



SPORT HALL OF FAME & HERITAGE CENTRE

Hall of Fame Members

1995

Father John J. Hennessey, S.J.
Robert G. Hayes

1996

Robert (Bob) Lahey
Father Michael O'Donnell, S.J.
1973 Basketball Huskies

1997

Frank Baldwin

1998

Jim Pineo
Bob Boucher
1973 Football Huskies

1999

Jamie Bone
Elizabeth A. Chard
Bob Warner
1964 Football Huskies

2000

Roy Clements
Mickey Fox
Kathy Mullane

2001

Chris Flynn
Elmer MacGillivray
Angelo Santucci
1973 Hockey Huskies

2002

Frank Archambault
Harold Beazley
Dianne Chaisson
Mike Hornby

In celebration of the rich tradition and heritage of sport and recreation at Saint Mary's University, the Sport Hall of Fame and Heritage Centre was founded in 1995.

Inductions are held annually during Homecoming Weekend – the weekend following Thanksgiving. For many years, students, faculty and staff have shared a rich sport tradition as athletes, builders and teams. Vivid and exciting chapters of this aspect of University life are recorded in *The Santamarian*, *The Times*, *The Journal*, and the *Maroon and White*.

This year there are four inductees: Al Keith, Greg McClare, Larry Uteck, and the 1978 Men's Basketball Huskies, reflecting the strong sport administrators and athletes whose contributions helped build the great Saint Mary's Sport Tradition.

Share our pleasure as we celebrate the 9th Annual Saint Mary's University Sport Hall of Fame and Heritage Centre Induction Ceremony.

Steering Committee Members

Patsy Calbury
Elizabeth A. Chard
Roy Clements
Pat Connolly
Hansel Cook
Mike Doherty
Paul Fitzgerald
Barry Gallant / Shawn Cleary
Heather Harris
Paul Hollingsworth
Tyler MacLeod
Kathy Mullane
Paul Puma (Chair)
Larry Uteck / Dr. David J. Murphy
Doug Wright



Saint Mary's University

Larry Uteck: a 50 year Success Story



Director of Athletics at Saint Mary's University, politician, CFL All-Star. Born October 9, 1952, in Toronto. Dies December 25, 2002, in Halifax, of ALS, aged 50.

When Governor-General Adrienne Clarkson pinned the Order of Canada on Larry Uteck's lapel in Halifax last October, there was a spontaneous standing ovation. The man in the wheelchair, silenced and paralyzed by disease, had won the city's heart.

Growing up in Thornhill and Willowdale, Ont., Larry was part Tom Sawyer, part Huck Finn; mischievous, competitive, and profoundly resistant to being told what to do. He knew the joy and the pain of being adored and betrayed.

He was a talented athlete, but an injured Achilles tendon ended his hopes of playing hockey seriously. He went to the Jesuit school Brebeuf Collegiate, but his prickly resistance to authority resulted in the principal telling his mother every year to find another school for him. Every year, she prevailed and Larry stayed.

He had a continuing affection for waifs and strays, the marginal and the eccentric. He loved football, and played with reckless intensity, but hated being defined as just an athlete.

Larry went to the University of Colorado on scholarship, but insisted on taking East Asian Studies, and was furious when he was told he couldn't study Chinese because it conflicted with football practice.

He attended Wilfrid Laurier University in Waterloo, Ont., for a year before being drafted by the Toronto Argonauts – but after his first season, traveled through still-war-torn Vietnam and Cambodia, taking extraordinary risks, collecting amazing stories and lifelong friends.

Larry's career in the Canadian Football League was defined by his physical courage. He was a punishing tackler – it was unnerving to see him straighten out his helmet afterwards, as if his neck had been unhooked – and a self-destructively determined punt returner.

He paid the price. After five years in Toronto, he was traded to Montreal (where his interception and touchdown took the Alouettes to the Grey Cup in 1978), and then, as his body deteriorated, to British Columbia and finally to Ottawa.

