

# BOYCOTT IS ONE OF CANADA'S MOST DECORATED SPECIAL OLYMPIANS

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Mike Knoepfli, Cristy Nurse, Rod Pasma and the Bianchi Family, Sunny Acres Farms.

After leading Georgetown to the OFSAA championship in 1986, Berentson accepted a scholarship to Western Michigan University at a time when athletic scholarships to U.S. colleges for Canadians were not common outside of hockey.

Berentson led the Broncos to Mid-American Conference championships in three of her four seasons at the school, earning championship MVP honours in her senior season. She was a two-time conference first-team all-star and 30 years after graduating, she still holds five school records, including her 611 kills in one season.

"Some of them have disappeared, which is fine," she said. "I'm surprised I'm even still on the board."

And while some of her marks have been surpassed, she still ranks

among the top 10 career kills, service aces and points per set.

Following her college career, which earned her induction into the school's athletic hall of fame in 2007, she played for Canada at the 1990 world championships in Beijing, China.

She also signed on to play professionally in Europe, first in Switzerland and then France.

Berentson still considers those years a career highlight.

"It was exciting getting to experience a different culture," she said. "I got to meet people from all over the world and play against some of the people I had played against in the U.S."

Shoulder and hip injuries eventually forced her to retire, but Berentson never lost her love for the sport.

"I just loved playing volleyball," Berentson said. "It was always the most comfortable place for me."

Going into the Halton Hills Sports Hall of Fame

with Berentson will be:

## Emily Boycott, rhythmic gymnastics

Boycott is one of Canada's most decorated Special Olympians. She has represented Canada at three Special Olympic World Summer Games, winning 16 medals (10 gold, six silver). She was twice named Ontario's Special Olympics athlete of the year and earned four overall championships at the Canadian Special Olympics and the World Down Syndrome Games. She was recently awarded one of the 50 Medallion Awards presented by Special Olympics Ontario to mark the 50th anniversary of the first Special Olympics in Canada.

## Mike Knoepfli, hockey

Knoepfli is one of only four players to score 100 goals and one of only six to record 200 points in Jr. A with the Georgetown Raiders, despite playing just three seasons. The team later retired his number.

Knoepfli was drafted by

the Toronto Maple Leafs in the 2001 NHL Entry Draft. He played four seasons at Cornell University, winning two conference championships with the Big Red, and was named team captain in his senior year. He earned four team awards at Cornell, recognizing his leadership, academic achievement and dedication.

Knoepfli went on to play 11 seasons of pro hockey in Switzerland.

## Cristy Nurse, rowing

Nurse was a member of the Canadian women's rowing team from 2010 to 2016. She represented Canada at several world championships, winning four silver and two bronze medals.

Nurse was named to the Canadian Olympic team in 2016 for the Rio Games, where Canada finished fifth. That year she was named the Rowing Canada's senior athlete of the year.

Prior to switching to

rowing, Nurse was a member of the Guelph Gryphons Ontario university championship basketball team.

She was also named the University of Ottawa's athlete of the year while attending law school in the nation's capital.

## Rod Pasma, hockey

A standout with the Georgetown Gemini Jr. B team, Pasma was drafted ninth overall in the Ontario Hockey League (OHL) draft and a year later the Washington Capitals selected him in the second round of the 1990 NHL draft. Following three seasons in the OHL, he played for Laurentian University where he was named team captain.

After a season of minor pro hockey, Pasma switched his focus to the administrative side of the game. In 1998, he joined the NHL's operations department, supervising officials. He then began working his way through the minor leagues in variety of roles from the Central Hockey League, to the East Coast Hockey League and to executive vice-president of hockey operations for the American Hockey League. He now holds the same title with the NHL, managing the nightly op-

erations of the league's video room.

## Sunny Acre Farms (Bianchi Family), hockey

Recognized as minor hockey's "super sponsor," Sunny Acre Farms has sponsored hockey in Georgetown for 50 years, specifically a long-standing affiliation with the local midget AA team.

Walter Bianchi started the sponsorship in the 1960s. Since his death in 2001, his son Gary has carried on the tradition.

Both Walter and Gary were more than team sponsors, though. They were fans of the team as well, with both being fixtures in the stands over the years, cheering on the team at both home and away games.

Sunny Acres has also supported the Georgetown Hockey Heritage dinner for more than 40 years.

Induction ceremonies will be held Thursday, June 20 at the John Elliott Theatre.

Former Toronto Rock standout Sandy Chapman will be the keynote speaker. There will be a reception at 6 p.m. followed by the awards ceremony at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$30. For more information, contact Glenda Nixdorf at 905-873-1360.



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