

## OTTO BREITENBACH DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD

The Western Collegiate Hockey Association's Distinguished Service Award was renamed the Otto Breitenbach WCHA Distinguished Service Award in honor of the successful commissioner and in conjunction with the 50th anniversary season of 2001-02.

The Otto Breitenbach WCHA Distinguished Service Award is presented to individuals who have rendered extraordinary service to the Association. There are no restrictions concerning persons eligible for the award or the number of awards that may be presented, however, a person shall not be eligible for nomination until after completion of their service to the Association. The award has been presented to coaches, administrators, officials, and members of the media.

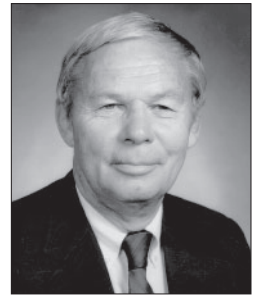
### OTTO BREITENBACH

One of the true giants in the annals of the Western Collegiate Hockey Association – longtime Commissioner and distinguished collegiate and high school athletic administrator Otto Breitenbach – passed away in January of 2007 at the age of 82.

Breitenbach served as WCHA Commissioner for 10 seasons from 1983-84 through 1993-94. Under his leadership, the league continually improved upon its high caliber of competition and integrity as well as its stature as one of the nation's premier collegiate conferences. WCHA teams won three NCAA championships during his tenure (North Dakota in 1987, Wisconsin in 1990, Northern Michigan in 1991). The league produced five Hobey Baker Memorial Award winners, nearly 70 players earned All-American honors, and the conference unveiled new awards for a Student-Athlete of the Year and a Defensive Player of the Year.

Ever a proponent of growing the game, Breitenbach oversaw the return of Michigan Tech and the addition of Northern Michigan to the league family in 1984, developed a new post-season playoff format and an annual playoff championship held at one site (that would become the WCHA Final Five) for the 1987-88 season, forged a unique inter-locking scheduling agreement with the new Hockey East Association, added St. Cloud State as the league's ninth member in 1990 and Alaska Anchorage as the 10th member in 1993-94. In addition, Breitenbach fashioned numerous playing tours of the WCHA by international teams, and he was a key figure in the

expansion of the NCAA tournament to a 12-team, two-regional tournament format in 1992. During his tenure, league revenues also grew significantly, there was a marked increase in national exposure, and attendance soared to more than 1,000,000 home fans per season. His tenure as the WCHA's guiding force culminated in the league naming its most prestigious honor – the WCHA Distinguished Service Award – in his honor.



In 1993, Breitenbach was honored for his longtime devotion to the sport of college hockey with the prestigious Jim Fullerton Award, presented by the AHCA.

Born June 27, 1924 and a native of Madison, Wis., Breitenbach enjoyed a distinguished career in athletics as a player, coach and administrator. He was a three-sport standout at Madison's Edgewood High School and went on to play college football as a halfback for the University of Wisconsin. In 1942, World War II interrupted his schooling as he served as an instructor-pilot for the United States Army Air Force until 1946.

Breitenbach received his Bachelor's degree in Physical Education from Wisconsin in 1948 and his Master's in 1955, then moved on to a successful tenure as football and track coach and athletic director at Madison LaFollette HS. He then joined the UW Athletic Department in 1973 and eventually served that institution for 15 distinguished years as associate athletic director in charge of sports that included football, hockey and basketball.

In 1987 (until 1997), Breitenbach took on yet another career challenge as Executive Director of the Badger State Games, an Olympic-style sports festival for amateur athletes in Wisconsin. Breitenbach was inducted into the Wisconsin Football Coaches' Hall of Fame and the Madison Sports Hall of Fame in 1980 and then into the University of Wisconsin Athletic Hall of Fame in 2008.

A proud and devoted husband, father, grandfather and great grandfather, Otto was an inspiration to all who knew him, dedicated to promoting and growing amateur athletics at all levels.



COMMISSIONER OTTO BREITENBACH PRESENTS THE MACNAUGHTON CUP TO WISCONSIN CAPTAINS MARK OSIECKI, STEVE ROHLIK, GARY SHUCHUK AND JOHN BYCE IN 1990



## OTTO BREITENBACH DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD WINNERS

### MURRAY ARMSTRONG • COACH • DENVER

Coached University of Denver for 21 seasons from 1956-77 ... had 463-215-31 career W-L record ... led Pioneers to 18 NCAA tourney appearances and five national championships (1958-60-61-68-69) ... won eight WCHA titles ... led 1960-61 DU team to near perfect 30-1-1 record ... twice named WCHA Coach of the Year and national coach of the year in 1960-61.

