

# Kevin Fitzpatrick

Inducted into the NLBA Hall of Fame in 2013 as a

“Builder”



Kevin Francis Joseph Fitzpatrick better known as “Fitz” has been a part of the Basketball Community in Newfoundland for over 40 years. His dedication, love of the game and desire to give back to the sport of Basketball has made him one of the most respected persons in the sport!

He started playing basketball in 1969 at the age of 12. He played for three years with Holy Cross from 1969-1971 as Point Guard and was known for his shot and his ability to handle the ball. He celebrated many City Championships with that team! Kevin has and always will be a Crusader and still remembers the day the team was told to get out the gym because the school was on fire. In 1972 he went on to play with the Senior Team at Brother Rice High School. After that season Kevin left the sport until one night in 1980 when he was approached by Gordon Breen in the bowling alley of St. Pat’s. He

asked Kev if he played ball because the team playing upstairs was in need of some extra players. The rest is history. From that day forward, Kevin became a member of the Metro League.

A dominant player from the start Kevin won his first Metro Championship on 1982 and was selected Best defensive player for the season. Besides playing, Kevin could be found refereeing, score keeping or keeping the peace when tempers flared. Kevin was selected 3 times in the 1980’s to represent Metro in the Russell tournament that ran in those years.

In 1990 Gordon Breen retired from the Metro League he had no hesitation passing the torch on to Kevin and George Bishop to run the league. He knew the league would be in good hands! In the 1990-91 seasons, under Kevin’s guidance, the Metro Basketball League became a member of the NLBA for the first time bringing insurance coverage to all of its players and the opportunity to play in Provincial Tournaments. He also turned over refereeing duties of the league to the St. John’s association of basketballs officials, bringing the Metro League into the fullness of the Basketball Community.

In 1992 Kevin took over full control of the league. Throughout the years Kevin has given his heart and soul to the Metro League. His devotion and decisions brought the league from a 6 team league playing 2 nights per week to an 8 team league playing 3 nights per week with a call up list of 30 plus players waiting to play in the league.

Some of his other accomplishments through the years have been:

- He set up the league with an executive, consisting of a President, Treasurer/Convenor and a team Rep from each team all having vote on league matters. Developed a constitution to govern the league.
- He restarted the Metro Outdoor Tournament He promoted it as family day Tournament and encourages players to bring along their spouses and kids. This tournament is the highlight of the Metro League and celebrated its 18th consecutive year this past season.

- He one of the co-founders of the Annual Margaret Breen Memorial Tournament
- He helped develop a web site for the league opening the league up to anyone who was interested.
- Created the History page to honor the hundreds of players who had played in the league through the years.

Along with all his devotion to the Metro League Kevin has been an active member of the NLBA since 1996. For the next 16 years Kevin has been involved with the organization on many levels starting with being elected as Regional Director for St. John's North. He also was a member of the Hall of Fame Induction committee, Hall of Fame Cup committee, Senior Tournament Director and Policy Director. In 2007 Kevin received the President's award for his work with the NLBA and his contribution to the sport throughout the Province. Kevin has been a tireless worker on behalf of the NLBA. Although retired from the executive part of the association, he continues to serve several committees.