



Fred Horgan, a member of the Canadian Basketball Hall of Fame and the New Brunswick Sports Hall of Fame, will add in September the Radomir Shaper Award for outstanding contributions to international basketball rules to his list of accomplishments.

Since leaving teaching in 1997, he's traveled to every continent on the planet through his extensive work with the International Basketball Federation (FIBA).

And don't look for Saint John's globetrotter to slow down anytime soon. His itinerary includes a trip booked to Istanbul, Turkey in early September, when FIBA will present him with the Radomir Shaper Award for outstanding contributions to international basketball rules.

"It's a wonderful award," the 68-year-old Saint Johner said Wednesday. "I'm most gratified by it."

Horgan said he's especially pleased to be receiving an award that was previously won by close friends - one from Bulgaria, the other from France - in the officiating fraternity. The occasion will also mark one of the rare trips during which there's time to relax.

"The nice thing about this particular trip is that I'm not really working," Horgan said. "I can take my wife (Barb) with me."

One of 15 FIBA instructors worldwide, Horgan's influence was part of some recent changes to FIBA's rule book for major international competitions. The basketball governing body will release a new rule book later this summer and Horgan said two notable rules include FIBA going from a trapezoid key to an NBA key. He also said the three-point line will be extended by a half-metre.

As for the upcoming award presentation, Horgan doesn't have time to bask in the glory. He's scheduled to leave Monday for Colorado Springs, Colo., the site of the FIBA Americas under-18 women's tournament, a qualifying event for the world championship.

He'll conduct a referees camp in early October in Columbia. Other recent FIBA trips have taken him to Egypt and Dubai. He's undertaken countless FIBA projects in previous years, from serving as technical commissioner of tournaments to scripting instructional films.

"They're nice trips, but they're very busy, too," said Horgan, who was presented with the Order of Canada in 2005 for his contributions to basketball. "There's a lot of work."

All that work has added up to accolades, including inductions into the Canadian Basketball Hall of Fame and the New Brunswick Sports Hall of Fame. He became the founding member of the Canadian Association of Basketball Officials in 1974 and became the first Canadian to serve as the president of the International Association of Approved Basketball Officials in 1993. He also served as the technical commissioner for basketball in the last three Olympic Games.

"I promised myself I would retire to something," Horgan said of his second career. "I love it."