



JVA Announces 2009 Hall of Fame Inductees

Jim Coleman and Mollie Kavanagh to be honored at JVA World Challenge

LEXINGTON, Ky. (October 6, 2009) – The Junior Volleyball Association is proud to announce that Jim Coleman and Mollie Kavanagh will be inducted into the JVA Hall of Fame as the class of 2009. This Hall of Fame class will be the JVA's second, as Coleman and Kavanagh will join John Trojaniak, Mary Jo Pepler and the 1975 Adidas Team, who were inducted in the inaugural class of 2008.

Jim Coleman

Jim Coleman was a legend throughout the entire volleyball world. Coleman may have had more influence on the sport of volleyball than any other single person during the 20th century. He was the inventor of the net antennae and also helped design statistical systems that are still being used by volleyball coaches around the world today. Coleman served the USA National Team program for over 40 years and was involved in seven Olympic Games. He was a key advisor for the USA Men from 1984-1988 when they won back-to-back Olympic Gold Medals, along with the World Cup Gold and World Championship Gold, and were proclaimed the "Greatest Team" in the history of men's volleyball.

Coleman, who passed away in 2001 at the age of 69, was also a key contributor to the growth and development of junior volleyball. From 1980-1992 he was the tournament director of the AAU Junior Olympic Volleyball Championship held in Lisle, Ill. During that period of time, the event grew from just 12 teams to over 350.

"Every year during the third week of June, the entire Coleman family would come to Lisle and they would work from early morning until late into the night to provide an event of the highest quality for all the teams involved," said Norb Farnaus, who worked closely with Coleman to manage the yearly event. "Jim had a tremendous passion for the development of junior volleyball and was extremely fair in all his dealings with players, coaches and club directors. I can't think of anyone who loved the sport of volleyball more than Jim."

Mollie Kavanagh

Junior volleyball came of age in the 1980's thanks to the implementation of Title IX, along with both the U.S. Women's and U.S. Men's National teams capturing Olympic Medals at the 1984 Games held in Los Angeles, playing in front of sellout crowds and national television audiences. There were many great coaches who came into the sport of volleyball during this time period, but one of them stood head and shoulders above the rest, winning championship after championship. Mollie Kavanagh dominated the 1980's as both a coach and club director with her Ichiban, and later Asics/Tiger teams, appearing in a total of 11 championship matches from 1983-1992, bringing home seven gold medals in the 18 Open and 16 Open divisions. During this period, she coached many great players including Olympians Keba Phipps, Tee Williams and beach superstar Misty May.

"Mollie is the reason that I am coaching college volleyball today," said Cristine Martin-Dixon, who played at Texas Tech University and is currently an assistant coach at SMU. "She instilled



in me a desire and knowledge for the game that so many of today's athletes don't have the opportunity to receive. She is by far one of the best volleyball coaches in the country because she has stayed true to her commitment and philosophy of the game. I am honored to have been coached by Mollie."

Katy Kurt from Cal State Bakersfield stated that, "Mollie didn't just teach volleyball skills, she taught you skills for life: respect, hard work, discipline, responsibility-all characteristics she embodies, and that I strive for in my own life."

"Mollie has been instrumental to the development of Volleyball in our country and has dedicated all of her life to making sure volleyball continues to grow and our young girls continue to be great role models in our communities," said Santiago Restrepo, head coach at University of Oklahoma. "I am very proud to have known Mollie for over 28 years and very proud to call her my 'American Mom.' Thank you to JVA for recognizing her dedication and service to our volleyball community."