



2020-2021

BC School Sports
Award Winners

BC SCHOOL SPORTS

- *Fulfillment*
- *Growth*
- *Collaboration*
- *Service*
- *Ownership*
- *Sportsmanship*
- *Equity*
- *Safety*



To foster the development of good character through positive and equitable school-based sport experiences.

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MERIT AWARD — *The Merit Award is presented to an individual recognizing their outstanding service to a local association or sports commission executive. Additionally it may recognize long standing service as a coach, sponsor, administrator, or official at the school level.*



BOB MATLOCK- Bob first got involved in coaching senior football and grade 8 boys' volleyball as a student-teacher while completing his Bachelor of Education at the University of Regina. Shortly after getting his degree Bob moved to Port Alberni where he got his first teaching job at Alberni District Secondary in 1974 and has taught there ever since.

Bob began coaching grade 8 boys' volleyball and basketball at ADSS, but it was not long before he moved on to coach girls' volleyball which has been the highlight of his coaching career. He has enjoyed taking on a new group of student-athletes in grade 8 and coaching them all the way through their grade 12 season, qualifying for Provincials several times.

When asked what his favorite school sport memory was, he said it was "the sense of family that developed with our teams, as well as the many connections and friendships I have made throughout the province while attending tournaments and provincial championships."

Bob's commitment to school sport didn't stop at volleyball, he was asked to coach the school golf team when the previous coach retired; Bob agreed. A few years into coaching the golf team Bob was asked to join the BCSS Golf Commission Executive which he has been a mainstay of for the past 40 years. During his time as Golf Commissioner Bob was instrumental in maintaining a professional look and feel to the B.C. High School Golf Championship. He did through collaboration with coaches, zone reps and other partners in the golfing community. In addition to coordinating countless BCSS Provincial Golf Championship he has also handled the finances of the Golf Commission. Bob exudes a calm, inclusive and professional attitude which players and coaches' value and respect.

Throughout his career, Bob's life has been very full with teaching and the numerous hours he volunteers to the school sport community, he has managed to find time to enjoy some recreational sports in his community, and being from a small town he found himself playing sports with some of the students that he taught during his first years at ADSS.

Bob wishes to thank Jack Gilbert, who was the principal at ADSS that hired him and started him into his career as an educator, as well as Bill McDonald, Neil Murray and Syd Sharp, all prior members of the BCSGA Executive as well as the present Executive. Bob plans to retire in the near future, but "not until I can see my last girls' volleyball team complete their senior season, hopefully this Fall".

Congratulations to Bob Matlock, recipient of the 2021 BCSS Merit Award celebrating a distinguished career of servant-leadership to student-athletes and school sport across BC.

MERIT AWARD — *The Merit Award is presented to an individual recognizing their outstanding service to a local association or sports commission executive. Additionally it may recognize long standing service as a coach, sponsor, administrator, or official at the school level.*



PAUL THIESSEN- Sport began shaping Paul Thiessen's life at a very early age. A product of Vancouver he participated in a variety of activities, and while attending John Oliver he eventually gravitated towards team sports. With the encouragement of his school coach, Paul decided to focus on volleyball, playing on school, BCO club and BC Provincial teams. Paul led his high school team to five consecutive Vancouver and District championships 1975-79 and then moved on to play volleyball for the University of British Columbia where he won the CIAU (now USports) National Championship in 1983 while being named Championship MVP. In 1984 Paul received the Bobby Gaul award as UBC's top graduating athlete among all sports. Paul graduated from UBC with a Bachelor of Physical

Education in 1985. After graduating, Paul went on to represent Canada on Junior and Senior National Teams, retiring in 1988. He also excelled in Beach volleyball as well. Competing in 2 World Beach Doubles Championships in Redondo Beach, California in 1982 & 83.

As his playing years concluded, Paul's decision to become a Physical Education teacher was a natural one; he loved sports and wanted to share his passion and knowledge with students as it was once shared with him. Paul's first teaching job after obtaining his degree was in Slokan, BC where he spent the first two years of his career. In 1990, he was hired by Okanagan Mission Secondary (OKM) where he has taught for over 30 years.

