2013 Alberta Hockey Hall of Fame Inductees

1980-1981 SAIT TROJANS

The 1980-1981 SAIT Trojans were history in the making. Though the Trojans have won 11 league titles to date, it had never been done before the 1980-1981 season. Furthermore, never in Trojan history had they had the opportunity to play for a CCAA National Championship. That was until their storybook 1980-1981 season.

The Trojans amassed a win percentage of .875 on the season with an astounding record of 21 wins in 24 games played, a record that stood for 20 years before being broken. In post season play, the Trojans blew past the competition to take a league title and earn themselves a spot in competition at the CCAA National Championships. After defeating all other competition, the Trojans went on to face and defeat the Cape Breton Capers by a score of 7-4 to claim the National Championship.

Trojan's player Ron Pierce was named CCAA Tournament MVP. Ron, along with his teammates Steve Hanna and Dennis Connelly were also named Tournament All Stars.

Players: Brad Carlson, Dennis Connelly, Bobby Deschamps, Ron Elder, Steve Hanna, Kim Hilkewich, Jamie Hodgins, Brent Lock, Greg Luhr, Wayne Merkel, Doug Panchuk, Scott Parkinson, Rodger Pierce, Ron Pierece, Blair Pomahac, Myron Romaniuk, Mike Sears, Jim Snodgrass, Darren Woitas

Staff: Bob Moore, Al McLeod, Mark Hollenbeck

DON PHELPS

Don Phelps believes in a lot of things, but one that stands out is his belief that: "You've got to know when to hold and you've got to know when to fold." Don has dedicated more than four decades of his life towards hockey including 24 years as coach of the Calgary Canucks Junior Hockey Team, and before that, a successful playing career including several seasons with the renowned Drumheller Miners, winning two Alberta Championships in that time.

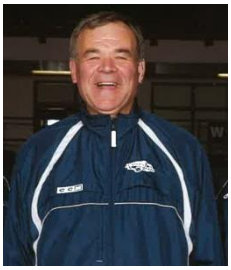
Someone who leads by example, Don has always believed that his players give much more to him than he does to them. His accolades speak for themselves; helping to initiate a Midget AAA League and coaching a club to the Air Canada Cup in its inaugural season, Calgary Booster Club Sportsman of the year, 11 AJHL Championships and 775 wins with the Calgary Canucks, just to name a few. Though he's not one to brag about what he's done, the determination, hard work and modesty that Don Phelps carries with him is a life lesson that lives on in all of the players he's coached over the years.

RICHARD POLUTNIK

Richard (Rick) Polutnik's resume reads like a hockey lover's dream. Five Provincial Championship gold medals, two World Championship silver medals, two World Championship gold medals and more than two decades of dedication towards coaching at every level of the game.

A founding member of Hockey Canada's National Coach Mentorship program, Rick also currently serves as Coach Mentor/Ambassador to Slovakia as a part of the IIHF Ambassador and Mentor Program. The past two decades have seen him coach at every level of the game from minor through to college teams and National Women and Junior Women's teams. Rick spent nearly twenty years as a volunteer and staff member of Hockey Alberta, and is currently the President of Teamworks Canada Incorporated, an organization that aims to improve the training, development, coaching and mentoring for organizations and teams.

JOHN JACOBS

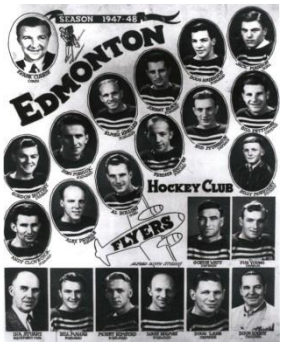


John (Jake) Jacobs, revered by those lucky enough to know him, is a level four official that started his officiating career in 1967. Serving as a referee instructor for nearly twenty years, those whom John has instructed over the years see him as a mentor and motivation for becoming a better official.

A player himself for many years, Jake switched to officiating because he believed he believed he could make a greater contribution. Through his commitments in such roles as Clinic Instructor and Referee in Chief of his home town of Stettler, acting as Referee Council Member and Referee Zone Coordinator, and as an official himself through national and international events (including 6 Viking Cups) John has been playing an invaluable role of making Alberta hockey better for decades.

John is the past recipient of multiple awards, including Hockey Alberta's Hockey Development Award, The Ernie Boruk Award, and the Alberta Sport, Recreation, Parks & Wildlife Foundation Award, all for his significant contributions to officiating in Alberta.

1947-1948 Edmonton Flyers



The Edmonton Flyers hockey team are best known for their 1947-1948 season. With a new coach and new recruits from the Edmonton Junior ranks, the team was posed to make a triumphant return, overcoming the previous season's less than stellar finish.

Lead by Frank Currie, Gordie Watt, Doug Lane, Jack Manson and Andy Clovechok, the Flyers powered their way through regular season, drawing crowds well into the thousands each night. Overcoming injury, equipment failure and even a suspension of their enforcer, Pug Young, in play downs, the Flyers drowned their league leader's competition, the Trail Smoke Eaters in series play by margins as wide as ten goals.

In the Allan Cup finals the Flyers took on the Ottawa Senators. Forcing the series to game four, the Flyers went down 3-0 early. It was in the third period that the Flyers came back to tie the game and move ahead to become the Allan Cup Champions. Nearly half of Edmonton, an estimated 60,000 people, lined city streets in the following day for a parade in the Flyers honour.

Players: Doug Anderson, Johnny Black, Gordon Buttery. Andy Clovechok, Louis Holmes, Elmer Kreller, Doug Lane, Bud McPherson, Bill Mahar, Jack Manson, Bing Merluk, Bill Pettinger, Alex Pringle, Morey Rimstad, Al Rollins, Freddie Smitten, Gordie Watt, Pug Young.

Staff: Frank Currie, Doug Hardy, Billy Morrissey, Ira Stuart