### AMO BESSONE • COACH • MICHIGAN STATE

Longtime, successful coach at Michigan State University ... served the Spartans for 29 years of WCHA competition and coached in 650 career games ... led MSU to 1966 NCAA hockey championship ... also guided the Spartans to second place at the national tournament in 1959 ... member of U.S. Hockey Hall of Fame.

### OTTO BREITENBACH • COMMISSIONER • WCHA

Distinguished athletic administrator who served as WCHA Commissioner for 10 years from 1984-94 ... was instrumental in expansion of WCHA membership and formation and success of new post-season championship ... developed new streams of revenue for the league and nurtured the WCHA's long history of international competition ... longtime Associate Athletic Director at Wisconsin.

### HERB BROOKS • COACH • MINNESOTA

Successful University of Minnesota coach from 1972-79 ... compiled 175-100-20 career record ... won three NCAA hockey championships (1974-76-79) ... led UM to WCHA title in 1975 ... was WCHA Coach of the Year in 1973-74 ... coached renowned USA Hockey Team to Gold at 1980 Winter Olympic Games in Lake Placid ... earned Silver at 2002 Winter Olympics in Salt Lake City ... U.S. Hockey Hall of Fame member.

### JERRY CARLE • ATHLETIC DIRECTOR • COLORADO COLLEGE

Successful administrator who served Colorado College for 25 years (1957-82) as director of athletics ... longtime friend and supporter of the WCHA and its mission ... had a noteworthy 33-year tenure as the CC Tigers' head football coach from 1957 to 1989.

### THOMAS CLIFFORD • PRESIDENT • NORTH DAKOTA

Distinguished President at University of North Dakota who was a good friend to the WCHA and collegiate athletics in general over five decades of service ... member of the North Dakota administrative staff for over 40 years ... avid supporter of UND ice hockey and the WCHA.

### RICK COMLEY • COACH & ATHLETIC DIRECTOR • NORTHERN MICHIGAN

Outstanding collegiate hockey coach and administrator ... compiled 783-615-110 mark in 38 seasons at Northern Michigan, Michigan State and Lake Superior State ... led NMU to 1990-91 WCHA regular season, WCHA playoff, and NCAA championship titles with 38-5-4 record ... WCHA Coach of the Year in 1991 ... also served as athletic director at NMU ... led Michigan State to NCAA championship in 2007.

### JACK FUZAK • FACULTY REPRESENTATIVE • MICHIGAN STATE

Distinguished, influential faculty representative to the WCHA from conference member Michigan State University ... served as Chair of the WCHA during his tenure at MSU ... also served as President of the National College Athletic Association.

### GINO GASPARINI • COACH & ATHLETIC DIRECTOR • NORTH DAKOTA

Outstanding hockey coach and administrator at University of North Dakota ... led his teams to 392-248-24 record from 1978 to 1994 ... won three NCAA championships, four WCHA championships, and three league playoff titles ... produced numerous All-Americans and subsequent NHL players at UND ... went on to later success as Commissioner of the USHL.



**BOB JOHNSON**

### ROBERT GEARY • EXECUTIVE SECRETARY, WCHA & ATHLETIC DIRECTOR, MINNESOTA

Renowned and avid supporter of the WCHA who served as the conference's executive secretary from 1981 to 1985 ... also had close ties to the WCHA and college hockey as associate athletic director while at the University of Minnesota from 1972 to 1985.

### PAUL GIEL • ATHLETIC DIRECTOR • MINNESOTA

Served as athletic director at University of Minnesota between 1971 and 1988 ... played key role in the development of a new post-season WCHA Playoff Championship in Saint Paul along with league commissioner Otto Breitenbach ... strong supporter and long-time friend of the WCHA and to the sport of college hockey.

### BOB GILRAY • REFEREE • WCHA

Longtime, dedicated, on-ice official who served the WCHA for many years ... refereed games involving many of the league's great teams, players and coaches, including the likes of Murray Armstrong, John MacInnes, John Mariucci and Charles 'Lefty' Smith ... honored for his outstanding career accomplishments at the league's 1999 annual meeting.

### LAURA HALLDORSON • COACH • MINNESOTA

Highly-successful women's hockey coach at University of Minnesota for 10 seasons ... won three NCAA Frozen Four championships (2000-04-05) ... five-straight Frozen Four appearances (2001-06) ... eight NCAA tourney appearances ... won four WCHA titles (2001-02-04-05) and three playoff titles (2002-04-05) ... three-time WCHA Coach of the Year and three-time national coach of the year (1998-2002-04).

