

The Roy & Evelyne Holenski Gallery

Builder / Softball



Manitoba Sports Hall of Fame
Inducted in 2004 & 2009

Roy & Evelyne Holenski crafted a dynasty in women's softball that had its origins in 1975 in Pee Wee at Grant Park Harrow Community Club. After several provincial championships in minor categories and a bronze in junior in 1983, the Holenskis moved on to senior in 1984. Smitty's Senior A represented Manitoba at many Canadian championships. The formation of the Super League in 1985 provided better competition and raised the skill level needed to compete on the national stage.

Smitty's first breakthrough season came in 1991 with a bronze at Nationals. In 1992 the Holenskis expanded Smitty's to become an Organization featuring A teams from U-12 to Senior inclusive. The feeder system would prove critical to their success.

After bronze in 1993 and silver in 1994, Smitty's broke a 30-year Manitoba drought with gold in 1995. The Holenskis guided Smitty's to two more National Championships in 1996 and 1997. They won gold again in 2008 to bring their nationals medal count up to eleven overall in four decades. Evelyne Holenski served as business manager for Canada's National Team in 1999 and 2002 and for Canada's Olympic team in 2000 at the Sydney Games.

Inducted as builders into the Manitoba Softball Hall of Fame in 2003, Roy & Evelyne were further honoured with the naming of the Holenski Field in the SW corner of John Blumberg Softball Complex. Their generous monetary donation built a first-class international women's diamond. It was a fitting tribute for their home away from home given their passion and the countless hours they have dedicated to softball, the game that they both love.