

Ms. Karen Y. Baggs

Inducted into the NLBA Hall of Fame in 2005 as an “Athlete”

Karen Baggs enjoyed a versatile and extremely successful basketball career that established her as one of the top “natural” female basketballers ever produced within Newfoundland and Labrador.

Owner of great reflexes, quickness and speed, an ability to grasp the vitally important aspects of high level competition and a keen desire to succeed in whichever sport she was playing, Karen Baggs competed with and against a large number of the best female basketballers within Canada and certainly within Newfoundland and Labrador.

Her basketball career started while she was attending Morris Academy and continued as she attended Mount Pearl Central High. She was voted “female athlete of the year” at Central High three times as she played important leadership roles as a member of the school’s basketball team.

Basketball was her best sport despite the fact she also competed very successfully in soccer, softball, volleyball, field hockey and ice hockey.

She was outstanding during all stages of school basketball and moved directly into a varsity role at Memorial University for five years, three as captain. She was a perennial all-star at all levels of competition, including the AUAA Conference, and was named most valuable player at least six times.

Her outstanding status as a Memorial University basketball player gained her the Ed Browne Memorial Trophy in 1984.

She played for the team that represented Newfoundland and Labrador at the 1979 Canada Winter Games in Brandon, Manitoba.

Her talent was of such a high level that she had a tryout for Canada’s national junior female team. At one stage of her career she played in a senior men’s league on the Northern Peninsula and her expertise was such that she coached men’s teams on several occasions at the local and provincial levels.

She continued her basketball career while teaching in the Northwest Territories and in New Brunswick.

She was selected as 1981 Mount Pearl female athlete of the year, was twice a finalist for the St. John’s Female Athlete of the Year honors and is a member of the Memorial University Athletic Honors Society.

She was inducted into the Mount Pearl Sports Hall of Fame in the athlete category in 2002.

Karen Baggs earned an impressive number of individual basketball awards at all stages of competition. While she excelled individually, she was an exceptional team player who worked well with others while providing the essential leadership that superstars of her caliber always demonstrate.



An individual of high moral standards, she is an exceptional role model for others and played an important role in the era that had female athletes and athletics move into the rightful place they deserve within the general community.

In every aspect of her athletic career, Karen Baggs has been a credit to her sports, to her community, to her province, to her family and especially to herself.

It an honor to nominate Karen Baggs for election to the Newfoundland and Labrador Basketball Hall of Fame.

Karen Baggs' basketball career includes:

- * Between 1972 and 1975 – Member Morris Academy junior high champions; member of Morris Academy Nova Scotia Tournament champions
- * 1976 – Most Valuable Player for Mount Pearl Central team
- * 1978 – Most Valuable Player for Mount Pearl Central team
- * 1979 – Most Valuable Player for Mount Pearl Central team; member of Newfoundland and Labrador team at Canada Winter Games in Brandon, member of Terra Novas St. John's League champions, member of Terra Novas provincial champions and named to all-stars, member of Terra Novas provincial qualifying champions and named to all-stars, attended senior national championships in Edmonton
- * 1980 – Member of Memorial University Varsity team, named all-star for AUAA Conference, named to all-star team at provincial championships
- * 1981 – Captain of Memorial University Varsity team, named all-star for AUAA Conference, named to all-star team at provincial championships, invited and attended national tryout camp in Ottawa
- * 1982 – Member of Memorial University Varsity team, Most Valuable Player at provincial championships
- * 1983 – Captain of Memorial University Varsity team, named all-star for AUAA Conference, named all-star at Memorial Invitational Tournament, named all-star and Most Valuable Player at Trepassey Invitational Tournament
- * 1984 – Captain of Memorial University Varsity team, named all-star for AUAA Conference, named all-star at Memorial Invitational Tournament, named all-star at Calotte Invitational Tournament, won Ed Browne Memorial Trophy as outstanding basketball player for Memorial University
- * 1985 – Member of Sportsbeat team that won St. John's championship, named Most Valuable Player for regular season, Most Valuable Player for playoffs, named all-star; member of provincial champions. Named provincial Most Valuable Player and all-star
- * 1985 to present – Coached and played in a male league at Plum Point, coached male team at provincial championships; played and coached in Northwest Territories and coached in New Brunswick while teaching in both.