



J. Barrie Burnham

Burnham began his playing career in the Vancouver Rugby Union in 1956 as a fullback with the Vancouver Rowing Club's 3rd division team and finished it with the Meraloma Club's 3rd division team in 1985 as a fly half after they had won the provincial championship for the second time in four years.

After moving to the Meraloma Club in 1960, he was British Columbia's premier fullback and goal kicker for 11 years with his exceptional kicking at goal and drop goals, spiral punting with either foot, and strategic positioning of punts for field position. Team members with Meraloma, Vancouver, Lower Mainland, British Columbia, Western Canada and Canada representative teams played with confidence having Burnham at fullback.

Canada only had six international matches between 1962 and 1971 and Burnham appeared in four of them; British Lions, England, Fiji and Wales. Of the 35 points Canada scored in those games, Burnham kicked 15. Canada made two international tours in that period, to the British Isles in 1962 and Wales in 1971, and Burnham was the only player to be selected for both.

His longevity and determination speaks volumes. In December 1969, he underwent surgery to repair an injury and recovered to be selected for British Columbia's tour to Japan in 1970. A second major injury to both legs was also overcome, allowing Burnham to compete for British Columbia Mainland in their match against Fiji in 1973.

Burnham was Meraloma captain in 1966-67 and playing coach from 1965 to 1969. In 1965, 1967, 1972 and 1973 Meralomas won the provincial championship's Rounsefell Cup with him at fullback. He continued to play for the club's 1st division team throughout the 1970s before joining the 3rd division team as a fly half for the remainder of his career, winning the British Columbia Provincial titles in 1981-82 and 1984-85.

Always one to give back to the game to which he was so close to; he was the Meraloma Club president in 1970-71 while still an active player and was the Vancouver Rugby Union president from 1972 to 1975. From 1973 to 2002 Burnham coached and refereed at Magee Secondary School while also being the assistant coach of the school's senior team for 30 years.

Barrie has been previously inducted in the BC Sport Hall of Fame in 1998 and the BC Rugby Hall of Fame in 2005.

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