



SANTA BARBARA COURT OF CHAMPIONS

BILL BERTKA | 2014 INDUCTEE



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Bill Bertka is an American former National Basketball Association (NBA) assistant coach and a former NBA executive with the New Orleans Jazz. He was an assistant coach for the Los Angeles Lakers under Bill Sharman, Pat Riley and Phil Jackson among others. In 1968, the Los Angeles Lakers followed the recommendation of former West Virginia great Rod Hundley and hired him as a full-time scout.

He was named the interim head coach of the Lakers on two occasions. He was 1–1 after replacing Randy Pfund in 1994 before Magic Johnson replaced him. Bertka was 1–0 after Del Harris in 1999; Kurt Rambis then finished the season.

- Just finished 33rd consecutive year with the Lakers and the 11th in his current capacity of Special Assistant to the GM/ Basketball Consultant.
- First employed by the Lakers in 1968, serving as a scout, assistant coach and director of player personnel until 1974.

- In 1974, joined the expansion New Orleans Jazz as the team's general manager
- Rejoined the Lakers in 1981 as an assistant coach and for the next 20 years was a key member on the staffs of Pat Riley, Mike Dunleavy, Randy Pfund, Earvin "Magic" Johnson, Del Harris, Kurt Rambis and Phil Jackson.
- 25th, 1999: Bill became the oldest person to ever coach an NBA game at the age of 71. Bill and Phil Jackson are the only people to serve as the team's head coach on two different occasions.
- Founded founding Bertka Views, one of the most successful college scouting services in the country, which he and his wife, Solveig, operated from 1961-1995.
- During the summer of 1992, he served as a scout for the United States' Olympic basketball team at the European Qualifying Tournament in Zaragoza, Spain
- In 1989, Bill was inducted into the Santa Barbara Sports Hall of Fame and just five months later in October, he was inducted into the Summit County (Ohio) Sports Hall of Fame
- Inducted into the Kent State University Sports Hall of Fame in 2004
- Bill and Solveig have two married daughters, Britt (wife of former Lakers' assistant coach Jim Eyen) and Kris