NEW ZEALAND WOMEN IN THE OLYMPIC MOVEMENT

PAT BARWICK

OLYMPIC TEAM COACH

INSPIRATIONAL ROLE MODEL

The coach who had the greatest influence on my life and my sport was in Wanganui Bay and he was definitely way ahead of his time – TomTurk. He was one of a few men amongst the women hockey players in New Zealand. He brought to the game such concepts as levels of fitness not soon before in women’s hockey, for example, the importance of nutrition, and he also preceded professionalism in the highest level. He was very innovative – creative in his approach. He developed an era of very successful Wanganui Bay teams and a number of New Zealand players.

PLAYING HOCKEY FOR NEW ZEALAND

I played hockey during university days for Otago and then went to Napier as a coach when I played for Wanganui Bay. I was really identified initially in Otago and I did have a New Zealand Trial Try-out and was chosen in the final nominated Captain immediately in my first selection. The Captaincy was probably a lot of a stinger but I was pretty young and I don’t seem to place me much and I have to say I enjoyed the leadership and assistantship aspects.

COACHING

Being a Positive Role Model for Others

As a teacher I was always coaching school teams. I wasn’t really interested in coaching at other than club level until I’d finished my hockey-playing career. But I certainly enjoyed the mentor or the profiling of being out there in front as a player, and I guess I’m a Leo, so there is a bit of a leader. I think the leadership aspects were probably not so much about me as coach, really the players that are important as you lead but you can sit back a bit more. I was inspired in my coaching by the work of models that I encountered in my playing days. There were good women up front doing the chances, being the change agents in the coaching world. There were mostly nearly all women coaches then, coaching the top teams, women managers at the highest levels, they were all there.

Earliest Years of Hockey

Balance of Body, Will and Mind

My mother very wisely taught me that I was in a team already and I wasn’t to be dissuaded from joining a local country school (Brunswick College). At the age of 11 I was inspired in my coaching by the women role models that I encountered early in my career. I was very enthusiastic about my getting involved with sport, especially a contact sport.

Playing Hockey for New Zealand

In 1987 I was appointed to be the coach of the New Zealand Women’s Hockey Team. Although I missed out on an opportunity to compete at the Games of the XXV Olympiad, Barcelona 1992, that was the goal that NZHF also set us, with a view to push on for medals in 1996. The coach who had the greatest influence on my life and my sport was Tom Turk, who was going off to the Men’s Hockey World Cup in Holland was given leave on half pay. It was expected that we would also be assigned to the Women’s World Cup along with the Men’s World Cup. Pat Barwick second from right. 1973

Managing inequality

In 1973 while I was teaching, I recognized for the first time the big differences between men and women’s opportunities. I discovered that there were from all across the world in every sport, both for men and women, but certainly for women. It was exciting to see some of the outstanding talent and people that were involved.

Reflections on Coaching at the Olympic Games

I recognize that there were not many women coaches or managers, that women’s hockey was an isolated group, in many respects. It was very hard and very different from being at a Hockey Tournament when it is only hockey, but we tried to use that as a positive aspect in terms of the teams, that here we were representing women very strongly and that they should be very proud of the fact that as a women’s sport we had achieved being where we were, and that we could recognize it as being leaders.

Early Role Models

My biggest influence was my dad, both my parents really, and probably the role model at school level was in my first year at High School I was persuaded to fill in for a hockey team one day because they were short of players. After the game I went home for my mum and said, “Oh look, that was just as much fun, you can run anywhere, it’s great fun, Mum! I’m going to play this now!” Although I was left handed and it was initially awkward – that’s how I got involved with hockey.

Early Years of Hockey

Balance of Body, Will and Mind

My mother very wisely taught me that I was in a team already and I wasn’t to be dissuaded from joining a local country school (Brunswick College). At the age of 11 I was inspired in my coaching by the women role models that I encountered early in my career.

Thoughts of Coaching

Whilst you could enjoy playing sport I always felt that it was necessary to give something back, in the form of administration work or coaching. I certainly didn’t debate my career very hard, I was always going to go and pursue physical education school in Otago. I did not do a Teachers College year to physical education school in Otago. I did not do a Teachers College year

Reflections on Coaching at the Olympic Games

I recognized that there were not many women coaches or managers, that women’s hockey was an isolated group, in many respects. It was very hard and very different from being at a Hockey Tournament when it is only hockey, but we tried to use that as a positive aspect in terms of the teams, that here we were representing women very strongly and that they should be very proud of the fact that as a women’s sport we had achieved being where we were, and that we could recognize it as being leaders.

Senge was one of a few men amongst the women hockey players in New Zealand. He brought to the game such concepts as levels of fitness not soon before in women’s hockey, for example, the importance of nutrition, and he also preceded professionalism in the highest level. He was very innovative – creative in his approach. He developed an era of very successful Wanganui Bay teams and a number of New Zealand players.

