

Barbara Mattsson (1951-1999)

In response to an article about female rowers and a photograph of Barb Mattsson (below) published in the Adelaide Advertiser on Monday 3 February 2020, it should be acknowledged that Barb was also a brilliant Lacrosse player and made an outstanding contribution to Women's Lacrosse for over three decades.



Original article and photo : Advertiser 1970



Barb Mattsson
Captain: 1970 SA State Lacrosse Team

Barb began playing Lacrosse in the 1960 's for the Brighton Lacrosse Club. A superb athlete with a strong physical presence, Barb also participated in softball, canoeing and volleyball and rowed sculls for Australia. (hence the photograph and article above)

As a formidable Lacrosse player in the defensive midfield role, she had an impressive record that is outlined below.

Player

- Premiership player and captain for Brighton in 1968 and 1969
- South Australian Senior State player from 1966 through to the 1970's. Barb was a strong leader and captained many of these teams.
- In 1969 she was a member of the first Australian team, which played against touring sides from the USA and Great Britain (British Pioneers) in Australia.
- In 1972 she was vice-captain of the first Australian touring team, which played in England, Scotland, Wales and the United States.
- In 1977 she captained the Australian touring team that toured/played in the United States.



Barb Mattsson with the Australian Flag
1972 Australian Team

Coach

- Barb was a playing coach of the 1970 SA State Team and continued coaching at this level until 1978 during which time South Australia won 2 National Championships.
- In 1978 she coached the Australian team that played a 3-test series against Great Britain in Australia.
- In 1981 Barb coached the first Australian side to defeat the United States, in Tasmania. USA tour of Australia – tests in Perth, Melbourne, Hobart and 2 in Adelaide.

Administrator

Barb also made significant contributions to the administration of the sport.

- She was Secretary of the SA Women's Lacrosse Association in 1969.
- Barb was the President of the SA Women's Lacrosse Association in 1983 and 1988.
- She managed the SA Sport Institute Women's lacrosse tour of the United States in 1988.

Recognition

- In 1974, the Mattsson Trophy for Under 15 girls Lacrosse competition in South Australia was established and is presented annually.
- She was made a Life Member of SAWLA (South Australian Women's Lacrosse Association) in the early 1980's.
- Barb was posthumously awarded and ALA Award of Merit in 2013 in recognition of her outstanding contribution to Women's Lacrosse in Australia.

Thanks to Vivienne Parker-White for providing much of the above information that was written by South Australia and Australian player Meryl Howie. (Gemo) Both Vivienne and Meryl were in the 1972 Australian Team with Barb.

Judy Thurgood