

**Mr. Gus Roberts, Jr.**

Inducted into the NLBA Hall of Fame in 2009 as a “Builder”



Gus Roberts basketball career began in Glovertown in the early 1960's at the junior high level. He then moved to Baie Verte where he had a tremendous high school career as an athlete. When Gus graduated high school he decided to become a teacher and moved to St. John's to attend Memorial University. While in St. John's he played for the Fieldians in the St. John's Men's League. Once Gus graduated he moved back to Baie Verte where he played in the West Coast League that was comprised of teams from Baie Verte, Corner Brook, Codroy Valley, Grand Falls, and numerous other teams from the area.

In 1972 Gus began his coaching career at St. Pius X; one of the two high schools in BaieVerte. The other school was Beothuck Collegiate..... and what a rivalry it was in the 70's and early 80's. Gus's teams won many town championships, which then gave him the opportunity to take his team to the

regional championships where his teams competed regularly with the St. Mike's team from Grand Falls. These two programs (St. Pius and St. Mike's) were so strong they competed against one another consistently in the 70's and 80's to win a berth into the provincial high school championships.

Roberts coaching career also included a 3A provincial championship, which is a huge feat for a school from which there were only 200 students enrolled. Once again it just shows that it was not quantity but the quality of the coaching that led the way. Feats such as these are rare in sport but speaks volumes on his skill and dedication to the program in Baie Verte.

His career then took a strange turn as he changed schools transferring his knowledge and experience to his former opponent, Beothuck Collegiate where he coached until he retired in 2002. After 30 years of coaching and dedication to the sport of basketball in rural Newfoundland he certainly deserved it.

Throughout Roberts school career he was also very involved in the development of west coast basketball. Gus would run camps on Saturdays for children in his area and other areas in the region helping promote basketball in all regions on the west coast. He was also heavily involved in the annual summer camps at Sir Wilfred Grenfell College in Corner Brook, which would bring players and coaches alike from all over the province. Coaches and athletes had an opportunity to train with the some of the top coaches in the

country. A couple of regular coaches at these camps included Jay Triano (Current Raptor Head Coach) and Doc Ryan (Former ST. FX Womens Coach) both of whom were considered to be the best in the country.

One of Gus Roberts's pet projects was his involvement with the Baie Verte Invitational. At one point it was the longest running basketball tournament in the province with a record 27 years of straight competition. Unfortunately the invitational ended shortly after Gus left the sport.

His basketball career spanned over 4 decades where he was instrumental in developing basketball in our province. He has produced athletes who have played on provincial teams and at Memorial University: players such as Paul Shelley and Ed Traverse. His son Steve played at the provincial level and many of his former athletes adapted his coaching philosophy and continue to coach today in a variety of regions across Newfoundland and Labrador.

With Gus Roberts's commitment and dedication to the sport of basketball we are certain the province was the huge benefactor of his skill and teaching philosophies. Former players from Baie Verte continue to coach and it was his love of the game that was instilled by Gus Roberts that made this possible. Congratulations Mr. Roberts on a great basketball career and thank you for all you have done to help grow the game.

**Career Highlights:**

- 1976-83 7 straight appearances in the championship game of the 3A provincials
- 1983 1983 won 3A Provincial Championship
- 1975-86 11 straight town championships over Beothuck Collegiate
- 1972-97 25 years as coordinator of the Baie Verte Invitational
- 1970's-80's Guest instructor at the various Ed Browne Camps at Sir Wilfred Grenfell
- 1972-1997 25 years coaching high school boy's basketball in Baie Verte
- 1983-1987 Probably his toughest challenge of all -Coached AGAINST his son for 4 years of High School Ball.