Paul has been a dedicated volleyball coach in his school not missing a season for the past 33 years. His teams have qualified for BCSS provincial championships 13 times. When asked what he enjoys about coaching, Paul notes that "coaching is in my blood, and while successes and accolades are tangible perks of sport, creating memories and bonds that students remember for the rest of their lives is much more rewarding."

Paul's dedication to school sport does not stop at just being a coach, he has been the Athletic Director at OKM for the past 26 years and has been instrumental in growing the school's athletic programs. Paul served on the BCSS Boys Volleyball Commission from 1996-2009, including a 4-year stint as President, and was heavily involved in hosting the Boys Provincial Volleyball Championships for 20 years. Also, Paul has been an active member of Okanagan Central Schools Athletic Association since 2000, serving as President for the past 4-years. Further Paul somehow also finds the time to serve on the executive of the BCSS Thompson-Okanagan Zone.

For Paul, coaching and service to school athletics have been an integral part of his career as an educator. He says, "the connections I have developed with students through sports are invaluable." Paul is thankful for the support he has always received from both the administrators and district personal he has worked with and is proud to be part of a cohesive group of educators in the Thompson-Okanagan Zone and Central Okanagan Local Association who work hard to provide amazing opportunities for their student-athletes. Specifically, Paul wishes to acknowledge the support of Jill Voros of SD 23 for her support of him and school athletics in the district and across the province.

Congratulations to Paul Thiessen, the 2021 BCSS Merit Award recipient, in recognition of a career as a dedicated coach, administrator and servant leader to student-athletes in his school and across the province.

HONOUR AWARD - *The honour award is the highest form of distinction BCSS can bestow upon an individual. The award is presented to a teacher or administrator who has demonstrated prolonged and distinguished service to school sport, as a coach and on the BCSS Board of Directors or one of its committees.*



SUE THORNE- Sue played sports throughout high school and felt that it was part of her role as a physical education teacher to provide the same opportunities to her students. It was also a great way to get involved in the school community when she first started teaching at Prince Charles Secondary and coached her first team, Grade 8 girls' basketball, in 1992. From that point onward. Sue continued to coach multiple different teams, often two in one season.

Sue's coaching portfolio includes volleyball, basketball, golf, bowling, soccer and track and field. She proudly states that she is yet to say no to a student when asked to coach.

Two years into teaching Sue was asked by her mentor, Bob Ferguson, who at that time was the president of the East Kootenay Athletic Association to take over the secretary/treasury position. Sue's involvement and leadership in school sport only grew from there. When Bob retired in 1996, he asked Sue to assume the role of president, a role that she has held continuously since then.

In addition to her service to the East Kootenay local association, in 1998 Sue joined the BCSS Board of Directors where she served for 16 years, and shortly thereafter became a member of the BCSS Eligibility Appeals Committee of which she is still serving on 22 years later.

When asked about her favourite school sport memory, Sue recalls when she was coaching the senior girls' basketball team at zone finals and how one of her players dominated the boards on defense and led a textbook fast break to score for the entire second quarter. The team also shut out their opponent during that quarter and went on to win the game.

Sue strongly believes that school sport is an extension of the classroom and a great way for educators to build connections with their students and for students to see their teacher in a different light. The relationships that Sue has formed through school sport are some of her favorites, she still remembers all the student names from the first team she coached nearly 30 years ago.

Sue wishes to acknowledge all of those colleagues who have been and continue to be a part of school sport, especially Bob Ferguson who had the confidence in her to assume the presidency role when he retired.

The Honour Award is the highest honour that BCSS can bestow upon an individual in recognition of service to BC School Sports. Over the past 30 years Sue Thorne has been a Local Association President, Zone President, Board Member and committee member. Many of these roles she has held consecutively for more than 20 years. Sue is the embodiment of a servant-leader and is unquestionably deserving of being named the 2021 BCSS Honour Award recipient.



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