

2002 Colorado Springs Sports Hall of Fame Class of Inductees

Flo Hyman

The captain of the 1984 U.S. Olympic Women's Volleyball Team, Flo Hyman led Team USA to a silver medal at the Olympic Games in Los Angeles. Hyman was one of the original members of the U.S. Women's National Volleyball Team that lived and trained full-time in Colorado Springs beginning in 1978. She joined the U.S. National Team after a decorated playing career at the University of Houston, where she was a three-time NCAA All-American and the Collegiate Player of the Year in 1976.

The 6-foot-5 standout played a key role in establishing the United States as a world power in volleyball. From 1975 through 1984, she competed in every major championship for the United States, including the 1977 and 1981 World Cup, the 1978 and 1982 World Championships, and the 1984 Olympics.

Considered by many to be the best player in the history of American women's volleyball, Hyman died suddenly on January 24, 1986 after collapsing during a match with a club team in Japan. Born July 31, 1954, Hyman was just 31 years old when she died. The cause of Hyman's death was a ruptured aorta caused by a rare congenital disorder known as Marfan syndrome.

To honor her memory, the Women's Sports Foundation created the Flo Hyman Memorial Award in 1987. The award is presented annually on National Girls and Women in Sports Day to an individual who exemplifies Hyman's dignity, spirit and commitment to excellence. Past recipients include Martina Navratilova (1987), Mary Lou Retton (1995), Bonnie Blair (1999), Lisa Leslie (2001) and Dot Richardson (2002).

A bronze sculpture of Hyman is located near the Visitors Center of the U.S. Olympic Complex in Colorado Springs.