2018 SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA INDOOR VOLLEYBALL HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES FOR MAY 6 EVENT AT ANAHEIM’S HWY 39

FIVE INTERNATIONAL HALL OF FAME MEMBERS, 3 AMERICAN VOLLEYBALL COACHES ASSOCIATION HOF MEMBERS SELECTED

Five members of the International Volleyball Hall of Fame (Mike Bright, Edward DeGroot, Flo Hyman, Ron Lang & Larry Rundle) and three members of the American Volleyball Coaches Association HOF (Brian Gimmillaro, Liz Masakayan & Nina Matthies) headline the 2018 Southern California Indoor Volleyball Hall of Fame (SCIVBHOF) second induction class with ceremonies on Sunday night, May 6 at Anaheim’s Hwy 39 Event Center.

The other seven honorees for the non-profit HOF, which is housed at American Sports Centers (ASC) in Anaheim include Olympic Gold Medalists Scott Fortune (1988), Pat Powers (1984) and Steve Salmons (1984) and Olympic Bronze Medalists Brent Hilliard (1992) and Elaina Oden (1992). Also selected are 1964 first USA Olympic team MVP Ernie Suwara and 2008 (team won Gold Medal) and 2012 USA Olympic team Assistant Coach & 2016 (won Bronze Medal) and 2020 USA National Team Head Coach John Speraw.

“We are very excited for our second SCIVBHOF induction class because of the volleyball history of the honorees going from the 1940s to present time,” said Mike Gallups, President of the SCIVBHOF. “The selections for the first two years were definitely a challenge for our committee, but when you look at the HOF
backgrounds, it is another amazing group that have done so much for the indoor game throughout Southern California, the USA and the World.”

**2018 SCIVBHOF 15 INDUCTEES (ALPHABETICAL ORDER)**

Mike Bright   Burt DeGroot   Scott Fortune  
Brian Gimmillaro  Brent Hilliard   Flo Hyman  
Ron Lang   Liz Masakayan  Nina Matthies  
Elaina Oden   Pat Powers  Larry Rundle  
Steve Salmons  John Speraw   Ernie Suwara

**2017 SCIVBHOF 25 INDUCTEES (ALPHABETICAL ORDER)**

Andy Banachowski               Laurel Brassey Iversen  Craig Buck  
Deitre Collins-Parker      Tara Cross-Battle   Bob Ctvrtilk  
Marv Dunphy                        Dusty Dvorak   Rolf Engen  
Debbie Green        Kathy Gregory                      Bryan Ivie  
Karch Kiraly                          Ricci Luyties   Chris Marlowe  
Misty May-Treanor       Kim Oden                             Mike O’Hara  
Doug Partie                            Al Scates   Gene Selznick  
Sinjin Smith     Jeff Stork         Steve Timmons            Paula Weishoff

Among the 15 2018 selectees, USA Volleyball has honored Mike Bright, Burt DeGroot, Flo Hyman, Ron Lang, Nina Matthies, Elaina Oden, Pat Powers and Larry Rundle with all-time great or all-era USVBA team recognition.

American Sports Center (ASC), the training and practice home for the USA Men’s and Women’s National teams leading to the 2020 Tokyo Olympic Games, has wall displays in the Sidelines Café from the first induction class that is open to the public for viewing. The second induction class will be added to the walls for the May 6, 2018 induction ceremonies.

“Our second class is representative of the best in both playing and coaching on the high school, college and international levels and we are very proud of the 15 honorees that the committee selected,” said Michael Sondheimer, Executive Director for the SCIVBHOF.
Mike Bright (deceased in 2017): Mike Bright attended Mira Costa HS and then El Camino Community College. He was key player on first USA Olympic Team in 1964 and started again on the 1968 Olympic Team as well as a being a member of 1972 USA national team that didn’t qualify for the Munich Olympics. He stayed with the USA program and won a silver medal at the 1973 Pan-Am Games. He was an 8-time USVBA national champion in 13 years of playing indoors for the Hollywood YMCA and a 9-time All-American. He helped coach the Pepperdine women’s volleyball where his International HOF wife Patti was head coach. His daughter Bonnie played at UCSB for 2017 SCIVBHOF honoree Kathy Gregory. The 6-4 Bright was a dominating beach player who won 16 titles in 34 finals, playing mostly with 2017 SCIVBHOF member Mike O’Hara before a severe diving accident that caused paralysis cut his post-indoor career short. He is a member of the International VB HOF, CBVA HOF and received the USVBA’s All-Time ‘Great Player’ Award in 1983. He passed away September 22, 2017 at the age of 79.

