

# Media Release

Tuesday, June 16<sup>th</sup>

*HONoured TO RECOGNIZE OUR LOCAL SPORTS HEROES*

The Central Okanagan Sports Hall of Fame Proudly welcomes six new inductees in 2015

**ATHLETE CATEGORY:**

SARAH CHARLES

Sarah began her gymnastics career at age 5 and at age 17 won her first World championship in the Double Mini Trampoline (2003) and added another World title in 2007. She is a gold medallist at the 2004 Pan Am Games and Indo-Pacific Games.



**ATHLETE CATEGORY:**

CHRISTI VAN HEES

Christi is a 6-time Canadian National racquetball champion (1997-2008) and a 2-time World champion (1998 & 2006). She captured a silver medal at the 1999 Pan-Am Games and was the #1 ranked player in the world in 2005.

**PIONEER ATHLETE CATEGORY:**

WAYNE HICKS

To date, Wayne is the only Kelowna player to have his name on the Stanley Cup. He won the Cup as a member of the 1961 Chicago Blackhawks. He played 117 NHL games with Chicago, Boston, Montreal, Philadelphia & Pittsburgh. He helped Kelowna win it's first-ever BC Midget hockey title in 1953.



**BUILDER CATEGORY:**

ROD BELINSKI

As a head coach, Rod guided the KLO Cougars to 5 Provincial high school boys volleyball titles. His teams qualified for the provincials in 20 of his 21 years as coach. Rod was instrumental in moving the BC Volleyball Championships to Kelowna in 1993 and served as Tournament Chair for 19 years.



**BENNETT AWARD (SPECIAL RECOGNITION):**

JOHN & JENNIFER HINDLE

The Hindles started the Kelowna Apple Triathlon in 1983. John helped build the junior racing programs at Big White & Silver Star Mountains. Jennifer was a tireless volunteer in the Kelowna arts scene helping with the Ballet & Symphony.

These new members will officially be inducted into the Central Okanagan Sports Hall of Fame at the Induction Gala November 19<sup>th</sup> at the Coast Capri Hotel beginning at 7am. Tickets for the breakfast gala will be on sale at the Kelowna Museum.

# FACTS

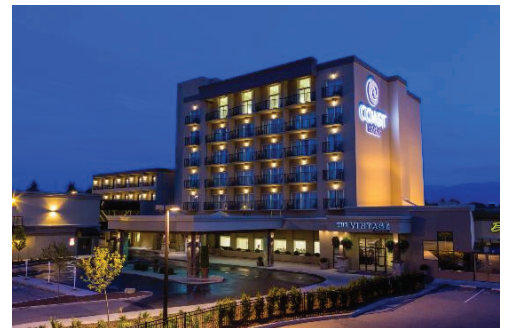
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*INSPIRING FUTURE HALL OF FAMERS*

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

- **2008 Inductees;**  
1958 Kelowna Packers Hockey Team
- **2009 Inductees;**  
Joanne 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 Junior Football Team, Glenn Ennis & Erminia Russo
- **2013 Inductees:**  
Blair Chapman, Wayne North, Brock Aynsley, Sutton Jr Women’s Curling Team
- **2014 Inductees:**  
Gillian Thomson, Glen Mervyn, Mike & Brenda Van Tighem & 2004 Kelowna Rockets Hockey Team

- Our goal is to inspire youth to get involved in sports by highlighting current inductees as role models and a source of inspiration.
- The COSHF honours athletes, coaches, teams, builders & pioneers who have excelled on local, national or international sports scene.
- Our mandate is to preserve & showcase our rich local sports history.
- Nominations are forwarded from the general public and scrutinized by **(1) nomination committee, (2) selection committee and (3) sports legacy committee.**
- The Induction Gala Breakfast is held in November, from 7am-9am at the Coast Capri Hotel. The event will host 300 guests, as well as videos, keynote speakers, and presentations highlighting our inductees and local sports history.



“The principle is competing against yourself. It's about self-improvement, about being better than you were the day before” - Steve Young

# 2015 Inductee-Athlete

## Sarah Charles

- Began gymnastics at age 5, switched to Trampoline and Double Mini Trampoline at age 14 • Competed in first Nationals at age 12 (artistic gymnastics) • 2 World Cup champions in Double Mini Trampoline (DMT) in 2003 & 2007 • World Games champion in 2005 • Pan Am Games champion in 2004 • Indo-Pacific Games champion 2004 • Alternate for 2008 Summer Olympic Games (due to injury)



"There may be people that have more talent than you, but there's no excuse for anyone to work harder than you do." – Derek Jeter

# 2015 Inductee-Athlete

## Christi Van Hees

- 6-time Canadian National racketball champion (1997, 1998, 2000, 2006, 2007, 2008) • 2-time World champion 1998 & 2006 • World Team championships-Gold 2000 • World Championships-Silver 2000 • #1 World Ranked Player 2005
- Silver medal at 1999 Pan Am Games



"You are never really playing an opponent. You are playing yourself, your own highest standards, and when you reach your limits, that is real joy." — Arthur Ashe

# 2015 Inductee-Builder Rod Belinski

- 5-time Provincial Boys Volleyball champion (Head Coach) with KLO Cougars- includes 'A', 'AA' and 'AAA' • Undefeated at 1995 AAA Provincials • 1995 Volleyball BC High School Coach of the Year • In 21 years (1978-1998) as head coach, qualified for Provincials every year except once (1981) • Named Honorary Life Member of BC High School Boy's Volleyball • 1999-2005 Okanagan College volleyball coach; silver medal at 2001 Provincials and Nationals • In 1993, instrumental in moving Provincial volleyball championships to Kelowna • Served as Chair of Provincial Volleyball championship tournament for 19 years



"To uncover your true potential you must first find your own limits and then you have to have the courage to blow past them." – Picabo Street

# 2015 Inductee-Pioneer Athlete Wayne Hicks

- 1961 Stanley Cup Champion, Chicago Blackhawks (Winger) • To date, only player from Kelowna to have his name on Stanley Cup • Signed with NHL Chicago Blackhawks at age 14 • Played 117 NHL games; Chicago, Boston, Montreal, Philadelphia & Pittsburgh • American Hockey League (AHL) All-Star in 1965 & 1967 & 1969 • Helped Kelowna win its first BC Midget championship in 1953 • Hockey career spans 1953-1974 with junior, professional & NHL



"If you want to find the real competition, just look in the mirror. After awhile you'll see your rivals scrambling for second place." - Criss Jami, Killosophy

## 2015 Inductee-Bennett Award

— John & Jennifer Hindle —

• Founded Kelowna Apple Triathlon in 1983 • Fastest Male & Female (Olympic Division): John Hindle Award • Fastest Male & Female (Sprint Division): Jennifer Hindle Award • Both fostered development of Big White & Silver Star Mountain Resorts • Both helped develop junior ski racing program at Big White & Silver Star Resorts • Owners of Eldorado Hotel; hosted several athletes and sports fund-raisers • John Hindle: Long-time supporter of sports & community events • Kelowna Mayor (4 years, 1976-78, 1982-84) Jennifer Hindle: Tireless Volunteer • Kelowna Arts Council • Central Okanagan Foundation • Okanagan Symphony



"Don't let them drag you down by rumors just go with what you believe in." - Michael Jordan