

BC3 Hall of Fame: Volleyball victories spiked under Laurel grad

Hitter recalls lifetime of memories in two years on nationally ranked squad

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(Butler, PA) It's not the 37-7 record the Butler County Community College volleyball team amassed during her two years that Missy (Haney) Schnur recalls most vividly. Nor is it becoming BC3's first female All-American, her national ranking in three statistical categories, or she and her teammates redirecting a fledgling program into one that would capture conference, state and regional championships.

Rather, it's "Mambo No. 5," the 1999 Lou Bega hit that the BC3 volleyball team adopted and would play repeatedly on bus trips to away matches the Pioneers would ultimately win. It's the impromptu dance moves from their bus seats that accompanied the mambo-jive song. And it's the friendships born during that era that continue to this day.

Those are the memories that will last a lifetime, the 1998 Laurel High School graduate said Saturday during her speech as she was inducted into BC3's Charles W. Dunaway Pioneer Hall of Fame.

Schnur was among members of a 2017 Hall of Fame class with Dr. Andrew Matonak, a left-handed pitcher who posted season-ending earned-run averages of 1.08 and 1.16, from 1972-74; Robert Wilson, BC3's first All-American and first two-time All-American, from 1970-71; and Walter Fitzpatrick, BC3's scorekeeper in numerous sports since 1968.

Induction ceremony "just amazing"

"Whenever I look back on those times, there is one quote that I think fits perfectly for my two years at BC3," Schnur said as she addressed a crowd inside BC3's Field House and referenced the late Kurt Vonnegut, an American novelist and satirist.



Missy (Haney) Schnur, left, and Rob Snyder, BC3's director of student life and longtime volleyball coach, are shown Saturday, May 6, inside BC3's Field House. Schnur, a Laurel High School graduate who played volleyball player at BC3 in 1998 and 1999, was among four people inducted into the Charles W. Dunaway Pioneer Hall of Fame.

“Enjoy the little things in life because one day you’ll look back and realize those were the big things.”

Saturday was one of those big things.

“It’s just amazing, because I feel like everything I have right now in my life revolves somehow around volleyball, playing there at BC3,” Schnur said.

“The friends that I have now, they’ve all come somehow from BC3, from playing there. I met my husband through friends that I had at BC3. Everything. I don’t know where I would be right now if it wasn’t for volleyball at BC3.”

Schnur, 36, of Butler, is the daughter of Larry and Dorothy Haney of Portersville; the wife of Todd Schnur and the mother of daughter Kendall, 9; and son, Brett, 7. And former BC3 teammate Amanda (Hood) Rudish “has been my best friend since we met during my second year at BC3.”

Schnur is also the first female to be inducted into the Charles W. Dunaway Pioneer Hall of Fame.

She lettered twice during her four years on the volleyball squad at Laurel High under Coach Greg Dugan. The Spartans qualified for the WPIAL playoffs three times during her four years and ended with a 15-3 record in her senior season, according to Laurel Athletic Director Mike Tinstman.

Then she helped BC3 turn its volleyball program around, Snyder said Saturday.

“It is a special honor to be able to introduce one of your own players into the Hall of Fame,” said Snyder, BC3’s director of student life whose career as volleyball coach began three years before Schnur’s arrival on campus.

Inductee “good at everything”

“The 1998 team, and Missy in particular, had such an impact on the development of the volleyball program. What we had was a team starting from the bottom with a coach that didn’t know anything. But things turned around faster than I could have ever imagined,” said Snyder, whose squads are 339-135 and have posted 13 consecutive winning seasons.

“Missy was a great hitter and it was her hitting that carried us to conference, state and regional championships. But what made her special as a player is something that you don’t find often in players, particularly at this level. And that’s a player who is good at everything.

Schnur was ranked No. 5 in the 1999 National Junior College Athletic Association Division III in service aces per game at 1.08; tied for No. 6 in kills per game at 3.40; and was No. 10 in

hitting efficiency at .345 percent. The 5-foot-9½ inch-tall hitter would be named an All-American at season's end.

In her first year, Schnur led BC3 to a 15-4 record, and Western Pennsylvania Collegiate Conference and Pennsylvania Collegiate Athletic Association state championships. She also was named to the WPCC all-conference and PCAA all-state squads.

"I had a natural ability to play the game, but it was the great coaches I had throughout the years that helped bring that out," Schnur said. "My times at BC3 were some of the most fun and memorable days and I thank Rob and my teammates for that. We weren't just a team. We were a family."

BC3 climbed to No. 7 nationally

Schnur in 1999 led BC3 to a 22-3 record and its first NJCAA Region XX Championship. Again she was named to the WPCC and PCAA all-state squads. She was further recognized with NJCAA Region XX honors for all-region and all-tournament, was named the tournament MVP, and earned the first NJCAA All-American award for a BC3 woman's athlete.

She and her 10 teammates would be ranked seventh nationally in NJCAA Division III in 1999.

After receiving a bachelor's degree in exercise science from Slippery Rock University of Pennsylvania in 2003, Schnur returned to BC3 to obtain an associate of applied science degree in physical therapy assistant in 2005. She works as a physical therapist assistant in Butler.

Her 9.5-inch by 15-inch portrait and biography now hang on a wall inside BC3's Field House and join those of Matonak, Wilson and Fitzpatrick in the Charles W. Dunaway Pioneer Hall of Fame, which was dedicated May 6, 2015, as part of BC3's 50th anniversary.

The Hall of Fame recognizes people who, through their accomplishments, have made significant contributions to BC3 athletics. Dunaway created the athletic program at BC3 and served as director from 1968 to 1999. He has coached golf, baseball, basketball, cross-country and tennis.

BC3 offers students six intercollegiate sports: men's and women's basketball, golf, baseball, softball – and women's volleyball.

"I think about all those little things"

"When I think about the time I played here, I honestly don't think about our winning records, the tournaments we won, the awards we got," Schnur said. "I think about all those little things. Like our bus rides to our games, the dances we made up on those rides, going out to eat as a team, making cookies at Rob's house, ski trips to Seven Springs, or skipping class just to go play volleyball in the gym.

“The list could literally go on and on.”

And include “Mamba No. 5,” the team’s theme song that Snyder played on his cell phone in introducing Schnur.

“One thing I can’t forget, as much as I try, is ‘Mamba No. 5,’” Snyder said.

“We listened to this song nonstop. It is buried into my head in a way that I can’t get it out.”