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COLLEGE OF EDUCATION & HUMAN DEVELOPMENT

Selected News Releases

Coaching Education Center Honors Sports Medicine Pioneer

ORONO, Maine -- The Maine Center for Coaching Education has honored retired Colby College educator and athletic trainer Carl E. Nelson of Waterville for his outstanding contributions to the promotion and practice of sports medicine in Maine. A pioneer in the care and prevention of athletic injuries, Nelson is the 1999 recipient of the Robert J. Lahey Sports Medicine Award.

Maine Center for Coaching Education Director Keith Lancaster presented the award to Nelson at the recent annual fall conference of the Maine Interscholastic Athletic Administrators' Association, held in Augusta. The award recognized Nelson for his long and extensive work with Maine high schools and communities and his dedication to the health, safety and welfare of young athletes. The professor of physical education emeritus and head athletic trainer and director of health services at Colby, retired in 1993.

Nelson's contributions to Maine sports medicine are unparalleled, and his reputation as a skilled and caring trainer is legend in Maine and international in scope, Lancaster noted in his presentation. When Nelson came to Colby as head athletic trainer in 1959, he was one of only three such qualified individuals in the state. In addition to his work at Colby, he was always on call to help injured high school athletes and to provide advice and training for hundreds of Maine coaches and other school personnel.

Among his work at the Olympic level, Nelson served as head athletic trainer at the 1972 and 1976 games in Japan and Austria, and as clinic supervisor for the Lake Placid Organizing Committee at the 1980 winter games. He was named to the National Athletic Trainers Hall of Fame in 1986.

In Maine, esteem for Nelson has been demonstrated with recognition such as the Waterville Hockey Committee's Dedication to Youth award and the Waterville Elks'

Outstanding Citizen award. The Carl E. Nelson athletic training and therapy facility at Colby College is named in his honor at the request of major donors Harold and Bibby Alford.

"Carl epitomizes all the attributes of a true educator," says Lancaster. "The greatest award amassed during his distinguished career is making a positive difference in the lives of hundreds of young athletes and his own students."

The Maine Center for Coaching Education provides leadership for the professional development of coaches statewide, resources for sports leaders and parents, and public forums on timely issues in sports. A collaborative effort of the University of Maine, the Maine Interscholastic Athletics Administrators' Association and the Maine Principals' Association, the Center is located within the College of Education and Human Development at UMaine.

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