



2004 HOF Speech

Ruth Stevenson - Accepted by Joan Wagner

How honored I am this evening to present to you for induction into this most prestigious Hall of Fame, Ruth Stevenson, known to all of us who knew and loved her - as Stevie.

Ruth Stevenson, a tall, imposing athlete, played & refereed everything - hockey, basketball, volleyball & lacrosse to name a few. In her later years, golf became her passion.

Stevie taught and coached lacrosse for 30 years, & I was lucky enough to be one of her students. She shared her love & knowledge of the game with us. The drills were fun and the games were the best. She had the knack of criticizing you in a positive manner. If you made a bad pass and the ball was intercepted, Stevie would chirp out, "It's nice of you to share, but not with the other team!" She had a wonderful sense of humor while always being the teacher.

Stevie was a terrific coach & mentor - and she was our coach, not our buddy. She demanded dedication and hard work from us. We knew she wanted us to be the best that we could be, and if we worked hard, we were going to be decent!! She instilled in all her sense of honesty, hard work, patience, respect and integrity.

Those who umpired with her said she was strict, but fair - called it like it was. She worked the top level games of her time and mentored many, many young officials.

Unfortunately, Ruth Stevenson passed away in November of 2002. She would have humbly loved this evening, and all of us who knew, loved, respected and admired Stevie, are so disappointed she can't be here.

But I do believe her spirit is with us, and on her behalf, and on behalf of all of her family and friends, I thank you for recognizing what a powerful presence she was in the development of women's sports, especially our beloved lacrosse.