

Sask Sport honors volunteers

MORLEY BEARD



Beard

Beard served four years as president of the provincial swimming organization. He has been involved primarily in the organizational and financial aspects of the sport, helping develop athletes through educational grants and scholarships. He has also written training manuals and helped create coaching and program development programs.

Dr. RICHARD WOTTEN



Wotten

A former member of the Saskatchewan Cycling Association's board of directors, Wotten still cycles competitively between assignments as Saskatchewan's first top-calibre international official. As Saskatchewan's head official from 1980 to 1986, he officiated at all provincial championships. His international assignments began in 1981 and he recently attended the Pan-Am Games in Indianapolis.

EUGENE HEARN



Hearn

For more than 40 years of involvement as a speed skating competitor, coach and official, Hearn (a past president) was granted an honorary life membership with the provincial association. Hearn took a national coaching appointment in 1976. Since acting as chief starter for the 1970 Canadian outdoor championships, Hearn has also had similar tasks at the 1985 world, 1986 world junior and 1987 world women's championships.

HAROLD MITCHELMORE



Mitchelmore

Most of Mitchelmore's work has been with the sport of track and field, although he has been a timer and director with the Saskatoon Lions Speed Skating Club. Mitchelmore also served as president of the junior football Saskatoon Hilltops and has officiated football games. Mitchelmore officiated track and field events at the 1976 Olympics, 1978 Commonwealth Games, World Student Games and all three Western Canada Summer Games.

LEO WIEGERS



Wiegiers

Wiegiers, a past president of the provincial association, has been a Special Olympics board member for 13 years and helped develop Saskatchewan's model programs. For the past decade he has also been a member of the zone seven Special Olympics committee. Currently the provincial fund-raising chairman, Wiegiers remains active in community organizations intended to help the disabled or disadvantaged.

Lowe lone Regina recipient

By Darrell Davis
L-P Sports Writer

Half of Bob Lowe's life has been spent coaching wrestlers. He never thought much about his modest accomplishments until he attended a Sask Sport banquet last month to honor his work as a volunteer.

"At first I didn't realize what type of award this was," said Lowe, 46. "I felt I was just representing all the people in our sport. Then I realized I was in pretty good company."

Lowe was the lone Regina native to receive a volunteer recognition award for coaches, administrators and officials from Sask Sport. The other recipients were Morley Beard (swimming), Dr. Richard Wotten (cycling), Eugene Hearn (speed skating), Harold Mitchelmore (track and field), all of Saskatoon, and Leo Wiegiers (Special Olympics) of

North Battleford.

Each of the honored volunteers was presented with a videotape outlining their respective careers. Each videotape was played for the audience at the banquet.

"The one thing that really impressed me was the work that the guy had who was involved with the Special Olympics," said Lowe. "Sometimes you become inward-looking with your work and you don't think that anybody else is doing anything."

"But when you sit down and think about it, how else would anything be getting done if there weren't other people helping out with their time and efforts?"

Lowe began coaching wrestlers at Martin Collegiate — where he also guided the football team — and helped establish an intercollegiate wrestling league. He left Regina in 1980 and

coached university wrestlers for five years at Iowa.

When he returned to Regina, Lowe formed the Underdogs club. He still coaches the Underdogs and is an executive member of the Saskatchewan Amateur Wrestling Association.

"I never got paid until two years ago," said Lowe. "And now it's only a small honorarium. Most coaches give the money back in some way. If we go on a trip somewhere and a kid needs

something, even a hot hamburger, the coach gets it for him."

Lowe was named Canada's outstanding amateur coach in 1978 and the country's top junior coach this year.

"The biggest thrill I get is when I see the guys I used to work with — like Bruce Pearce, Don Clark, Gord Anderson and Les Rody — stay involved with the sport and give something back," said Lowe.

Bob Lowe has had plenty to smile about during a career as a wrestling coach (left) and football coach.



File photo

Tae-kwon-do keeps Kobak family together

By David Moser
L-P Sports Writer

"The family that practises tae-kwon-do together, stays together."

That's not exactly the wording embroidered on samplers that appear on kitchen walls across the country, but the sentiment expressed is one the Kobak family of Regina heartily agrees with. Mother Dorothy, daughters Tanya and Tricia and son Steve are all involved with tae-kwon-do. Only father Nick has not strapped on the dobok (the white costume worn in most martial arts) — he does a lot of travelling because of work commitments and so has to be limited to being a cheerleader at competitions.

With a family of three youngsters at home — Tanya, 16, Tricia, 14, and Steve, 12 — it's surprising that the three of them and their mother could be interested in the same sport. Usually a family is going in four directions at one time with piano lessons here and hockey practice there and gymnastics somewhere else and computer classes at another place.

"When you've got teenagers and such, you're not really expected to do a lot of things together," said Dorothy, 42. "They have their interest and you have yours. This is very nice that we have similar interests."

"In fact, if somebody from the club is having a party and the kids are invited they say, 'Make sure your mom and dad come.' We're all included; it's a common interest. There's an awful lot of tae-kwon-do discussed

twisted their mother's arm and convinced her to join the sport.

"I've always been interested — watching and on the club executive," said Dorothy, who is a teacher. "I'd sit and watch the classes because it was better than going home."

"The girls wanted to join the adult class and I said, 'Give me a break, that's two hours, three times a week.' They said, 'Why don't you join. You won't just be sitting there, you'll be doing something.'

"So I said, 'You'll have to teach me.' If you can't beat them, join them."

Dorothy has worked her way up to a green belt and her involvement with the competitive side of the sport (she won a gold medal in sparring earlier this year in the senior division of a club-sponsored tournament) has given her insight into her children's feelings.

"At first it was awful when Nick and I went to tournaments," said Dorothy. "We'd be sitting there with tears in our eyes wondering what we were doing to these kids. Now, I understand what they're going through out there and it's easier to watch."

"I understand their feelings more."

The three children said they would not give up the sport for anything and enjoy having their mother interested in their sport.

