

Robert E. Leach, MD
Weston, MA

Dr. Robert Leach's contributions to the specialty of sports medicine, along with his presentations and publications are too numerous to count. He has been involved with at least 6 instructional courses for the American Academy of Orthopedic Surgeons, as well as innumerable visiting professorships. He has over 140 publications, most of which have been presented in one shape or form during his visiting professorships, as well as participation in national and international meetings.

Dr. Leach has held many important offices during his career. Most recently, he was Editor of the *American Journal of Sports Medicine* from 1991 to 2001. He was also President of the American Orthopedic Society for Sports Medicine from 1983 to 1984.

Dr. Leach was Chairman of the Medical Committee of the United States Olympic Committee Sports Medicine Counsel from 1980 to 1984 and the Head Team Physician for the United States Team at the L.A. Games in 1984. He was a member of the American Board of Orthopedic Surgery from 1985 to 1994. He was a president of the American Orthopedic Association from 1993 to 1994, working his way up from Chairman of the Membership Committee, Second and then First President Elect. He has been a member of the Board of Editors of *Clinical Orthopedics and Related Research*, the *Journal of Bone and Joint Surgery*, the *Journal of Sports Medicine* the Audio Synopsis Foundation.

In addition to being the team physician for the Boston Celtics basketball team from 1970 to 1988, he was an orthopedic consultant for the U.S. Ski Team, the Boston Lobster professional tennis team, the Boston Minutemen professional soccer team, the Boston Breakers USFL football team, the New England T-men, U.S. Professional Tennis Association, the Boston Red Sox, Boston Beacon Soccer Club.

Dr. Leach has also been extensively involved on the regional and state level. He is a long-time member of the Massachusetts Medical Society, the Boston Orthopedic Club and Regional Tennis Association.

Dr. Leach received a Meritorious Service Commendation by the U.S. Navy in 1964. He was an American, British, Canadian traveling fellow in 1971, and awarded by the American Orthopedic Association. He has been listed in "Who's Who in the United States" from 1976 to the present. He received an Outstanding Service Award by the U.S. Olympic Committee in 1992 and was named the Sports Medicine Man of the Year in 1988. He was presidential guest lecturer in 1992 and received the George Rovere Award for excellence in teaching awarded by the AOSSM in 1995. He was also a Kennedy guest lecturer for AOSSM in 1999.

Dr. Robert E. Leach's contributions to the specialty of Sports Medicine are innumerable. He made major academic contributions to the field of sports medicine in the areas of Achilles tendon injuries, patellofemoral problems, exertional compartment syndromes and tibial fractures.

Dr. Leach was an outstanding athlete himself and played varsity football and a varsity wrestler at Princeton University. Most of us who know him, however, remember him primarily as an outstanding tennis player, being nationally ranked in many categories throughout his career by the U. S. Tennis Association. He and his son, Michael, who was a professional tennis player for many years, won the National Father-Son Tournament. He is also an accomplished mountaineer, kayaker, and has been a crew member on the Maxiot Matador, the winner of the world championships in 1990 to 1992.

There is no one more deserving for induction into the AOSSM Hall of Fame. Everyone who knows this man remembers him as a great leader, teacher and mentor. The number of people for whom he has been a major positive influence in their lives would be too long to list. Without question, there is not a more deserving individual to be inducted into the AOSSM Hall of Fame.

Nominator: Anthony A. Schepsis, MD
Boston, MA

