

LEDUC SPORTS HALL OF FAME

Harry Sanders

Born and raised in Calgary, Harry Sanders was already an avid rugby player when he moved to Leduc in 1979. Seeing potential for the sport in the community, he established a local men's rugby team. He recruited players, registered with the Edmonton Rugby Union and scheduled training facilities. The first LA Crude rugby team, captained by Harry, played its inaugural season in 1980.

Harry spearheaded the club's continuing growth. He sought sponsorships, coached the team, and continued playing and recruiting. The club began working closely with local schools to increase youth participation.

Thanks to Harry's tireless leadership, the LA Crude Sports Club has been a vibrant part of the community for nearly 40 years. Harry played for the club from 1980 to 1994, served as a coach for both the men's and women's programs, and never stopped mentoring and fundraising. He was inducted into the Edmonton Rugby Union Hall of Fame in 2005. LA Crude teams have played in five provincial men's championships and three provincial high school championships. The club was the first to break ground in the William F. Lede Park, grooming and developing rugby pitches at their own expense.

Today, Harry is pleased to see how the club continues thriving under new leadership. There are currently about 200 active players, with two men's teams, two women's teams, one high school team and six mini rugby teams.

Harry and his wife Ginny live in Didsbury. He enjoys attending rugby games, keeping in touch with former teammates and spending time with his grandchildren.

