

Concordia names basketball court for legendary coach

By Mike Hickey The Suburban

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From left: Patrick Boivin — Concordia Athletic director, honoree John Dore and Rastko Popovic Stingers' head coach. Rob Taussig photo The Suburban

In a fitting tribute to the university's most successful basketball coach, Concordia University officially named its basketball court, the John Dore Court.

In front of former players, present day Stingers and friends, Dore was presented with a framed picture of the court which now bears his name.

Dore has been a prominent figure in the school's athletic history, first as an all-star guard on the Loyola Warriors and then as a coach. His storied coaching career included stints as an assistant coach for the Concordia women's team, head coach of the Vanier College Cheetahs and eight years as an assistant coach for the Stingers' men's team, before being hired as the men's head coach in 1989.

He made history in his first season as Concordia's head coach as he guided the Stingers to a National Championship, the beginning of a 25-year tenure that would produce 13 National Championship Appearances including two silver medal finishes. During that span, Dore was named the conference Coach of the Year a record 14 times and, in 1991, was named Men's Basketball Coach of the Year by the Canadian Interuniversity Athletic Union. His coaching feats were not restricted to Canadian University ball, he had several stints as head coach of the Canadian Maccabean team and was also a coach for Canada Basketball National team program.

The numbers are impressive but they only tell part of Dore's story. His legacy, more than the number of wins, championship banners or personal accolades, lies in the values that he passed on to his student-athletes.

"We have always tried to do things the right way and with class," Dore said. "To see guys graduate and get advanced degrees is very rewarding. We always tried to instill in the players a desire to give back to the community. It is great to see many former players helping the program, either financially or with recruiting, 25 years after they've graduated. One of the things I am most proud of is a player who no one gave a chance of succeeding in school, going on to graduate, raise a family and be successful in life."

For over 45 years John Dore has been an excellent ambassador for Loyola and Concordia, and now his contributions are enshrined for the ages.

In the inaugural games on the Dore hardwood, the Lady Stingers dropped a 74-63 decision to UQAM while the men earned a 79-72 victory over UQAM.

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