



Karla Koch Trophy – Juvenile Girls 1 Division 1

In Recognition of Karla Karch - a leader in both the Calgary Community and the Calgary Sporting Community. - Established 2016

Karla Karch is a leader in both the Calgary Community and Calgary Sporting Community. She is someone that all players in the Calgary Minor Basketball Association can look up to as a great role model. Karla began playing basketball at the age of 5 in the Community Tykes Program of Maple Ridge & Willow Park. Tykes programming in those days had communities playing against other communities. Initially Karla was brought into basketball because her parents didn't want to get a babysitter for her while her older sister attended basketball practices and games. In her Tyke & Mini playing days she just had great fun with basketball and developed a love for the sport. After being introduced to basketball Karla has never looked back since that young age of 5 and has been inspired and encouraged by her parents and many coaches throughout her basketball career.

Karla's basketball experiences and accomplishments over her career are truly amazing. She won Community City and Youth Provincial Championships, her teams won the Junior High City Championships three times at R.T. Alderman Junior High. In Karla's teen years basketball became a way for her to competitively express herself and who she was. In High School Karla attended Dr. E.P. Scarlett; in grade 11 her high school team played for the City Championship against Bishop Carroll High School. Bishop Carroll had defeated E.P. Scarlett in all four league games including a 30 point rout just 10 days before the City Girls High School Final. However Scarlett, led by the clutch shooting of Karla Karch rallied late for a spine-tingling 40-37 City Championship Victory.

After high school Karla went on to play basketball at the University of Calgary and the University of Victoria. At the University of Victoria (UVIC) she played under Legendary Canadian Hall Fame Coach Kathy Shields. In 1986-87 UVIC won the Canadian National Championship and as rookie Karla was named to the Tournaments second All-Star team. Karla also started play with the Canadian Women's National Basketball Team in the 1980's in 1986 the National Team won bronze at the World Championships. Karla is an Olympic athlete and represented Canada in Women's Basketball in the 1996 Atlanta Olympics and the 2000 Sydney Olympics. Karla played in over 150 international competitions for Canada. Karla went on to play professionally in Germany and Hungary. Currently Karla is the Athletic Director of Mount Royal University (MRU) Cougar Athletics.

The Calgary Minor Basketball Association is proud to name the Juvenile Girls Division 1 Tournament Championship Trophy after Karla Karch. This trophy and her name will be remembered and honored every fall in the Calgary Minor Basketball Association. We thank Karla for coming today. We would now like to present her with the Trophy and in turn Karla will present the trophy to the winning team of the tournament. Karla will now say a few words prior to presenting the Trophy to the winning team.