### VIC HEYLIGER • COACH • MICHIGAN

Renowned ice hockey coach at University of Michigan ... was one of the primary players in the formation of the WCHA in 1951, originally known as the Western Intercollegiate Hockey League (WIHL) ... led his Michigan hockey teams to six NCAA Championships (1948-51-52-53-55-56) ... member of the U.S. Hockey Hall of Fame.

## OTTO BREITENBACH DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD WINNERS

### **BOB JOHNSON • COACH • COLORADO COLLEGE, WISCONSIN**

Legendary coach at University of Wisconsin from 1966-82 ... led Badgers to three NCAA titles (1973, 77, 81) and had a 367-175-23 (.670) record ... 1977 WCHA Coach of the Year ... coached at Colorado College from 1963-66 ... was CEO at USA Hockey and coached Pittsburgh to the NHL's Stanley Cup in 1991 ... member of Hockey Hall of Fame and U.S. Hockey Hall of Fame ... father of sons Mark and Peter.

### **ROSS JOHNSON • FACULTY REPRESENTATIVE, MICHIGAN TECH & EXECUTIVE SECRETARY, WCHA**

Longtime, distinguished faculty representative to the Western Collegiate Hockey Association from Michigan Technological University ... also served as Executive Secretary of the WCHA in the late 1960s and early 1970s.

### **TED KEARLY • ATHLETIC DIRECTOR • MICHIGAN TECH**

Served as director of athletics at Michigan Technological University from 1972 to 1990 ... longtime friend and influential supporter of the WCHA and college hockey ... served with, and played instrumental roles on, numerous Association committees over the years.

### **CAROL LABELLE-EHRHARDT • ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER • WCHA**

Enjoyed 17-year tenure as WCHA Associate Commissioner of Operations from 1997-2014 ... as Tournament Director, oversaw growth of the WCHA Final Five into college hockey's premier conference championship ... served as integral point of contact during formation of WCHA Women's League, and expansion and realignment of Men's League ... launched WCHA's social media presence.

### **JOHN MacINNIS • COACH • MICHIGAN TECH**

Legendary hockey coach at Michigan Tech University ... guided the Huskies to national prominence over four decades from 1956-82 ... compiled 26-year record of 555-295-39 ... led MTU to three NCAA titles and seven WCHA crowns ... honored as WCHA Coach of the Year five times (1960-62-66-71-76) ... chosen best coach in WCHA history in 50th Anniversary Edition of The Hockey News.

### **JOHN MARIUCCI • COACH • MINNESOTA**

Renowned player and coach referred to as the 'Godfather' of hockey at University of Minnesota ... was head coach from 1952-66, fashioning a career record of 215-148-18 ... led Gophers to WCHA titles in 1953 and 1954 ... had two second place NCAA tourney finishes ... earned All-American honors as a player at UM in 1940 ... member of The Hockey Hall of Fame and U.S. Hockey Hall of Fame.

### **LEONARD MARTI • ATHLETIC DIRECTOR • NORTH DAKOTA**

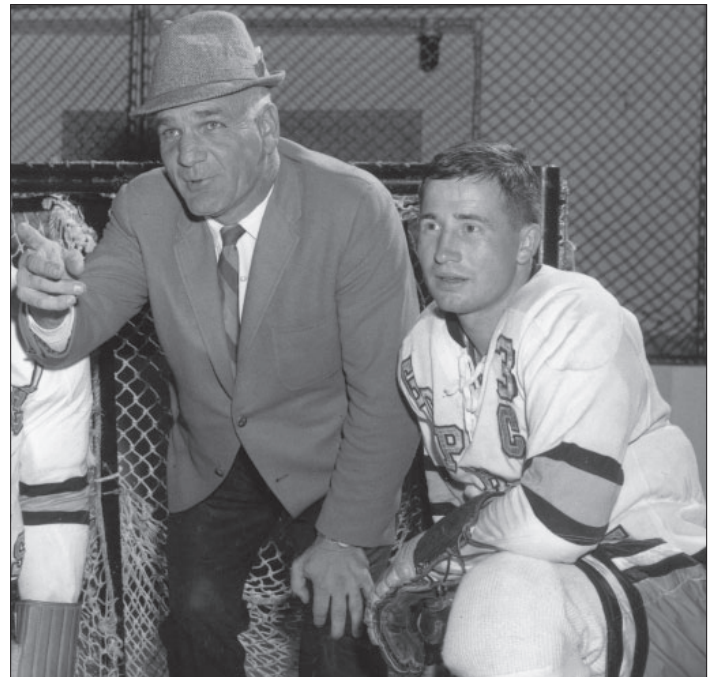
Served as University of North Dakota Athletic Director between 1960 and 1976 ... devoted much of his life to the development of young people in the fields of athletics and physical education in the Midwest ... good friend to the WCHA and it's mission over the years

