

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **2018 HALL OF FAME INDUCTION NIGHT**

On Friday, November 2, the 2018 Hall of Fame Induction Night will take place at the Halifax Convention Centre. Four athletes, one team and two builders will be celebrated for their outstanding contributions to Nova Scotia sport, including an inductee who is a Nova Scotia Sport Hall of Fame first!

These inductees are Canadian champions, Olympians, Pan American medallists, long-time coaches and trailblazers—and one of them is a world record setter, a Nova Scotia icon and the first equine inductee to be enshrined in the Nova Scotia Sport Hall of Fame. A harness racing sensation, the province's most winningest horse of all time, Somebeachsomewhere, will join this year's esteemed group of athletes.

Beach will be inducted with university and national team soccer standout Mary Beth Bowie, Olympic gymnast and Canadian champion Kristan Burley, Dalhousie basketball legend Anna (Pendergast) Stammberger, and the CIAU title-winning 1978 Saint Mary's University men's basketball team. In the builder category, softball and basketball coach and course conductor Thomas Doucette, along with soccer and volleyball coach and women's sport advocate Margaret (Peggy) Gallant, will also join the Hall of Fame on November 2.

The evening will be hosted by Hall of Fame CEO Bruce Rainnie. As master of ceremonies for the 20<sup>th</sup> consecutive year, Rainnie will put each inductee's unique story in the spotlight with his signature conversational interview style.

Tickets for the 2018 Induction Night are on sale now at the Nova Scotia Sport Hall of Fame. Call 902-404-3343 to place your order.

Here is a closer look at the Nova Scotia sport heroes who we will be honoured as the newest class of Hall of Famers on November 2:

#### **Athletes**

**Mary Beth Bowie, Soccer, Halifax:** A CIAU Rookie of the Year with Dalhousie University in 1997, Bowie was also an AUAA All-Star Team member and a two-time CIAU All-Canadian. At the University of Connecticut, she received much recognition including a position on the NCAA "All Big East" First Team, which she led in points. She had a four-season career with the women's national team, in which she competed at the 1999 FIFA World Cup, the 2000 Algarve Cup and the 2000 CONCACAF Gold Cup, and made 13 international-level appearances and five starts. Bowie then played for three different Senior Women's soccer teams, winning two Senior Women's Canadian Championships and being named Playoff MVP with the Boston Renegades. She is also the 2005 Golden Boot winner.

**Kristan Burley, Gymnastics, Truro:** In 1991, Burley became the first Nova Scotian gymnast to be named to the national senior team, going on to represent Canada seven times at the World Championships. He won one gold and three silver medals at the 1994 Commonwealth Games, followed by National All-Around Championship titles in 1995 and 1999. Before competing at the 1996 Olympics, Burley won three bronze medals at the 1995 Pan American Games. A two-time Gymnastics Canada Athlete of the Year, he also won a silver and a bronze medal at the 1998 Commonwealth Games and two bronze medals at the 1999 Pan Am Games.

**Somebeachsomewhere, Harness Racing, Truro:** Somebeachsomewhere captured the country's attention and drew new fans to harness racing with his unmatched speed and dominance. He set world records for fastest mile by a two-year-old and a three-year-old, as well as the fastest race mile in harness racing history. A consistent gold-medallist in competitions across North America, Beach was only defeated once in the two years that he made headlines for his flawless performances on the race track. Among his many awards, he was named Canadian Sportsman Horse of the Decade, Canadian Sportsman Newsmaker of the Year, and an inductee to the Canadian Horse Racing Hall of Fame. Somebeachsomewhere will be inducted posthumously.

**Anna (Pendergast) Stammberger, Basketball, Kensington, PEI (Played for Dalhousie University):** Stammberger spent five years with the Dalhousie University women's basketball team, leading the team as Captain for two seasons and helping Dal claim silver at the 1980 CIAU championship and bronze at the 1982 CIAU championship. She scored over 1,000 points in her five years and was a three-time AUAA All-Star and a two-time AUAA MVP. She went on to play with the Canadian Junior and Senior National teams, serving as Captain for three seasons during her ten-year career with Canada's senior team, a period in which she attended the 1984 Olympics, and helped the team win bronze at the 1986 FIBA World Championships and the 1987 Pan American Games. Stammberger then went on to play professional basketball with a first division team in Germany from 1986 to 2003, placing fourth in the league in scoring.

## **Team**

**1978 Saint Mary's University Huskies Men's Basketball Team:** After not even ranking in the top 10 as the host team of the national championships, the team won the CIAU title. They upset the top-ranked Manitoba Bisons 92-81 in the first round, defeated the Victoria Vikings, and then won the championship against the Acadia Axemen 99-91 in front of 11,000 spectators at the Halifax Metro Centre. SMU's 99 points held the record as the most scored in a final game until 2016. Husky Ron McFarland finished with 38 points and won tournament MVP.

**Team members:** [Players] Ron Blommers, John Brown, Bruce Holmes, Derrick Lewis, Tom Kappos, Ron McFarland, Rick Plato, Ross Quackenbush, Art Sreaton, Mike Solomon, Roger Tustanoff, and Frank White; [Coaches] Brian Burgess, Brian Heaney, and Willie Follette; [Managers] Hector Corkum, John Landry, Calvin Smith and Allan Wentworth; [Trainer] Richard Bishop; and, [Team Doctor] Dr. David Petrie Sr.

## **Builders**

**Thomas Doucette, Multi-Sport (Softball and Basketball), Middle Musquodoboit:** A Level IV certified softball coach, Doucette was Head Coach for Canada's National Junior Men's team for seven years, as well as Head Coach for one girls' and three boys' Canada Games teams. He was a course conductor for softball training across the country, and served as the Softball Canada Master Learning Facilitator for the Atlantic Region for 20 years, while also sitting on the National Coaching Development Committee for almost two decades. As CBET Chair from 1997 to 2009, Doucette assisted and directed Softball Canada's transition to the new NCCP format. In addition to coaching the national junior team to one silver and two bronze medals at the ISF World Junior Championships, he won many awards including the following: Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal (for softball), Canadian College Athletic Association Men's Basketball Coach of the Year, Atlantic Colleges Athletic Association Basketball Coach of the Year, and Softball Nova Scotia Coach of the Year. Doucette will be inducted posthumously.

**Margaret (Peggy) Gallant, Multi-Sport (Soccer and Volleyball), Stellarton:** With a Canadian Soccer Association C coaching license, Gallant has coached at all levels for four decades, including the StFX University women's soccer team for eight years. She has also produced numerous scholarly publications on coaching and women's sport and has long been recognized as a pioneer and advocate for female athletes. She coached the StFX women's soccer team to an AUAA championship win in 1986, following a B Champions title for the StFX volleyball team that she coached in 1974. Her committee work has included chairing the Coaching Association of Canada for three years, as well as serving on the Highland Region Canada Games Bid Committee, the Steering Committee to Establish NS Women in Coaching Council, and in various NCCP capacities. With a long list of certifications from the National Coach Certification Program, Gallant has also been recognized with many awards including the following: Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal, Canadian Progress Club Women of Excellence Award, Sport Nova Scotia Soccer Service Award, and the StFX University Outreach Award.