



BC SPORTS  
HALL OF FAME  
AND MUSEUM



*Honouring the Past.  
Inspiring the Future.*



## **BC SPORTS HALL OF FAME**

**In Memoriam: Mary Campbell (1910-2009)**

**Team member, 1930 UBC Thunderbirds Women's Sr. A  
Basketball team**

On March 4, 2009, Mary Campbell, one of two surviving members of the pioneering 1930 UBC women's basketball team, passed away at the age of 98. Lois (Tourtelotte) Fisher is the last living member of the team.

During the 1929-30 season, the UBC women's Sr. A basketball team won the Vancouver and District women's basketball championship and advanced to play the famed Edmonton Grads, reigning world champions, to determine the champion of western Canada. Although, the Grads defeated UBC in their two-game total point series, they were unable to attend the upcoming world championships. In April 1930, Campbell and her UBC women's basketball teammates were chosen to represent the "West" or the best in North America at the Women's Olympiad in Prague, Czechoslovakia.

After a 17-day train and boat trip to Prague from Vancouver, UBC met France, the European champions, on September 8, 1930. Playing on an outdoor cinder court with a smaller ball, baskets two feet higher than normal, and an Italian referee who spoke only French, the UBC women overcame more than their share of obstacles to defeat the French 18-14 before an estimated 10,000 spectators and capture the women's world title. Campbell and her teammates were feted with city awards and luncheons upon their return to Vancouver later that month.

After graduating from UBC in 1932, Campbell taught English and PE at high school in Penticton and Vancouver including a 23-year stay at John Oliver High School from 1938 to 1961. While at John Oliver, Campbell also coached legions of local athletes in basketball, track and field and field hockey, a few who ended up in the various Halls of Fame themselves.

In recent years Campbell had been a supporter financially of both UBC women's basketball and the BC Sports Hall of Fame and Museum. Up until very recently, she could be seen regularly in her favourite courtside seat at War Memorial Gym supporting the UBC women's team during games. After the last game Campbell attended in February, she hosted her annual scholarship event awarding the Mary Campbell Women's Athletic Endowment Award.

The 1930 UBC Thunderbirds Women's Sr. A Basketball team was inducted into the BC Sports Hall of Fame and Museum in 1982. The team was also honoured with induction into the UBC Sports Hall of Fame in 1993 and the Canadian Basketball Hall of Fame in 2006.