Col. Edward ‘Burt’ DeGroot (deceased in 2003): Burt DeGroot was considered as one of the founding fathers of Southern California Indoor Volleyball. He was a successful coach in four decades from the 1940s to the 1970s; As a player-coach he won U.S. Air Force Titles in 1946, 47 and 48. He then coached the Far Eastern Armed Forces Championships in 1957, 58 and 59 along with U.S. Air Force Worldwide titles in 1953, 54, 58, 59 and 1960 and National Inter-service crowns in 1954, 58 and 1959. Beginning in 1961 at Santa Monica College he won 4 straight USVBA College Titles from 1961-64. He stopped coach SMC in 1965 to become Dean of Student Services. In the late 1960's he coached with Harlan Cohen at the Westside Jewish Community as his son David started playing indoor volleyball. In 1973 DeGroot and Cohen helped start the Pepperdine program. He was assistant coach for the first USA Olympic Team in 1964. He helped his son David to be an All-American setter at UCSB and USVBA College Champion. The Illinois-born DeGroot won the USVBA’s ‘Leader in Volleyball’ award in 1950 and a special U.S. Air Force award in developing and promoting volleyball (1953-60). He was inducted into the International HOF in 1990 and died at age 96 on October 13, 2003.

Scott Fortune: Scott Fortune played volleyball at Laguna Beach HS where he won two CIF Titles and was both league MVP and an All-CIF selection. He also played
Brian Gimmillaro: Brian Gimmillaro is the only coach in the United States that has won the National Championship on the collegiate, club, and high school levels. He was the first head coach to have finalists at both the indoor and beach college championships. In his 41 years of coaching at college and high school (won 4 titles at Gahr), Brian amassed 985 career victories (835 at Long Beach) winning over 80% of his matches. In 32 years at Long Beach State, Brian won three NCAA titles, including having the first undefeated team in Division I history (2017 SCIVBHF honoree Misty May-Treanor was his setter), plus participated in eight Volley Fours. Six times his players were named NCAA Player of the Year with 27 players claiming 49 All-American awards, 48 of his players competing internationally and 16 times his players were named to the US Olympic teams. Brian received several coaching honors including being named the Big West Coach of the Year (he won 13 league titles), the NCAA Coach of the Year, ‘Volleyball Magazine’ Coach of the Year, the US Olympic Committee Coach of the Year, and USA ‘All-time Great Coach’ award. In 2008 he was inducted into the AVCA Hall of Fame. In 2016 he was awarded the Distinguished Alumni at Long Beach State University.

Brent Hilliard: Brent Hilliard was born in San Gabriel and played high school volleyball at Dana Hills in the OC, which led to him to being recruited to play at
Long Beach State for Ray Ratelle. As a powerful opposite player, he led the 49ers to the 1990 NCAA finals and in 1991 to the school’s first NCAA men’s title. He was the 1991 NCAA Tournament MVP, then the 1992 NCAA Player of the Year and finished as a three-time first team All-American in the most successful VB stretch in LBS history. He then became the youngest player for the 1992 USA Olympic Team’s and won an Olympic Games Bronze medal in Barcelona and followed by winning a silver medal in 1993 Pan-American Games. He previously won a bronze medal in the 1991 World Cup while being with the USA National Team program around finishing college. He also played well overseas in Europe after retiring from the USA program. He then went into coaching has been at the University of San Diego since 2001, serving as Associate Head Coach and has made the Toreros into one of the top programs on the West Coast and a consistent top 20 team nationally. He also had two different years as interim head coach where he did well, including leading the 2006 team to the “Sweet 16” and was selected as WCC Coach of the Year. He has turned down other head coaching positions to remain at San Diego. He has also worked with the Wave Volleyball Club. He is married to Beth with a son Christopher and a daughter Audrey.

