

2012 Alberta Volleyball Hall of Fame Award

Category: Builder

Inductee: Bob Gabruck

Robert Gabruck, better known as “Mr. G”, was a K-9 physical education teacher at Killam Public School. Bob coached a variety of school sports; volleyball, badminton, basketball, golf, and track & field. However, his involvement was never at the expense of his family and friends. In 1988, Bob founded the Killam Spartan Volleyball club. What started as an opportunity for his daughters and his friend’s daughters to play organized volleyball evolved into a 25-year commitment to one of rural Alberta’s greatest volleyball clubs. It was more than just a girl’s volleyball team: Mr. G created a thriving volleyball community.

2012 marks the 25th anniversary of the Killam Spartan Volleyball Club. The program started at the request of some local parents to support the growing interest in volleyball. Over the years the program and reputation grew dramatically, expanding to add a Bantam age division in 1994. Originally recruiting from Killam and surrounding areas, the Spartans soon attracted athletes from Camrose, Bawlf, Viking and Coronation. Today there are more than 200 athletes that have worn the Spartans jersey with pride.

After establishing a solid volleyball community, the Spartans have had several athletes continue on to pursue a higher caliber of volleyball. Many athletes have gone on to compete at 18U club, post-secondary in Canada and the United States, and numerous former athletes follow Mr.G’s brilliant example in the pursuit of coaching.

The Spartans have had a rich history of success. On a Provincial scale the Spartans have medaled 16 times.
Provincial Gold Medals: 7 (Midget: 1994, 2006, 2007; Bantam: 1995, 1997, 2002, 2004)
Provincial Silver Medals: 6 (Midget: 1999, 2000; Bantam: 1996, 1999, 2000, 2003)
Provincial Bronze Medals: 3 (Midget: 1997, 2011; Bantam: 1994)

On the National Scene, Spartans have medaled 4 times.

National Gold Medals: 2 (2004 and 2010 Division 2)
National Silver Medals: 2 (2007 Division 4 and 2011 Division 3)

The Spartan program was built with hard work, discipline and dedication – qualities that defined Mr. G. Leading by example, Bob held high expectations for his athletes, but was always willing to do everything in his power to support their growth and development. This is exemplified by his continued dedication as a coach, manager, team therapist, administrator, mentor, or any other task that ever needed attention.



Bob would often have to recruit, train and mentor coaches when the Spartans ran multiple teams. He was very supportive and would often take care of all the administrative duties so coaches could focus on their athletes. Bob fostered great relationships and encouraged each coach to pursue excellence while being great leaders and role models.

Every girl who played in the Spartan club received an elite experience. Bob demanded commitment, but always made a point of scheduling club activities so his athletes could play other sports. He spent countless hours coordinating the best opportunities for his athletes, everything from tournaments throughout Alberta and Saskatchewan to volleyball camps and clinics.

Bob was a committed, life long learner, which is certainly a quality of all successful coaches. Along with the founding of the Spartan Volleyball club, Bob also ran the Killam Volleyball camp. The camp was known for recruiting post-secondary coaches and athletes to share their knowledge and experience with local athletes. Without Bob’s persistent and endless involvement, a rural community would never have

gained such excellent exposure to elite volleyball.

On May 10, 2012, Bob Gabruck lost his battle with cancer at the age of 55. He will be lovingly missed by wife Liz; and children Cayla, Devon and Brandon. His legacy will not be forgotten and it will carry on with the continued success of the Killam Volleyball Club.