Playing Hockey for New Zealand

I played hockey during university days for Otago and then went to Napier as a coach when I played for Wanganui Bay. I was really identified initially in Otago and I did have a New Zealand Trial Try-out and was chosen in the final nominated Captain immediately in my first selection. The Captaincy was probably a lot of a stinger but I was pretty young and I don’t seem to place me much and I have to say I enjoyed the leadership and assistantship aspects.

Coaching

Being a Positive Role Model for Others

As a teacher I was always coaching school teams. I wasn’t really interested in coaching at other than club level until I’d finished my hockey-playing career. But I certainly enjoyed the mentor or the profiling of being out there in front as a player, and I guess I’m a Leo, so there is a bit of a leader. I think the leadership aspects were probably not so much about me as coach, really the players that are important as you lead but you can sit back a bit more. I was inspired in my coaching by the work of models that I encountered in my playing days. There were good women up front doing the chances, being the change agents in the coaching world. There were mostly nearly all women coaches then, coaching the top teams, women managers at the highest levels, they were all there.

Thoughts of Coaching

Whilst you could enjoy playing sport I always felt that it was necessary to give something back, in the form of administration work or coaching. I certainly didn’t debate my career very hard, I was always going to go and pursue physical education school in Otago. I did not do a Teachers College year

Playing Hockey for New Zealand

I played hockey during university days for Otago and then went to Napier as a coach when I played for Wanganui Bay. I was really identified initially in Otago and I did have a New Zealand Trial Try-out and was chosen in the final nominated Captain immediately in my first selection. The Captaincy was probably a lot of a stinger but I was pretty young and I don’t seem to place me much and I have to say I enjoyed the leadership and assistantship aspects.

Coaching

Being a Positive Role Model for Others

As a teacher I was always coaching school teams. I wasn’t really interested in coaching at other than club level until I’d finished my hockey-playing career. But I certainly enjoyed the mentor or the profiling of being out there in front as a player, and I guess I’m a Leo, so there is a bit of a leader. I think the leadership aspects were probably not so much about me as coach, really the players that are important as you lead but you can sit back a bit more. I was inspired in my coaching by the work of models that I encountered in my playing days. There were good women up front doing the chances, being the change agents in the coaching world. There were mostly nearly all women coaches then, coaching the top teams, women managers at the highest levels, they were all there.

Thoughts of Coaching

Whilst you could enjoy playing sport I always felt that it was necessary to give something back, in the form of administration work or coaching. I certainly didn’t debate my career very hard, I was always going to go and pursue physical education school in Otago. I did not do a Teachers College year

Playing Hockey for New Zealand

I played hockey during university days for Otago and then went to Napier as a coach when I played for Wanganui Bay. I was really identified initially in Otago and I did have a New Zealand Trial Try-out and was chosen in the final nominated Captain immediately in my first selection. The Captaincy was probably a lot of a stinger but I was pretty young and I don’t seem to place me much and I have to say I enjoyed the leadership and assistantship aspects.

Coaching

Being a Positive Role Model for Others

As a teacher I was always coaching school teams. I wasn’t really interested in coaching at other than club level until I’d finished my hockey-playing career. But I certainly enjoyed the mentor or the profiling of being out there in front as a player, and I guess I’m a Leo, so there is a bit of a leader. I think the leadership aspects were probably not so much about me as coach, really the players that are important as you lead but you can sit back a bit more. I was inspired in my coaching by the work of models that I encountered in my playing days. There were good women up front doing the chances, being the change agents in the coaching world. There were mostly nearly all women coaches then, coaching the top teams, women managers at the highest levels, they were all there.

Reflections on Coaching at the Olympic Games

I recognized that there were not many women coaches or managers, that women’s hockey was an isolated group, in many respects. It was very hard and very different from being at a Hockey Tournament when it is only hockey, but we tried to use that as a positive aspect in terms of the teams, that here we were representing women very strongly and that they should be very proud of the fact that as a women’s sport we had achieved being where we were, and that we could recognize it as being leaders.

The big picture was that we were at the Olympics, that we had made it! We were representing something that is fantastic and is only experienced by still a very few people. It was a wonderful opportunity and an outstanding experience that you would forget. Although we came home disappointed with our performance, we have still been a part of that wonderful sporting event and amongst those wonderful role models that there are from all across the world in every sport, both for men and women, but certainly for women. It was exciting to see some of the outstanding talent and people that were involved.

MESSAGE TO YOUTH

My message is that you need to have a goal, to do something very well, especially in sport, whether it’s as a player or a participant, whether it’s as an athlete, or as an official because today there are also pathways to the top (Olympics) for umpires and managers. You need to know how to access the people that can support you, and that information will come from the mentors that are out there, the other role models, those that have been there before. Don’t be afraid to use that knowledge out there, don’t try and do it all on your own – but definitely do it.

OLYMPIC GAMES PARTICIPATION

Games of the XXIII Olympiad, Barcelona 1992

Coach, New Zealand Women’s Hockey Team

The team played 8th out of a total of 8 nations that were competing.