### **BOB MARTIN • BROADCASTER • DENVER**

Enthusiastic supporter of University of Denver, the WCHA, and college hockey ... longtime play-by-play radio voice of the Pioneers ... handled broadcasts of five NCAA championships won by DU ... president of DU's Pioneer Club ... member of the Colorado Sports Hall of Fame.

### **JOEL MATURI • ATHLETIC DIRECTOR • WISCONSIN, DENVER, MINNESOTA**

Influential contributor to the WCHA and college hockey over three decades ... served on numerous league and NCAA committees ... served as Athletic Director at UM from 2002-12, with broad team successes that resulted in numerous WCHA, Big 10 and NCAA championships ... driving force behind new TCF Bank Stadium for Gopher football ... also served as AD at DU and Miami and Associate AD at UW.



**JOHN MARIUCCI (L) AND DOUG WOOG (R)**

### **BRUCE McLEOD • COMMISSIONER • WCHA**

Served highly-successful 20-year tenure as WCHA Commissioner from 1994-2014, succeeding Otto Breitenbach ... led league to unprecedented successes, with teams winning eight NCAA titles ... built WCHA Final Five into the premier conference tournament championship ... oversaw development of WCHA.com, This Week in the WCHA weekly radio show, the league's 50th Anniversary Season and 50-year video history, and first league-wide video streaming partnership with America ONE Sports ... influential voice in collegiate hockey and also with Hockey Commissioners' Association ... native of Fort Frances, ON.

### **OLIVER 'BUTCH' MOUSSEAU • REFEREE • WCHA**

Beloved person and figure in the WCHA and the sport of hockey, tragically passed away March 25, 2016 stemming from critical head injuries suffered during a fall to the ice during warmups on March 18, 2016 ... true champion of hockey at all levels, the first Native American to work a game in the NHL and a WCHA on-ice official from 2003-16, he was a consummate professional and a wonderful human being.

### **BOB OLSON • BROADCASTER • MICHIGAN TECH**

Distinguished play-by-play radio voice of the Michigan Tech Huskies for more than 30 seasons ... was the 'dean' of broadcasters in the WCHA when he retired in 2002 and was always one of college hockey's best friends and promoters ... his Houghton (MI) radio station - WMPL - conducted college hockey's oldest and most respected weekly poll for many years.

### **MARCUS PLANT • FACULTY REPRESENTATIVE • MICHIGAN**

Distinguished faculty representative to the Western Collegiate Hockey Association from the University of Michigan ... played an influential and contributing role in the early development and growth of the conference.

### **BOB REID • PUBLICITY & STATISTICS • WCHA**

Contributed nearly a quarter century of service to the league, beginning with the original WIHL (Western Intercollegiate Hockey League) in 1953 ... handled publicity and coordinated statistical and informational aspects of the league between 1953 and 1974.

### **FRANK REMINGTON • FACULTY REPRESENTATIVE • WISCONSIN**

Renowned Professor of Law at University of Wisconsin who also served as the school's faculty representative to the WCHA in the 1960s, 1970s and 1980s ... was a strong supporter of, and respected voice for, collegiate ice hockey and collegiate athletics overall.





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### AL RENFREW • COACH • MICHIGAN, MICHIGAN TECH, NORTH DAKOTA

Successful hockey coach at University of Michigan in the 1950's and 1960's ... built on the strong Wolverine hockey tradition established by Vic Heyliger ... also coached at Michigan Tech from 1951-56 and at North Dakota ... led Wolverines to the NCAA championship in 1964 ... named WCHA Coach of the Year in 1964.

### RALPH ROMANO • ATHLETIC DIRECTOR • MINNESOTA DULUTH

Hockey coach and successful athletic director at University of Minnesota Duluth ... was a major influence in growth and success of collegiate athletics there ... coached Bulldogs from 1959-68 and was AD from 1968-83 ... had tenure as Chair of the NCAA Rules Committee.

### GEORGE SCHUBERT • FACULTY REPRESENTATIVE • NORTH DAKOTA

Longtime, distinguished faculty representative at University of North Dakota ... great friend to the WCHA and to college hockey in general ... served as a Chair of the Association and was a key member of numerous conference committees over the years.