After his football career ended, it took him a while to acknowledge how much he loved the game. In 1982, he was hired as an assistant coach at Saint Mary's University and moved to Halifax, where he fell in love first with the city, then with Sue Maloney (whom he married in 1989), and their two children Luke and Cain.

He became head coach in 1983, taking the team to the Vanier Cup three times. He saw a world beyond the football field; he was as proud of David Sykes winning a Rhodes Scholarship as he was of the players who went on to play professionally.

In 1994, he ran for Halifax City Council and was elected, and in 1998 became deputy mayor. He was as hardworking and candid as a politician as he was as a coach. In December 1997, Russell McLellan, then Liberal Premier of Nova Scotia, tried hard to persuade him to be a candidate. Tempted, Larry said: 'I just can't.'

He was already feeling the first symptoms of amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS); it was the beginning of a five-year decline and an extraordinary demonstration of grace, wit and courage. As he wrote his young daughter Cain, 'I had a long, active, and productive life as a caterpillar. Now I am more quiet and restful, kind of like living in a cocoon. I don't know how or when or even why, but when this stage is over I will be a butterfly. Won't that be something, your Dad the butterfly.'

At his instruction, the Bob Dylan song *I Shall Be Released* was played at his memorial service at the Basilica in Halifax, where 1,500 people came to say goodbye."

By Graham Fraser
The Globe and Mail
Thursday, June 5, 2003



Al Keith



This inductee divides his life at Saint Mary's University (1962 to 1995) into four distinct periods as a result of which he is being inducted today as both an athlete and as a builder.

Life I – a double varsity athlete and a student (1962-1965). Considering himself as a hard-hitting defenseman "who logged a lot of ice time", Al served as Assistant Captain, then Captain, for the Varsity Hockey team. However, it is in the sport of football that this inductee really shone. He was a two-way player and was on all specialty teams for three years. He was extremely versatile, playing flanker, defensive back, punter, punt and kick-off returns and held for converts and field goals. Indeed, he recently remarked that he "kinda never got off the field and was usually quite tired by the time the game was over". The year 1964 was a stellar one for the Football Huskies under Captain Al Keith. His game winning point against Saint Francis Xavier University stopped the latter's seven-year undefeated record. In addition, he scored the winning touchdown in Saint Mary's University's first Atlantic Bowl appearance. It is, therefore, not surprising that he was chosen an all star both offensively and defensively. Although he was a second round draft choice of the Ottawa Roughriders, he opted instead to further his own education.

Life II – coaching (1969 – 1975). In assisting Coach Bob Hayes in 1969 to being the Head Coach from 1970 to 1975, he amassed a league record of 37 wins against only two losses. His teams appeared four times in the Atlantic Bowl with one victory, and twice in the College Bowl (now known as the Vanier Cup). He was always prepared to boast that the AUAA was the one conference with only four years of eligibility and hence, when his 1973 Huskies won the Nationals, they were the only team with four years' eligibility to do so.

Life III – Head Coach (1979-1983) and Acting AD (1980). He was a founding member of the VII Pan American Wheelchair Games Committee which successfully bid for Halifax to host these games to be staged in 1982. This was a catalyst which enabled the Government of Canada to assist with the building of both the synthetic track and the field. These lead, in turn, to the Province of Nova Scotia's heavy involvement with the construction of The Tower. It also marked the beginning of Saint Mary's University's ongoing support for the physically-challenged members of our community.

Life IV – Assistant Coach (1986-1995). In 1986, Al returned to the Saint Mary's University campus as Assistant Coach to Head Coach Larry Uteck.

Now, he is a well-known councillor to the Town of Shelburne, and the owner of a bed & breakfast establishment in that town.

Gregory L. McClare



This alumnus was a perfect role model of what a "student-athlete" should be – both while at Saint Mary's University and for the rest of his life.

