

South Hill Queens

2018 Inductee - Team Category



In 1959, the South Hill Queens formed, bringing Senior A Women's Softball to South Memorial Park. The 1959–61 South Hill Queens competed in the prestigious Pacific Northwest Women's Softball League, building their team around a veteran core of players complemented by a group of talented teenage players who brought new energy and emerging skill to the roster. This team, led by Shirley Topley, quickly became a driving force in elevating the standard of women's softball in Western Canada.



This elite team comprised of:

- Bennett, Amy
- Bonneville, Eveline
- Beach, Diane
- Calaghan, Lanni
- Curry, Darlene
- Gilmore, Gerry
- Hambleton, Sharon
- Harrison, Pat
- Malesh, Laura
- Malesh, Mugsy
- McCullough, Jackie
- McCullough, Sally
- McDonald, Marg
- Minnet/Van Ryswick, Awilda
- Penny, Elaine
- Thompson, Cathy
- Topley, Shirley (Player/Coach)
- Vaudry, Carol
- Whitehead, Marg

In 1960, the South Hill Queens competed in their Provincial Championships, winning the title. Representing Canada at the World Championships in Stratford, Connecticut, they finished 6th among top ranked teams. The following year, the South Hill Queens secured a spot to compete in the World Championships again, this time held in Portland, Oregon.

After this championship, the South Hill Queens disbanded, but not before many of its players secured opportunities to compete internationally and in the United States, continuing their careers at elite levels of the sport. The following list highlights the South Hill Queens Players' subsequent USA careers:

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- Shirley Topley: Stratford, Connecticut - Orange, California - USA Olympic Coach - USA Softball Hall of Fame
- Laura Malesh: Stratford, Connecticut - Santa Clara, California, Player and Coach
- Pat Harrison: Portland Oregon - Stratford Connecticut - USA Softball Hall of Fame
- Sharon Hambleton: Portland, Oregon
- Marg Whithead: Collingwood - Stratford, Connecticut

The players that remained in the Greater Vancouver area went on to become influential teammates on later teams such as Collingwood, Mount Pleasant, Eldorado, Texaco, and Merchants.

Ultimately, the 1959-61 South Hill Queens The South Hill Queens are inducted into the Softball BC Hall of fame in recognition of their pioneering role in elite softball and their lasting legacy.