



Mount Pearl Sports Hall of Fame Inductee
Dean Blanks
Athlete 2022



Dean Blanks moved to Mount Pearl from Wales in 1997 and began playing with the Dogs Rugby Football Club (RFC). At the age of 17 years old he was playing Senior A, Senior B, 19 & over, and 17 & over rugby with the Dogs. He played for 18 years with the Dogs and The Rock (NL Rock and Atlantic Rock) until injuries forced his retirement.

In the words of his National Coach, Pat Parfrey, during his playing career with The Rock, Dean was instrumental in winning 4 National Championships, arguably the greatest run of success by a Newfoundland team in any sport ever. During this period, Dean was the ‘outside half’, the tactical leader, the goalkicker, and the highly skillful player who changed games. In addition, his thoughtful and insightful personality had a major influence on the culture of the team, particularly as it moved from getting to National finals in 2002 and 2004 to winning National Finals (2005, 2006, 2008 and 2010). According to Parfrey, Dean was one of Newfoundland’s finest rugby players and maintained his excellence for over a decade.

In 2011, Dean was the league’s highest ever scorer and tied for Player of the Year in the newly formed Canadian Rugby

Championship. Following several serious injuries, including a fractured skull, Dean retired from the game in 2013, recognizing the need to ensure his personal physical health for his family.

Dean would however come back once more in 2017 when the opportunity presented itself to play for the elusive Goodyear Cup (NL Provincial Senior “A” Championship). The Dogs had made it to the final. After much debate, Dean agreed to play. The Dogs won the championship game 18- 15! ...the first Goodyear Cup win in the Mount Pearl-based club’s 41-year history and Dean’s 10th attempt to win the Cup. Dean scored a conversion and two penalty kicks. The final piece of the puzzle and last achievement before retiring from rugby as a player on the field. Today Dean is a coach for the Dogs Junior Program as he continues to pass along his knowledge and understanding of the game.

In recognition of his outstanding athleticism, determination, and leadership the Sport Alliance is honored to recognize Dean Blanks with his induction to the Mount Pearl Sports Hall Of Fame.