### MAX SCHULTZE • FACULTY REPRESENTATIVE • MINNESOTA

Distinguished faculty representative to the WCHA from the University of Minnesota ... served in that capacity from 1962 to 1974 ... strong supporter of college athletics, becoming involved with Minnesota's committee on intercollegiate athletics after joining the faculty.

### MIKE SERTICH • COACH • MINNESOTA DULUTH, MICHIGAN TECH

Successful, respected coach for 21 seasons at Minnesota Duluth (1982-2000) and Michigan Tech (2000-03) ... amassed 375 career victories (350 with UMD) ... led UMD to three WCHA titles (1984-85-93) and two NCAA Frozen Fours ... four-time WCHA Coach of the Year ... 1984 National Coach of the Year ... helped coach WCHA All-Stars at 1988 Kolin Cup in Switzerland ... president of AHCA ... played at UMD.

### GREG SHEPHERD • REFEREE/SUPERVISOR OF OFFICIALS • WCHA

Finished his 42nd season with the WCHA – and 29th as Supervisor of Officials – in 2020-21 ... the longest-tenured officials' supervisor in college hockey at the time, he began in the role with the WCHA Men's League in 1992 and served in the same capacity for the WCHA Women's League from its inception in 1999 ... debuted with the WCHA in 1978 ... spent 14 years as an on-ice official with the league, working in 10 NCAA Men's Frozen Fours during that time.

### BURT SMITH • COMMISSIONER • WCHA

Former Commissioner of the WCHA who served the conference while at Michigan State University ... recognized as a major influence in the growth of collegiate hockey in the 1970's and early 1980's ... was a good, dedicated friend to the conference.

### CHARLES 'LEFTY' SMITH • COACH • NOTRE DAME

Longtime successful, colorful hockey coach at University of Notre Dame ... guided the Fighting Irish from 1968-87, compiling an overall record of 307-320-30 ... had five 20-win seasons ... team finished second in the WCHA race in both 1972-73 and 1976-77 ... all of his players at Notre Dame went on to earn a college degree.

### DOUG SPENCER • ASSISTANT SID • UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER OF PUBLIC RELATIONS • WCHA

Long-time WCHA and University of Wisconsin publicist ... served the league (1986-2014) and UW (1982-90) for 32 years during an era of great success and change for the WCHA ... coordinated public and media information needs, assisted in the general administration of the annual WCHA Final Five, produced numerous publications for both the men's and women's leagues, issued regular press releases and statistics, and maintained historical playing records ... oversaw the initial development and management of the league's first-ever website and its long-running radio show, "This Week in the WCHA ... directed promotional efforts associated with the WCHA's season-long 50th Anniversary celebration in 2001-02.



JOHN MACINNES

### ROBERT STEIN • FACULTY REPRESENTATIVE • MINNESOTA

Longtime, dedicated faculty representative and distinguished Dean of Law School at University of Minnesota ... served as Chair of the WCHA ... key member of numerous Association committees over a long and influential tenure ... enthusiastic supporter of college hockey.

### TERRY TOY • FACULTY REPRESENTATIVE • DENVER

Great friend and ardent supporter of the WCHA, its mission, and of the sport of college hockey overall ... served a long and distinguished tenure as University of Denver's faculty representative to the WCHA ... respected and influential player on numerous Association committees.

### RAY WERNER • FACULTY REPRESENTATIVE • COLORADO COLLEGE

Professor Emeritus and Chairman of the Economics Department at Colorado College ... enjoyed a distinguished career that spanned five decades ... served an influential tenure as CC's faculty representative to the WCHA for many years.

### DOUG WOOD • COACH • MINNESOTA

Was winningest hockey coach in University of Minnesota hockey history at time of retirement with 389-187-40 (.664) mark over 14 seasons (1985-99) ... led UM to seven 30-win seasons, four WCHA titles and three playoff crowns ... had 12 NCAA tourney appearances and led his teams to six Frozen Fours ... member U.S. Hockey Hall of Fame ... was an All-American forward at UM with 101 points in 80 games.

### RICK YEO • ATHLETIC DIRECTOR/COACH • MICHIGAN TECH

Distinguished college hockey player, coach and administrator ... was Athletic Director at Michigan Tech from 1990-2005 and also senior director of athletic development ... standout player for the Huskies from 1963-66 ... helped MTU to the NCAA championship and WCHA championships in both 1965 and 1966 ... inducted into the MTU Sports Hall of Fame in 1988.