Flo Hyman (deceased 1986): Flo Hyman started her volleyball career at Morningside HS and El Camino College before accepting the first female athletic scholarship at the University of Houston to play for Ruth Nelson. She was the 1976 AIAW National Player of the Year and a 3-time All-American, plus inducted in 1998 into the Houston Hall of Fame. She then played for the USA National Team and was a 1980 Olympic member before the boycott while became a dominating international player. She led the USA to the 1984 Olympic Silver Medal, while being team captain and selected as the Games top hitter. She was also named the Best Attacker at the Pan-Am Games in 1975, 1979, and 1983, the NORCECA Championships in 1975, 1977, 1979, 1981 and 1983, and the World University Games in 1973 and 1977. She previously won a 1982 bronze medal at World Championships. She was All-World and Most Valuable Player in countless international tournaments. At the prime of her career at age 31 and playing an international match, she sadly passed away on the bench on January 24, 1986. The diagnosis was Marfan syndrome. She was selected by ‘Sports Illustrated’ among the top 100 athletes of century. She was inducted into the Volleyball Hall of Fame in 1988 as well as being named as one of the ‘All-Time Great Volleyball Players’ by the USVBA. In 2017 she was inducted into the Texas Sports Hall of Fame as one of the first volleyball players.
**Ron Lang:** Ron Lang attended USC in the 1950s as indoor club player and USVBA star all-around athlete. He played on first USA Olympic Team in 1964 in Tokyo. From 1958-1968 he was a key member of the USA National Team, a nine-time USVBA first-team All-American and led his club team to three national championships (1960, 66, 68) as well eight runner-up finishes during same time period. He started playing on the beach in the 1950s and won over 50 tournaments, mostly with SCIVHOF member Gene Selznick and beach legend Ron Von Hagen. Teaming with Von Hagen, the two went 18 months straight without losing a game at the beach. He also played with fellow 2018 inductee Ernie Suwara. From 1957-1972 he won 45 beach tournaments (over 50 overall) with 20 runner-up finishes in 78 events. He was the USC head coach in 1965 and inducted into the Los Angeles City HOF in 2013 for his success after graduating from Dorsey HS. The USVBA named Lang an ‘All-Time Great Male Player’ in 1982. He was also honored in 2003 as a member of USVBA's 75th Men’s Anniversary team (1953 to 1977) All-Era Team. He was the first player that was inducted into the International HOF in 2005 for both his accomplishments indoor and on the beach and is also inducted into the California Beach Hall of Fame in 2011.

**Liz Masakayan:** Liz Masakayn led Santa Monica HS to the CIF Title, then went to UCLA and led Bruins to their first NCAA title in 1984 with a NCAA record 32 kills including match point in the championship win. She won the 1984 Honda Award as nation’s top college volleyball player and the 1985-86 All-University award at UCLA’s top female student-athlete. She was a three-time Collegiate All-American who also played in 1983 NCAA finals and 1985 NCAA Volley Four. She left UCLA as the all-time leader in kills and service aces; then went to the USA National Team and started at outside hitter for the 1988 Seoul Olympics. She then turned to coaching and helped UCLA to the 1990 & 1991 NCAA titles and 1992 NCAA runner-up as an Assistant to 2017 SCIVBHOF member Andy Banachowski. Selected as one of the 25 greatest players in UCLA history, Liz is a member of AVCA College VB HOF. The 5-8 hitter was voted to the NCAAs first All-Decade Team in the 1980s. She went onto great beach career after retiring indoors and just missed making the 2000 Beach Olympics in Sydney with Elaine Youngs. She finished as one of the best beach players of all-time by winning 47 tournaments in her career and was also a successful beach coach for many years for both AVP and youth players. She is in the California Beach HOF.

**Nina Matthies:** Nina Matthies played at high school powerhouse Mira Costa and then onto UCLA where she was a starting outside hitter on two AIAW
championship teams in 1974 and 75. She played on the USA National Team for the 1971 Pan-American Games. After college, the 5-6 standout became a UCLA Assistant Coach under Andy Banachowski and was part of the coaching staff that went to first NCAA finals in 1981. She then left to become the Pepperdine women’s head indoor coach for the next 31 years with 20 NCAA appearances, 11 conference titles, 590 career wins and one Elite 8 appearance. While still coaching the indoor game she became Pepperdine’s first Beach Volleyball Coach and won the first collegiate championship in 2012 and again in 2014. She was part of the NCAA committee that made the beach game a collegiate reality and then retired from coaching the indoor game and put 100% into beach coaching today.