After attending Saint Mary's High School (1954 to 1956), he enrolled at the University, graduating in 1960 with a Bachelor of Arts degree. Two years later, he received a Masters degree from the Maritime School of Social Work. Employment opportunities then took him to the Toronto Board of Education where he continued his education on a part-time basis at the University of Toronto, graduating in 1983 with a Masters degree in Education Administration. He completed his formal education at the University of Whales from whence he obtained his Doctorate in Education.

In 1999 he retired from the Board of Education and assumed a part-time position with the Toronto Catholic Charities Organization. His volunteer work netted him a Citation from Cardinal Aloysius Ambrozic for his "Outstanding Generosity to People in Need".

When he returned to Nova Scotia, he again involved himself significantly with a number of community organizations, including the Metro Community Housing Authority, the Metro United Way, and his Parish Council, to mention but three.

While a student at Saint Mary's University, he was awarded a "Gold M" for outstanding extra curricular activities; also the University's "Athletic M"; and several MVP awards for football.

Greg's contribution as a fullback for the football team is unequalled, playing junior football until the Bluenose League folded in the late 50's after three consecutive years in which Saint Mary's University was Maritime Champions. In both 1955 and 1956, he was runner-up for the scoring title which he won in 1957. In 1958 and 1959, he played with the Intercollegiate Football League capturing MVP honors in the latter year. While there are no records of the number of touchdowns he scored over many years, there is little doubt this long-time "Husky" would have outdistanced all other past players by far as the *Saint Mary's Scrapbook 1954 to 1961* article on him attests.

One of his sons, Dale, (Bachelor of Arts, 1986) carried on his father's tradition of being an outstanding football Huskie.

Greg passed away in the late spring of 2003.

The 1977-1978 Men's Basketball Huskies



The newspaper headlines said it all, "Huskie Night in Canada", March 1978. The venue – the newly opened 10,000 regular seat, 11,000 for basketball, Halifax Metro Centre where even the then Premier Gerald A. Regan did not have a seat. The teams: the Atlantic Champions- the Acadia University "Axemen" and the host team, Saint Mary's University Huskies, not even ranked in the CIAU Top Ten. The top-ranked Bisons from the University of Manitoba had been expected to win but went down in a stunning defeat in the first round at the hands of the Huskies - 92 to 81. The next day, the newspaper headlines read "Copy of the CIAU Basketball Rankings Found Floating in Halifax Harbour!" The march to the championship had only just begun as the Huskies toppled the University of Victoria Vikings to advance to the "Ultimate All-East Showdown".

The highlights of this game were numerous – Ron "Hawk" McFarland finished with 38 points; a broken ankle; and the MVP Award for the Championship. Brian Heaney's dream of coaching another national championship team had indeed been realized!

The triumphant team did not, however, have an easy road to this CIAU National. While turning down several more lucrative coaching positions, Coach Heaney had amassed a tremendous amount of talent. However, at the outset of the 1977-78 season, the team was not jelling as a playing unit. In the AUAA Championships, the Huskies lost to Saint Francis Xavier University, but entered the nationals via the backdoor – as the host team. Many would agree with team member Ron Blommers, "that the game was the most exciting to play and watch in the history of Canadian basketball" – a game which was certainly much closer than the 99-91 score would indicate. When John Brown slammed-dunked with 13 seconds remaining against Acadia's Victor Soares, "the crowd went wild and our lives have never been the same since!"

Members of the winning team were:

Ron Blommers
John Brown
Bruce Holmes
Derrick Lewis
Tom Kappos
Ron McFarland
Rick Plato
Ross Quackenbush
Art Screation
Mike Solomon
Roger Tustanoff
Mark Vickers
Frank White

Coaches:

Brian Heaney
Brian Burgess
Willie Follette

Managers:

Hector Corkum
John Landry
Calvin Smith
Allan Wentworth

Thanks, guys, for adding another famous chapter to the annals of the proud tradition of varsity athletics at Saint Mary's University.