



In Memoriam: Luigi 'Lou' Moro (1918-2009)

Builder (inducted BC Sports Hall of Fame and Museum, 1995)

Team member, 1989 Vancouver 86ers soccer team (inducted BCSHFM, 2004)

Team member, 1964 Vancouver Carlings lacrosse team (inducted BCSHFM, 2005)

On September 30, 2009, Lou Moro, whose involvement with soccer and lacrosse in BC stretches over six decades and led to his induction in numerous Halls of Fame, passed away at the age of 91.

Born in Savona, Italy on April 26, 1918, Moro moved to Trail, BC with his family in 1929. It was in Trail that he was first introduced to lacrosse and grew to admire the work of long-time Smoke Eaters trainer Bert Repton, the initial inspiration behind his decision to become a trainer himself.

Moro moved to Vancouver in 1942 and was conscripted to serve in the navy during WWII, stationed in Victoria. There, he began his career as a trainer with the Canadian naval hockey team, which continued after the war when he became trainer for the 1948 Vancouver Main Merchants in the now-defunct Mainland Soccer League.

Moro learned the trade on the job, never attending any formal trainer's or physiotherapy school, but picked up bits of wisdom and tricks of the trade from the athletes and other trainers he met along the way. He discovered that in restoring an athlete's confidence after an injury, therapy must be as much psychological as physical. Soon enough he would be considered a master of the scissors, tape and tiger balm, of the human body and returning an athlete to sound health.

Over the next four decades he helped soothe aches and pains of pros, amateurs, and youth alike with such teams as the North Shore United soccer club, the Vancouver Burrards/Carlings lacrosse club, the Vancouver Whitecaps, the Vancouver 86ers, and Cliff Avenue United. Moro served as trainer on Canada's 1957 national soccer squad that narrowly missed out on qualifying for the 1958 World Cup in Sweden. He also accompanied a Canadian national touring side that traveled to the Soviet Union and Britain. He returned as national trainer for Canada's World Cup qualifying team in 1972 and 1976.

A fixture at the annual Vancouver Sun Soccer tournament since 1953, he also supervised trainers at the 1973 Canada Summer Games in Burnaby/New Westminster and through the 1980s served as trainer for BC Soccer Association summer camps and training clinics. For his contributions to BC soccer, in 1973, he was honoured with the Aubrey Sanford Achievement Award.

Over the years, the door to his Burnaby home was always open to athletes and patients alike, the basement growing into a gathering place for those he assisted, as well as a shrine to BC soccer. The walls became lined with awards, photos, pennants, programs and souvenirs from his many teams and many travels.



Moro took great pleasure in playing tour guide, relating memories and yarns of the great players and moments he had been lucky enough to witness.

Besides Moro, at present only three other individuals have ever been inducted into the BC Sports Hall of Fame on three separate occasions—Bob Ackles, Bob Lenarduzzi, and Herb Capozzi. The company of such individuals speaks volumes of the contribution Moro made to British Columbian sport.

Lou Moro was inducted into the BC Sports Hall of Fame first as an all-round Builder in 1995, then as a team member of the 1989 Vancouver 86ers and 1964 Vancouver Carlings in 2004 and 2005 respectively. He has also been honoured with induction into the Canadian Lacrosse Hall of Fame in 1975, Italian-Canadian Cultural Hall of Fame in 1984, Canada's Soccer Hall of Fame in 2000, and Burnaby Sports Hall of Fame in 2001.