

Ken Sherk

# Playing the Game . . . And Winning!



**T**he lights dimmed, the crowd rose to their feet, the noise level became an ear-deafening roar.

Then came the introductions from the stadium announcer . . .

*Starting at centre, former Olympian and NBA star, standing 7 feet and recently inducted into the Canadian Hall of Fame—Lars Hansen.*

*Standing 6' 4", playing the power forward position, one of the best*

*all-round shooters in the game—Steve Pettifer.*

*At point guard, former SFU standout—Lloyd Scrubb.*

*One of the best prime-time players in the game today at 6' 6"—UBC alumnus Steve Glover.*

*Rounding out the starting 5, providing muscle and finesse, a modern-day Charles Barkley, standing 6' 4"—Dean Bauck.*

That's what we would like to have heard as play began in the BC Masters Championships finals in April.

The reality was that the fans present were mostly our wives, girlfriends, and children. Our opponents, who had played well to get to the finals, were not at full strength due to injuries incurred in games the previous 2 days.

The body just does not respond the way it once did and, for a couple of our opponents' players, the road to the finals ended early, and with pain.

Our Shadow team endured. Maturity sets in and where once you wanted to take over games, most days you just can't. Simply getting up and down the court can be a challenge, thus you tend to play more as a team. You recognize when your team mates are on their game and you let them run with it.

So it was for our team. Led by sharp-shooting Steve Glover, we played a team game and won the Provincial Championship. In the excitement of achievement, there was even talk about the World Masters in Australia in 2009!

Not one of us wants to stop playing, even when we know our skill levels are diminished. Father Time marches on, but we can march along with him. For those of you still involved in a sporting endeavour, keep playing. The joy is in continuing to compete, in the sportsmanship, and in the friendships made.

It was fun to be a champion at an athletic event again. Congratulations to my team mates! ▲



## The Mountain Shadow Team Provincial Champions

Back row, from left: Steve Glover, Dan Harbord, Lars Hansen, Dean Bauck, Steve Pettifer  
Front row: Ken Sherk, Tony Scott, Kelly Young, Doug Lucas, Lloyd Scrubb