

Thank you Graham.

Thanks for the flattering introduction and.....your support and friendship over the years.

It's nice to be back home and to see so many familiar faces.

Good Evening,

The City of Medicine Hat; Mayor Norm Boucher; City Alderman; members of the Medicine Hat Sports Wall of Fame; the selection committee; fellow inductee Mr. Lovell .....; special guests and thank you to each and every one of you in attendance this evening in support of the Medicine Hat Sports Wall of Fame.

This is truly a special time for my family and me. To be inducted into the Medicine Hat Sports Wall of Fame is a recognition that I will cherish forever. It is an honor appreciated beyond words. I am proud to enter the company of the present and the future members of such a prestigious Medicine Hat institution.

Mr. Lovell McDonnell ..... it is an honour for me to share this special evening with you. The honor that has been bestowed on you is the result of your dedication, commitment, leadership and spirit of volunteerism. You have made a difference to life in Medicine Hat. What you have accomplished is not automatic and only for a select group. Your dedication and personal sacrifice in maintaining the sport of baseball are a rarity when compared to the selfishness and individualism often prominent in sports today. Few could only dream of traveling the Lovell McDonnell road. Congratulations 'Mr. Baseball.'

Over the years I've been fortunate to be recognized for my participation and involvement in sports. To be recognized by the City of Medicine Hat, a city that provided me many sports opportunities is the ultimate honour.

Being honored by the City of Medicine Hat is a recognition that is never achieved alone. It is because of the support that I've received over the years ..... from so many.

My association with sports and athletics has afforded me the opportunity to experience a thankful and fulfilling life journey. Although there are many rewards associated with sports and athletics, the most memorable are the many people that I have met.....and the experiences and memories that we shared as part of a team with athletes and coaches. I have been fortunate during my career to meet people that made and continue to make a difference. There are so many people that provided wisdom, support and friendship to me over the years that it would be impossible to recognize everyone at this time.

**I would like to recognize a few people who have helped me along my journey.**

- While growing up in Medicine Hat and playing hockey, baseball, football and participating in track and field, my coaches emphasized the importance of participating, doing our best and enjoying the game. I thank Coach Percy Bray who gave me a chance to play 'Pony League Baseball' - He taught the right values in the right way to our team. To him ....., everyone on the team was important. He touched so many lives by helping young men become who they are. I appreciate Coach Lorne Holden giving a less than average hockey player a chance to play the

game. He understood that the impact that one has on young people or anyone that you coach doesn't end at the end of the season or at the end of an athlete's career....., it lasts a lifetime. He never forgot that the person he coached.....was more important than the athlete he coached.



(Lorne Holden)



(J. Percy Bray)

- As I consider people who helped shape my life, I often think of my high school football and track and field coach, **Bill Dais**. He disciplined me when I deserve to be disciplined, he encouraged me when I was down.....and he pushed me to improve. He cared about his athletes on and off the playing field. He "earned the respect that is embodied in the hallowed name - COACH." Although, I've been associated with the game of football in various capacities for over fifty years and have enjoyed the football experience from flag football through to the professional ranks; from provincial championships to Grey Cup victories; my most memorable experience occurred in my grade eleven year. While playing football for the Medicine Hat High School Redskins, now called the Mohawks, Coach Dais scheduled an exhibition game with the Havre, Montana Blue Ponies High School football team. The game was played under the lights at Athletic Park. For the previous two (2) seasons they were the Montana State High School Football Champions. We were suddenly introduced to eleven (11) men and four (4) down football. The game started with two (2) quick touchdowns by the Blue Ponies. We responded to tie the game. Late in the fourth quarter, down by two (2) touchdowns, we executed a play that resulted in a thirty-seven (37) yard touchdown run. In the end we were defeated 35 - 28. After the game, I recall the head coach of the Havre Blue Ponies addressing our team and complementing us on a game well played. In closing, he mentioned that he had been coaching high school football for over twenty (20) years and he had never seen a football play executed as well as the thirty-seven (37) yard touchdown run. We ran the "Winged T' offense and the play called was a sweep to the left. The quarterback faked a handoff to the fullback and handed the ball to the halfback. Both of the pulling guards got out clean. The first guard kicked out the corner linebacker and as I turned up field everyone was blocked except for the free safety. I was able to block him inside and our halfback went into the end zone untouched. All eleven (11) men executed the play, playbook perfect. As a team we were so proud of how well we played the game.....and proud of the compliment paid to us from someone who we had never met. That is a treasured memory! To this day I am proud to have played for the Medicine Hat High Schools Redskins.

