

Christie Huczek
Racquetball Canada Hall of Fame
Acceptance Remarks
May 2018

Congratulations to my fellow inductees. I've competed with you, against you and amongst you. We've travelled together and won a World Title together. What an honour. Racquetball Canada – thank you for this celebration and allowing me time to reflect on these moments as it brings much gratitude for our sport we love.

The year, 1983. Labour Day Weekend. The Four Seasons Racquet Club. The Kelowna Open. This annual extravaganza kicked off my 30 year relationship with a sport which provided me with my education, travel, love, career and many many laughs....too many to count. I was six years old, had just won my first junior national title and I had 30 racquetball crazed people staying at my family home for the long weekend – Heather Stupp was crashing in my single bed waking up to posters of Madonna and Michael Jackson every morning. This was the definition of cool.

My parents at the time in their early thirties were not shy about their love for racquetball and the community of people that came with it. They always opened their home, they coached, they volunteered and were just plain involved. This had a profound effect on me – something I couldn't properly appreciate until I became a parent myself. My dad was there 150% of the time willing to play pickup with me any day of the week, patient enough with me to teach me the sport. My mom single-handedly organized a Junior Program at the Four Seasons which drew over 50 kids to the club a couple of nights a week and formed the very reason I stuck with the sport for so many years – fun and friendships. Thank-you mom and thank-you dad. And thank-you to all of the other volunteers who all made this happen.

Fast forward to March 2018. Easter Weekend. Family trip to Kelowna. Hundreds of tournaments, many wins, many losses and many heartbreak moments in between. There I am on a Saturday morning with my mom and dad, my brothers, niece and nephew, Jack and our kids playing pickup with Dean Loverin on court one at the old Four Seasons - this time playing for Ciders. I couldn't be happier. Racquetball has kept my family healthy, given us love, brought us together and kept us together. This is my ongoing deep seated gratitude for the sport.

Now, I am on to playing the position of being patient with my kids, keeping my promise of being involved, volunteering and doing everything we can to fulfill their dreams as my parents did for me. The circle of life.

Thank you Racquetball Canada, Sport Canada, my friends, my peers and to everyone involved.

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