



ROD BELINSKI HALL OF FAME BUILDER

Rod began his volleyball career coaching when he started his teaching career in Mission in 1973. After three years coaching grade eight junior boys and girls, Rod moved to Kelowna and began coaching senior boys volleyball at KLO Secondary. From 1978 to 1998 he coached the KLO senior boys to 19 provincial championship appearances.

His impressive record includes four AAA and one single A gold, three AAA and one AA silvers, and four AAA and 1 AA bronzes. Rod took his coaching to the national and international level where he was the Assistant Coach of the BC Pacific Rim team at the 1987 Canada Games Team. He became the Head Coach of the Pacific Rim Teams with trips to Hawaii, Japan and Australia.

Rod helped develop a provincial ranking system for the BC High School Boys Provincial Championships. By introducing a weekly top-ten ranking system for AA and AAA boys' volleyball, it made the championships for volleyball more friendly and less of an endurance challenge. In 1999, Rod pursued a new coaching challenge - post-secondary - by becoming the Head Coach at the Okanagan University College. His success continued as he led the team to silver and bronze at the provincial level and won a bronze medal at the national level. Rod was also a provincial level official and was the allocator for officials in Kelowna from the mid-80s to 1999.

Rod received several awards during his volleyball career including a lifetime membership in the BC School Sports Volleyball Association, BC High School Coach of the Year, and induction into the Central Okanagan Hall of Fame in 2015.



KLO legends live on the court
By Daily Courier Staff
KLO Secondary School is no more, but the legend lives on. Now a middle school for Grades 7-9 instead of 8-12, KLO never did have more than 70 students, but "the little school that could" was among the top contributors per capita to the who's who in volleyball in Canada. One of the first significant graduates of the volleyball program headed up by Rod Belinski was Doug Balmor, who played on the first KLO team to go to the high school provincial championship tournament in 1978. He went on to play for the University of Victoria and coached the Canadian women's team and is back at the University of B.C. as coach.
Shane Beliman played for several provincial age-group teams and went on to play at UBC, while Dave Basso, Brian Miller and Kelly Bellman combined to help KLO win its first of five senior boys provincial championships in 1981. Miller and Beliman both played for a B.C. Five Rim team that travelled to Japan, while Basso was also a provincial player and played five years at UVic and professional volleyball in France. Erminia Russo also graduated in 1982 and went on to star at UBC, before a long career with the Canadian national team and competing in the 1986 Olympics in Atlanta. She also coached at her alma mater for three years.
Jason Baxter graduated in 1988 and later played volleyball at Laurentian College, where he would become that school's athlete of the year. In 1988, Steve Baldwin, Todd Schroeder and Conrad Latschmann led KLO to a bronze-medal finish at the high school provincial championships. Baldwin and Schroeder both played at UVic, while Latschmann went a little further afield. After playing at UBC and winning athlete-of-the-year honours there, he went on to play in France. He won Pan-Am Games gold and competed in the 2000 Olympics. While the entire list of players who graduated from KLO and who are now contributing to volleyball would be much too difficult to complete (and some would no doubt be left out), the accompanying photo is a good start.

