Hall of Fame inductee in 2015
- Cdn Volleyball rep at 2016 Olympic Games in Rio

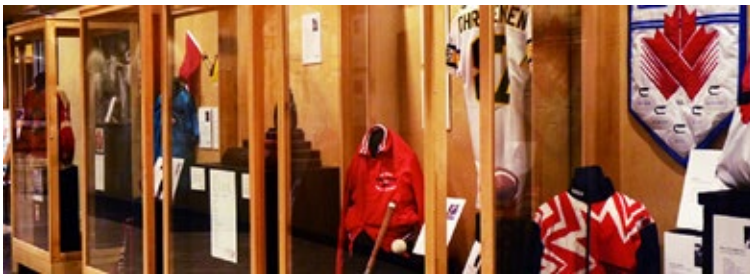
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Patrick Kennedy - Managing Director: Central Okanagan Sports Hall of Fame - 250.215.7986 - patkennedy@shaw.ca

FACTS

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The Central Okanagan Sports Hall of Fame, a branch of the Kelowna Museums Society, began admitting inductees in 2008.

- Inspires youth to get involved in sports and uses current inductees as role models and a source of inspiration.
- Honours athletes, coaches, teams, builders & pioneers who have excelled on local, national or international sports scene.
- Preserves & showcases our rich sports history.
- Nominations are forwarded from the general public and scrutinized by (1) **nomination committee**, (2) **selection committee** and (3) **sports legacy committee**.

For more information, please contact:

250.763.2417 | kelownamuseums.ca

2008 INDUCTEES

1958 Kelowna Packers

2009 INDUCTEES

Jo-Anne Ritchie, Rick Folk Curling Team, Jack Brow & Athans Family

2010 INDUCTEES

Jay Christensen, Don Arnold, Teddy Bears Basketball Team, Mervyn Andrews & Henry Tostenson

2011 INDUCTEES

Lawrence Nagy, Eric Tasker, Joan Campbell, Dan Bertoia and Aundrea Bertoia

2012 INDUCTEES

Alex Recsky, Dr. Barry Urness, 1988 Okanagan Sun, Glenn Ennis & Erminia Russo

2013 INDUCTEES

Blair Chapman, Wayne North, Brock Aynsley, 1988 Sutton Jr Women's Curling Team

2014 INDUCTEES

Gillian Thomson, Glen Mervyn, Mike & Brenda Van Tighem & 2004 Kelowna Rockets Hockey Team

2015 INDUCTEES

Christie Van Hees, Sarah Charles, Rod Belinski, Wayne Hicks, John & Jennifer Hindle

2016 INDUCTEES

2007 Kelly Scott Curling Team, Blair Horn, Ron Rubadeau, Conny Stamhuis & Bob Giordano

2017 INDUCTEES

Conrad Leinemann, Chris Taneda, Garrett Hickling, Malindi Elmore, Kelowna Buckaroos Organization, Western Canada Basketball Tournament



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