

Duncan Campbell Biography

worldwheelchair.rugby

Biography

Duncan Campbell – WWR Hall of Fame Inductee (2018)

Duncan Campbell, affectionately known as the “Quadfather,” is one of the founding pioneers of wheelchair rugby and a passionate advocate for sport and inclusion for individuals with disabilities.

Following a diving accident that changed the course of his life, Duncan found a new beginning through sport at the Manitoba Rehabilitation Centre in Winnipeg. One evening, alongside friends Gerry Terwin, Randy Dueck, and Paul LeJeune, he began playing a makeshift game that involved throwing a volleyball and scoring by crossing a line between two pylons. That night, the sport of “Murderball”—now known globally as wheelchair rugby—was born.



The game quickly gained traction across Canada, then internationally to the United States, Australia, New Zealand, Japan, and Great Britain. Wheelchair Rugby was officially added to the Paralympic program in 2000, and it is now played in over 40 countries.

Duncan has spent over four decades contributing to the growth and development of the sport. He holds degrees in Psychology from the University of Manitoba and Recreation Administration from the University of Alberta. After moving to British Columbia in 1986, he worked as a recreational therapist at G.F. Strong Rehabilitation Centre, mentoring and inspiring many young people with disabilities to become active in sports, particularly Wheelchair Rugby.

Duncan’s leadership and vision extended beyond the court. He served on the Board of Directors for World Wheelchair Rugby (WWR) and remained dedicated to introducing new players to the sport he helped create. His efforts have been widely recognized: he was inducted into the BC Sports Hall of Fame in 2015 and received the Paralympic Order in 2013, the highest distinction within the Paralympic movement.

In 2018, during the 40th anniversary of the sport’s creation and the 25th anniversary of WWR, Duncan was honoured as the first-ever inductee into the WWR Hall of Fame. This prestigious accolade celebrates individuals who have made extraordinary contributions to the sport and embodies the highest honour the federation can bestow.

Duncan Campbell’s legacy is woven into the very fabric of wheelchair rugby. Through his creativity, determination, and unwavering passion, he has changed lives around the world—creating not just a sport, but a community and a movement.