The AVCA History Commission was formed as a subgroup to the AVCA Diversity Development Team on December 1, 2020. The History Commission’s purpose is to recognize, amplify, and celebrate the rich and diverse history of the sport of volleyball. The first phase of the Commission’s work will explore the contributions of Black Americans to the sport of volleyball. Phase 1 is timed to coincide with the 40th Anniversary of the founding of the American Volleyball Coaches Association.

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ROSE MAGERS-POWELL
Growing up in Big Springs, Texas, Rose Magers was the daughter of an elementary physical education teacher. Having a mother that taught physical education meant the benefit of sports and activity was ingrained from an early age in the Magers family. Rose understood the potential to excel athletically as a female student-athlete. She took that message of empowerment to heart as she would become a standout and a top recruit in basketball, track & field, and volleyball at Big Springs High School.

Several major colleges and universities would recruit Rose, but she made the decision in 1978 to sign with Coach Ruth Nelson and the University of Houston to play volleyball. From 1978-80, the Cougars would have a combined record of 119-43 including a 44-10 campaign in 1979 and a 41-24 record in 1980. The 1979 team would win the Texas Association of Intercollegiate Athletics for Women (AIAW) Tournament and the Southwest AIAW Regional Tournament.

Magers would also lead the United States Volleyball Association (USVBA) Houston Stars team to the Lone Star Regional Championship in three consecutive years: 1978, 1979, and 1980. After her sophomore year, Rose was invited to the Sports Festival in Colorado Springs, Colorado where she would train and play against other top players. That experience would lead to being selected to train and compete with the USA Junior National Volleyball Team in preparation for competing in the Pacific Rim Tournament. Rose's skill development was on full display as she was named Best Spiker at the tournament. Heading back to Houston for her junior year, she was primed to take the UH volleyball program to the next level. In 1980, the team would again take first place in the Texas AIAW Tournament, first place in the Southwest AIAW Region Four Regional Tournament before landing in 12th place at the 1980 National AIAW Tournament. Rose was named to the Region Four All-Region team as well All-American for her performance at the 1980 USVBA National Tournament while playing for the Houston Stars.

Now a veteran of international competition and the U.S. women's volleyball training pipeline, Rose would join the United States Women's National Team in 1982. With legendary and fellow Houston Cougar Fio Hyman as a mentor, Rose found out quickly that despite her time playing with the junior team, it was time to take it to another level. Hyman helped Rose gain confidence and understand the importance and value of preparation when it comes to competing at the highest level. In 1983, Rose would help the U.S. claims a silver medal at the Super Three Tournament involving the U.S, China, and Japan, a gold medal at the Pan American Games, a bronze medal at the FIVB World Championships, and gold medal at the NORCECA Games in 1983. Any questions there may have been had been answered as Rose's dedication and drive led to being named the starting middle blocker at the 1984 Olympic Games on U.S. soil in Los Angeles. Competing as what most considered a top-two team in the world. While the goal of a gold medal would elude them, the team would live up to its ranking with a silver-medal finish behind the Chinese team. Rose would be recognized as the most improved player at the Games and the P.E. teacher's daughter from Big Spring, Texas was an Olympic silver medalist.

Excellence as a volleyball athlete has translated to a coaching, training, and teaching career of 30 years. Coach Rose has coached high school and club and conducted numerous camps and clinics. In 1996, she became the head coach at Martin Methodist College in Pulaski, Tennessee. In 17 years as coach, Magers-Powell transitioned MMC from a junior college competition to four-year NAIA program while winning 373 matches. A three-time TranSouth Athletic Conference Coach of the Year, Rose led the program to three straight league championships from 2005-07. In 2000 she received her bachelor's degree in human services from MMU and in 2016 was inducted into the Redhawks' Hall of Fame. In 2014, Rose accepted the head women's volleyball coaching position at Alabama A&M University in Huntsville, Alabama. In her time at A&M, she has led the program to back-to-back Southwestern Athletic Conference (SWAC) regular season championships in 2018 and 2019. She has mentored more than a dozen All-SWAC selections, three Conference Players of the Year, two Setters of the Year, two Freshman of the Year, and one Newcomer of the Year. The Bulldogs appeared in the postseason National Invitational Volleyball Championship (NIVC) in three consecutive years, 2017-19.

From Big Spring, Texas to Houston, Texas to Baton Rouge, Louisiana to Tokyo, Japan to Huntsville, Alabama, Rose Magers-Powell saw those experiences as building blocks. She continues to build on her commitment to preparation and competitive excellence to this day. The legacy lives on!

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