‘Volleyball Magazine’ named Matthies as one of the "Most Influential People in the First 100 Years of Volleyball." In 2004, she was named to the 75th Anniversary All-Era Team by USA Volleyball and is a member of AVCA College VB HOF. She also won 44 tournaments in a great beach playing career.

**Elaina Oden:** Elaina Olden was a dominating student-athlete at Irvine High School (competed in 5 sports) and a star for the Orange County VB club under Charlie Brande. The nation’s top recruit was a college legend at The University of Pacific for Coach John Dunning. She led the Tigers to their only two NCAA titles in 1985 and 86 as a freshman and sophomore and was College Player of the Year in 1986 when the Tigers won the crown on their home court. In 1985 her UOP team beat her older sister Kim (a 2017 SCIVBHOF member) and Stanford in the finals. She was NCAA All-Tournament both years and named to the six-person NCAA 25-year All-Anniversary team and was part of NCAA All-Decade team from the 1980s. A major knee injury with the USA program caused her to miss the 1987 collegiate season and the 1988 Olympic team. She recovered to play for the USA in the 1992 Barcelona Olympic Games where she won the bronze medal, and the 1996 Atlanta Olympics. She played with Kim at the 1992 Olympics and with younger sister Bev in 1996 in Atlanta. Elaina played in 13 major international events over a 10 year period with the USA National Team including winning the 1995 FIVB World Grand Prix title. She was selected as a member of USA VB 75th Anniversary Team (1978-2002). She was inducted into the UOP HOF in 2000.

**Pat Powers:** Pat Powers attended Santa Monica HS and then Santa Monica Junior College where he led the team to the 1977 California State title. He then transferred to USC where he was a key hitter/blocker for 1980 NCAA championship team after being a starter on the 1979 NCAA runner-up team. He represented the USA in the 1979 Pan-American Games. Pat was a two-time NCAA
All-American and two-time NCAA All-Tournament team selection. An 11-time USVBA All-American, 5-time champion and twice the USA National Player of the Year, Powers excelled internationally as a member of the 1984 USA Indoor Gold Medal Olympic team, plus 1985 World Cup title squad. He was the 1986 Co-USA Team MVP (with 2017 SCIVBHOF member Karch Kiraly) as the squad won the World Championship. After retiring as a player, he spent six-years as USC Men’s Volleyball head coach winning 100 matches and twice coming within one win of the NCAA Volley Four. He is now a national clinician for the sport. After retiring indoors, he played on the beach and won 12 tournaments, becoming one of only a handful of players to ever win both NCAA and Beach Titles. He was a member of USA VB 75th Anniversary Team (1978-2002) and a member of Pac-12 and ‘Volleyball Magazine’ All-Century team.

**Larry Rundle:** Larry Rundle was both a UCLA and USVBA All-American in 1965 and 1966 won a collegiate national championship. He won a gold medal for the USA at 1967 Pan-American Games and was a starter at the 1968 Mexico City Olympic Games for the USA team at outside hitter and helped lead the USA to the major upset of the Russians in pool play before badly spraining his ankle. He was the USVBA MVP in 1968, 69, and 1970 with his leaping ability and ball-handling skills for a 6 foot, 165 pound player. Rundle finished as a 6-Time USVBA All-American, and a member of 2 USVBA National Championship Teams. He was the 1983 recipient of USVBA's "All-Time Great Player" Award. He was inducted into UCLA Athletic Hall of Fame in 1994 and became a member of the International VB HOF in 1994 for his play not only indoors, but on the beach. He won 13 open beach tournaments in 25 events (one of the top winning percentages of all-time) primarily after his Olympic indoor career was completed. His daughter Brooke was an All-American college player at UC Santa Barbara for 2017 SCIVBHOF member Kathy Gregory.

