



FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT  
FOR HEALTHY LIVING  
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

## **YMCA Volleyball Hall of Fame Remarks by Jim Weaton National Director of MSPS Events, YMCA of the USA**

No one can doubt the level of importance we have come to attach to sport and success in our society. From our YMCA Youth Volleyball clinics and leagues through to the Olympics and beyond to the thousands of YMCA adult lifetime leagues across this country, this sport and, more importantly, those who participate in it at every level are striving for self-defined success.

It occurs to me that there has never been a more crucial time for sport in our society. On one level, millions upon millions are watching and participating. Rewards or stakes have never been higher. The influence that sports have over our young people has never been greater. At the same time, we are aware that that influence needs to be positive, values based and modeled.

Induction into the National YMCA Volleyball Hall of Fame is not only a great honor, it showcases all that is good and positive and values based. Our Hall of Fame is an essential part of who the YMCA is and we are proud of all its members. We stop each year, at this moment and reflect upon and recognize people, like you honored today, which help us hold our sense of PLACE in the Volleyball World.

This is what makes the National YMCA Volleyball Hall of Fame important to YMCA of the USA. It gives us the opportunity to celebrate the very real achievement of our YMCA members and what they have represented through the years. And, most importantly, it continues to give other aspiring YMCA Volleyball Athletes worthy role models to emulate.

On behalf of YMCA of the USA, I am proud to welcome this year's YMCA Volleyball Class of 2010. We pay tribute to each of you for the contributions to YMCA Volleyball that means much to our movement. We are proud that this sport had its beginnings at the YMCA. You represent the very best of what YMCA Volleyball has to offer. You stand for everything that we can achieve. And today, your name is added to the others and to the great history of this YMCA sport. Your name now symbolizes for all time, your skill and your mastery of the sport you love. To those who will see your name, it will always be synonymous with YMCA Volleyball. Congratulations.

By your hard work, your dedication and your passion for this sport, you have demonstrated, over the span of many years, that sports and success is about far more than winning. Every kid who ever set a spike or aced a serve is out there competing and striving primarily against him or herself and for their team. Volleyball and Sport in general, has an amazing ability to

show us the best that we can be and also the best our society can be. What is incredible is that this wonderful sense of achievement is happening on **every** level in **every** town across America.

As I continue to grow up, I have learned that, to succeed, you need to find something to hold onto, something to motivate you, and someone to inspire you.

- Volleyball continues to provide many a place to be, a place to belong and a place to become one's best. I'm certain each YMCA Volleyball Hall of Famer can attest to that. That's certainly something to hold onto
- Through Volleyball, one is motivated by the sense of well being that comes from doing something better or faster or by pushing themselves further than they thought possible.
- And, if Volleyball contributes to one's motivation or drive to succeed, then perhaps inspiration is the dream of what we could be.

Our YMCA Hall of Fame exists to provide a place where all in our YMCA can look for and find true inspiration. It is right we should list, know and honor those who have come before us, found success in their sport and within themselves. You all show and remind us of what we should be searching for in each other and in ourselves. Thank You.

So, as we conclude this wonderful celebration today, may I propose a Toast...

For your successes and for your dedication in the world of YMCA 'Mintonette' or Volleyball as it was later called, may we congratulate you, the YMCA Volleyball Class of 2010. Through the acquired passion you developed for this sport, your quest to promote and advance it, and your wonderful spirit, we acknowledge, with gratitude, the mark you have made which now is part of 116 years of YMCA history. We admire you, we honor you, we thank you for the wonderful ambassadors you have been to YMCA Volleyball, and we salute you.