

## **Mr. Joseph (Joe) Wadden**

Inducted into the NLBA Hall of Fame in 2005 as a “Builder”

From player to coach, from grammar school to national competition, Joe Wadden has excelled within the Newfoundland and Labrador basketball community, putting together a remarkable 43-year career that clearly demonstrates a very large amount of personal and team successes.

Gifted with exceptional eye-arm coordination, he was a slick ball handling guard who possessed hard, accurate passing ability, deadly outside shooting prowess and a deep understanding of basketball that served him equally well as a player and as a coach.

Joe Wadden understood the game of basketball and played it with a cool

determination that was of great value to any team of which he was a member. In addition, he provided excellent leadership, a quality that served him and his teammates very well. He was a very valuable asset to any team he coached or of which he was a member.

He earned a berth on his first basketball team in 1961, with a Holy Cross squad that won the Christian Brothers Grammar School title. It was the start of an extremely impressive basketball run.

Through 1962 to 1966, Joe Wadden was a starting guard with Holy Cross junior and senior high school teams, winning a pair of St. John’s championships and a pair of provincial championships. His first personal scoring title came in 1965 in St. John’s high school competition.

His superb time with the Memorial University Male Varsity team ran from 1966 to 1972. It included provincial junior titles in 1967 and ’69, provincial senior titles in 1966, ’70, ’71 and ’72 and St. John’s championships in 1966 and 1967. And he earned two Most Valuable Player selections. When Memorial won the 1966-67 small college championships in Truro, Nova Scotia, he was voted to the tournament’s first all-star team.

His play for MUN earned him membership in the University Athletic Society and selection to the American College Athlete Hall of Fame.

During 1967-68 and ’68-69, Joe Wadden played with Holy Cross in St. John’s senior competition with a title in ’68, the same season he won the League scoring crown. It was with Holy Cross that he won the Eastern Canadian championship, defeating an Ontario entry in the final game.

His career continued with exceptional play as a member of Holy Cross in the St. John’s “A” Basketball League until 1980 when a tear in his Achilles tendon ended his 20-year playing career.

And while his playing career ranks with the finest within Newfoundland and Labrador basketball, for 30 years he has been extremely valuable as a coach. His expertise, supported by a great communications talent and a willingness to devote countless hours and boundless energy regardless of his personal sacrifices, has played a major role in a very, very large number of young boys and girls becoming better basketballers because of Joe Wadden.



His basketball-coaching career started in 1972 when he moved to Trepassey, teaching at Stella Maris High School and playing a major leadership role in the excellent basketball program that generated exceptional players and great teams.

In 1973 the Stella Maris boys' team was the first outside of St. John's and Corner Brook to win the provincial top 4A championship. Joe Wadden was the team's coach.

From 1974 to 1976, he coached the Memorial University female varsity team that won the St. John's title in back-to-back seasons. In 1975, he led the Memorial girls to the Atlantic "B" University title in a championship tournament held in Moncton, New Brunswick.

The provincial all-star team he coached at the 1975 Canada Winter Games in Lethbridge, Alberta recorded the very first Winter Games victory for Newfoundland and Labrador.

The College of the North Atlantic male team benefited from his coaching for two seasons during the 1980's.

His coaching at St. Kevin's School in the Goulds has played a major factor in the respect this rather small school has earned for always being competitive and entering a very large number of top leagues and tournaments. Joe Wadden has been coaching at St. Kevin's since 1975 and continued through to 2004.

His coaching other teams also continues unabated. During the 2004-05 season he was coach for Holy Cross in St. John's Men's Division 1 and for O'Donel High senior girls team.

Joe Wadden enjoyed a great playing career and has been among the top individuals who have put something back into the sport. His coaching has covered hundreds and hundreds of players who are simply better basketball players because of his expertise and interest.

He has coached as many as six teams in one season and the teams have come from elementary, junior high and senior high schools, male and female, from local squads to provincial all-stars.

Joe Wadden has been of great credit to the Newfoundland and Labrador basketball community since 1961, as a player and as a coach.