**As they say.....it takes a village to raise a child.....and there are many to thank.**

- I thank my teammates and their parents:.....Edgar Adams; Bernie Bajnok; Brian Booth; Don Jackson; Terry Mogck; Jerry Rowe; and Jerry Weise for the many

suppers and their hospitality shown me.....allowing me to stay in town after school.....so I could participate in sports.

- To my schoolmates....., thanks for the friendship and the memories. I consider my high school years to be the best and most memorable years of my life.
- I thank my teachers who provided unconditional support for me as a person. I remember the respect that I had for Mr. Bill Turko and Mr. Jim Hirsh. They were such good role models for a young farm boy. One of my favorite teachers was Bonnie Hutchison.
- I'm thankful for the opportunity to have been an active member of the South Alberta Light Horse Young Soldiers Training Program. The evidence supporting participation in the military for young men is overwhelming. I learned respect, responsibility and discipline. Driving a Sherman Tank on the weekends while attending high school provided an unforgettable experience and a lifelong appreciation for the Canadian military. In fact my license plate number on my vehicle is M805472, my military number.
- I cherish my volunteer time with school and community athletics. I will forever remember the people who provided the leadership, the athletes and coaching athletes with positive attitudes who grew to be positive people. School and community sports provide fellowship and memories that last a lifetime.
- I thank The McMahon Stadium Society for the opportunity to manage McMahon Stadium during some of the glory years in McMahon Stadium history. Converting McMahon Stadium to a multi-purpose facility to accommodate professional and amateur sports, the stadium expansion for the XV Olympic Winter Games, staging the Olympic Games Opening and Closing Ceremonies, hosting Grey Cup Games, just to mention a few of the events staged at McMahon Stadium are a credit to the University of Calgary, The McMahon Stadium Society and the management and staff who shared the experience.
- I thank the Calgary Stampeders Football Club who provided me the opportunity to coach and be an administrator in professional sports. The success we achieved as an organization is a credit to the ownership, the coaches, the players, the staff and most importantly the fans. I'll always appreciate the Club's involvement in the community and the assistance provided to amateur football. Staging Grey Cup Games, participating in Grey Cup Games, and winning Grey Cup Championships are unforgettable experiences.
- I thank your own Graham Kelly, ..... a man of character and integrity. From the beginning of my career in coaching and administration in professional football, he has consistently provided wisdom, support and friendship. I'm proud to call Graham Kelly my friend. A member of the Canadian Football Hall of Fame, he has a true passion for Canadian football. I was always amazed at how he could work full-time as a school principal, while at the same time carrying out his civic duties as a city alderman, newspaper columnist and writer.....and only missing eight (8) Calgary Stampeders home games.....over the past thirty-eight (38) years. His publications have been critically acclaimed and are considered important contributions to the history of the Canadian Football League. On behalf of the Calgary Stampeders Football

Club and the Canadian Football League.....thank you Graham for your recent publication "Go Stamps Go."



Stan Schwartz and Graham Kelly

- I thank my friend, mentor and member of the Canadian Football Hall of Fame, the late Tony Anselmo for nominating me for this special recognition. Without his longstanding support and friendship, I wouldn't be standing here this evening.
- I thank my mother and dad for the sacrifices they made.....and the support and encouragement that they gave me.....when I should have been working the fields. I thank my sisters who would walk home or wait for a ride in order that I could practice or play the game. Thank you to my nieces and nephews, who shared my journey, and to the rest of my family, who had a profound impact on the career path that I have chosen.
- To my wife Shirley, I extend my most sincere and heartfelt thanks for loving and believing in me and putting up with late nights, long hours of absence and few holidays. Thanks for being you. I'm truly blessed to have such a caring and understanding partner. Shirley, you are what success in life is all about.

I leave you with a quote from Lou Holtz, a long time US college football coach and a sought after motivational speaker. "The people that make the biggest impact on life are those who care little about rights and privileges.....but feel strongly about their duties and obligations. It is amazing what can be accomplished when no one cares who gets the credit."

In closing, I accept the induction into the Medicine Hat Sports Wall of Fame on behalf of those who provide freely of their time and leadership.....in order that Albertans may enjoy the benefits of participating in sports.

We only go around once and it's nice to go around with the good people and the good friends of Medicine Hat.

Thank you.