

Margaret Lord

Inducted 1993

In an age when women played a largely invisible role in amateur sport in Canada, Margaret Lord was different. Even today, as more and more women are moving to the forefront of every aspect of sport, Margaret stands out for the barriers she broke down, for the amazing breadth of the tasks she undertook — always with great success — and for the strength of her dedication to sport. Like so many of Canada's great volunteers, her commitment was lifelong.

Fittingly, it was the 1930 British Empire Games that first kindled Margaret's interest in international sport. Already a force on the national scene as a founder of the Canadian Ladies Athletic Club, Margaret naturally got involved when the Games came to her home town of Hamilton, Ontario. It was an interest that would never wane.

The list of "firsts" that mark Margaret's life reveals the scope of her involvement in sport. She was, for example, the first woman in the Commonwealth to be elected as an officer of a Commonwealth Games Association, serving as a vice president for 15 years. She was the only woman elected to the executive of the Amateur Athletic Union, serving as president of the Canadian branch. She was one of two women named to the first National Advisory Council for Fitness and Amateur Sport.

Margaret's love of sport was not limited to working behind the scenes. She gave in equal measure to many of Canada's finest track and field athletes, most notably as a highly respected team manager with Olympic as well as Commonwealth Games

teams — at Vancouver in 1954 and at Perth, Australia, in 1962. At the 1958 Games at Cardiff, Wales, she was secretary of the Canadian team. Until slowed by ill health in the late 1980s, Margaret missed only two Commonwealth Games.

Writing about her contribution to the 1952 Olympic team, track and field coach Joey Richman said: "Margaret Lord ... was not only a good leader but a pal to the girls and an invaluable aide to me in acquiring information or accomplishing things for us." Richman had hit upon two of Margaret's outstanding traits — her leadership skills and her ability to get things done. These traits were evident throughout her life and go a long way towards explaining her many successes.

With her recent death, the Commonwealth Games Association of Canada has lost a true sportswoman. She will always be remembered for the energy, dedication and devotion she brought to her chosen endeavours. We are proud to honour Margaret Lord with the Award of Merit — the highest honour the Association can bestow.

