LEXINGTON, KY (June 30, 2022) — The American Volleyball Coaches Association is pleased to announce that Dartanya “Dottie” Porch-Hampton and Ruth Lawanson are joining its History Commission.

The commission, which is a subgroup of the AVCA Diversity Development Team, was formed in 2020 to recognize, amplify, and celebrate the rich and diverse history of the sport of volleyball.

Porch-Hampton is preparing for her third season as the head women's volleyball coach at UNC-Wilmington. She was an assistant at Coastal Carolina before getting the job at UNCW, which is her third head coaching stop; the other two were South Carolina (2017) and Niagara (2012). Following her collegiate career at Purdue-Fort Wayne, where she was an AVCA All-American, she played professionally in Europe four seasons.

Lawanson has enjoyed a storied career as a student-athlete, coach, and clinician. In 1984, she became the first player in Fresno State history to earn first-team AVCA All-American honors. She was a four-year member with the U.S. Women’s National Team and was a bronze medalist at the 1992 Barcelona Games. After playing professionally in Italy and France, she began a 20-year coaching career that included stops at her alma mater, Purdue, Angelo State, Air Force, and Nevada. She now works as a trainer and club coach.
In its first two years, the History Commission has helped explore the contributions of Black Americans to the sport of volleyball through a range of initiatives. Throughout 2021, the Commission profiled 40 individuals—a Who’s Who of Black players, coaches, and contributors—that have influenced the sport across the past four decades. Phase 2 of the Commission's work, which began this January, is expanding the scope to focus on other ethnicities and is celebrating the 50th anniversary of Title IX.

Porch-Hampton and Lawanson join Deitre Collins-Parker (chair), Ray Gooden, Maggie Couture, Sarah Graves, and (ex-officio member) Nickie Sanlin to form the History Commission. For more information on the Commission, its purpose, and Phase 2 of its work, go to https://www.avca.org/diversity/ddt-historycommission2.html.

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