



Mount Pearl Sports Hall of Fame Inductee
Gary Sooley
Builder 2003



Gary Sooley is a very well-known individual throughout Mount Pearl and throughout the province for his continuous involvement and contributions to a number of sporting communities, especially that of basketball.

As an athlete, Gary has attended over 20 national tournaments with his basketball teams and on many occasions returned home with medals and awards in recognition of his sportsmanlike conduct. From 1999 to 2001, he was the assistant coach for the Men's Canada Games Basketball Program in Newfoundland and Labrador. His coaching career also consists of two Provincial Winter Games basketball wins with two separate teams. The first gold medal win for Gary's team was in 1985, and the second followed in the year 1989. One outstanding achievement in Gary's career has much to do with his outstanding leadership skills. He led his Mount Pearl Senior High boys basketball team to three consecutive 'AAAA' victories from 1992-95. During these three years, the teams remained undefeated, winning 103 consecutive games, and setting a Canadian record.

Apart from his remarkable coaching success, Gary has had a great deal of experience organizing events for athletes and community members. He has organized and administered the Mount Pearl Crush Minor Basketball Program since the 1980's and has also been a coordinator of the annual Buddyball Summer Program. Moreover, Gary has also served on the Provincial Board of the NLBA since 1997. Gary's contributions have not gone unnoticed; he has won the "Coach of the Year" award presented by the NLBA and has won the "Coach of the Year" award presented by the NL High School Athletic Association. Gary also had the privilege of coaching at many basketball camps including camps at Atlantic Universities, in Pittsburgh, PA and in Trenton, NJ.

Gary's continuous contribution has not been limited to the sports community of Mount Pearl, but extends through his professional career as well. He has been a physical education teacher at Mount Pearl Central High and Senior High since 1975 and has embraced his students, as he has the community, with exceptional leadership, skill and a strong endorsement for mandatory sportsmanlike attitudes.

The Mount Pearl Sport Alliance recognizes Gary Sooley's outstanding contributions with his induction to the Mount Pearl Sports Hall of Fame.
