

Ken Sherk



Give Back to Your Community . . . Start as a Spectator!

Everyone has a passion in life.

One of mine is basketball, which I still do play, but at a much slower pace.

I have coached the game, from elementary school kids to high school to college and enjoyed every minute of it, but there have been some days . . .

I have had the fun of coaching my two sons, then having the elder son coach the younger with me.

Eight years ago, two basketball players, Howard Kelsey and Lars Hansen—who had represented our country at the Olympics and other venues—came up with the idea of hosting a basketball tournament to bring together all levels of basketball players—high school boys and girls



Photos courtesy Vancouver Sports Pictures

competing against each other. Their idea was to give everyone—not just the elite programs—an opportunity to participate in a big tournament and have a chance to play in the finals in front of what they hoped would be a packed house at UBC's War Memorial Gym.

In their vision, the business community and others would get involved and contribute financially so that players participating in the tournament would receive scholarships to further their education.

On December 9, 2007, along with 2000 fans, I attended the finals of this tournament—now in its 8th year! The games were outstanding for the play and the fan participation, with each school's fans cheering their respective team from opposite sides of the floor. The girls' final (Handsworth vs. Riverside) went down to the last minute—and Riverside won. The boys' final (Vancouver College vs. Kitsilano) saw Kitsilano come out on top.

On this night, over 30 scholarships were granted to worthy participants who had combined sportsmanship, athleticism, and academics. The amounts ranged from \$1500 to a full ride at one of our province's universities. Community and business leaders were on hand to present the awards.

Coaches Rich Goulet and Ken Dockendorf were acknowledged for their 38 straight years of coaching at the high school level. I have known both men for many years and

congratulate them for their dedication and energy. They have left lasting impressions on many of our youth who have gone on to be good citizens in our communities. It was wonderful to see these two coaches recognized on this stage.

Howard Kelsey and Lars Hansen, along with Doug Kelsey, Ron Putzi, and Misty Thomas, are giving back to our community, as are many, many more individuals who commit their time to the best interests of our youth.

I urge *Scrivener* readers from the corporate community to get involved in this growing and expanding annual tournament. It's a wonderful week for youth to play and be rewarded.

Over the next 3 months, take the time to attend a game at an elementary school or high school, a college, or a university. Support our youth. You will be entertained and amazed at the talent and enthusiasm of the coaches and the players! ▲



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