**Steve Salmons:** Steve Salmons was a rare player who led his teams to championship at all levels. As the LA’s City Player of the Year for Pacific Palisades HS, Pali won the 1st ever HS Southern California Regional Championship. Then as College Player of the Year in 1979 (over Sinjin Smith and Karch Kiraly), the Bruins became the first unbeaten team in college VB history winning the NCAA title over USC. Then after missing almost his entire 1981 senior season from a back injury suffered while playing for the US at Pan American Games, he returned for post-season play to lead UCLA to another NCAA title and was named to NCAA All-Tournament for the third time, while being a three-time All American.
He won 2 USVBA crowns and was selected All-American. The USA Jr. National team to it first ever Pacific Rim Tournament Gold Medal where he was MVP as starting middle blocker. From 1978-1986 he was a key member of USA National Team, and went on to help the USA to win it first volleyball triple crown with gold medals at the 1984 Olympics in Long Beach, 1985 World Cup in Japan and 1986 World Championship in France. He was named to the All-Century volleyball team by ‘Volleyball Magazine’ and inducted into the UCLA Athletic Hall of Fame in 2000. On the beach he won professional four-man tournaments and international double events. His daughter Alexis played Volleyball for St. Mary’s College and his son Reece played for the UCLA Men’s Volleyball team.

**John Speraw:** John Speraw started as a CIF Champion and classroom honor student at Arcadia HS. He then attended UCLA where he was a two-time NCAA champion in 1993 and 1995 and was an NCAA All-Tournament selection for the 1995 team. He won a NCAA title as Bruin Assistant Coach in 2000 and then left to be the Head Coach at UC Irvine. He won first three NCAA VB Titles in UC Irvine school history (2007, 2009, 2012) and then became head coach at UCLA in 2013 succeeding 2017 SCIVBHOF selection Al Scates. He went to NCAA semi-finals in 2016. John has been with USA National Team program since the middle 2000s and was Assistant Coach for USA Gold Medal men’s team in 2008, plus an assistant in 2012 for the 5th place USA team. He then became the USA National Team Men’s Head Coach after the 2012 Olympics. He was Head Coach for the 2014 USA World League title, and the 2015 the FIVB World Cup Title. He coached the 2016 USA Olympic squad to the Olympic Bronze Medal in Rio. He is currently the head coach for the USA Men’s National Team that is trying to qualify for the 2020 Tokyo Olympics while still working as the head coach at UCLA. He is one of only three people in history to ever win NCAA titles as player and head coach (Rod Wilde/Bob Yoder) and the only person to win as a player, assistant coach and head coach.

**Ernie Suwara:** Ernie Suwara started his VB career as an East Coast player out of New York that came to Southern California to train with the best players. He attended Santa Monica College to play for HOF coach Burt DeGroot. He was a starter for the 1964 USVBA champion Hollywood Stars as part of what was the first USA Olympic Trials and his success there propelled him to be the youngest player on the first USA Olympic Team in 1964. He was a starter in Tokyo at the age of 19. He was the Most Valuable Player on the 1964 squad where his brother Rudy was an Olympic alternate. He then transferred from SMC to UCLA where he
started for the Bruins on USVBA National Title teams in 1965 where he played with Larry Rundle (brother Rudy was an assistant coach and 2017 SCIVBHOF honoree Al Scates was head coach) and in 1967. Four times he garnered USVBA All-American honors. Selected for UCLA Athletic Hall of Fame in 1989, Ernie was one of only a couple of players selected from the pre-NCAA era for the Pac-12 All-Century Team. He was also an outstanding beach player, winning three tournaments (two with Mike Bright) and being voted into the California Beach HOF. He worked for Dean Witter and Kansas City Board of Trade after retiring from volleyball. He is now back living in Southern California.

**SCIVBHOF INTERNATIONAL HOF MEMBERS**

Men’s Players: Mike Bright (18) Craig Buck (17) Bob Ctvrtlik (17)
Dusty Dvorak (17) Rolf Engen (17) Karch Kiraly (17) Ron Lang (18)
Mike O’Hara (17) Larry Rundle (18) Sinjin Smith (17)
Jeff Stork (17) Steve Timmons (17)

Women’s Players: Tara Cross-Battle (17) Debbie Green (17)
Kathy Gregory (17) Flo Hyman (18) Paula Weishoff (17)

Coaches: Andy Banachowski (17) Edward DeGroot (18)
Marv Dunphy (17) Al Scates (17)

**SCIVBHF AVCA HOF MEMBERS (STARTED 2003)**

Andy Banachowski (17) Al Scates (17) Debbie Green (17)
Karch Kiraly (17) Brian Gimmillaro (18) Marv Dunphy (17)
Liz Masakayan (18) Nina Matthies (18)