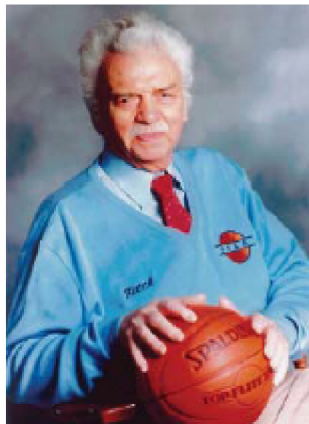


Kitch MacPherson to be named to Hamilton Sports Hall of Fame



The best known basketball referee in Canada.

That's how former NCAA basketball official Ron Foxcroft refers to his mentor and one of the newest inductees to the Hamilton Sports Hall of Fame.

The late Kitch MacPherson, the dean of Canadian basketball officials, will be one of six new inductees.

MacPherson died in 1998. He was 82.

"He is the best basketball referee ever to come out of Canada," Foxcroft said of MacPherson. "He was a total mentor."

MacPherson, a decorated war veteran and recipient of the Military Medal, had a 51-year career with the Hamilton Spectator. He retired as the superintendent of maintenance.

But MacPherson, the first Canadian referee to be accredited by FIBA, the international governing body, is best remembered as a pioneering basketball official. He founded the Ontario Referees Association and is a member of the Canadian Basketball Hall of Fame.

"He'd come in and talk to us before a game and then walk out the door. Just before he opened the door, he'd turn to us and say 'Give 'em a good ball game,'" Foxcroft once told the Spec's John Kernaghan.

The Hamilton Sports Hall of Fame has inducted 37 Hamiltonians since coming into existence five years ago. Beginning in 2014, four to six inductees will be added each year.