

Congratulations 2011 Inductees!

Dedicated to inspiring excellence through the stories of British Columbia's sport heroes, the BC Sports Hall of Fame honours BC's outstanding athletes, teams and builders of sport. The vast collection of medals, photographs, videos, scrap-books and interactive exhibits tell the story of BC's love affair with sport and our athletes' inspiring quests for excellence.



2011 INDUCTEES

Banquet of Champions Sept 13, 2011

Athlete

Gary Gait (Lacrosse)
Paul Gait (Lacrosse)
Trevor Linden (Ice Hockey)
Maëlle Ricker (Snowboarding)
Lauren Woolstencroft
(Para-Alpine Skiing)

Pioneer

1933 Chinese Students
Soccer Team (Soccer)

Builder

Mike Jones (Wrestling)
Audrey Williams (Figure Skating)

Media

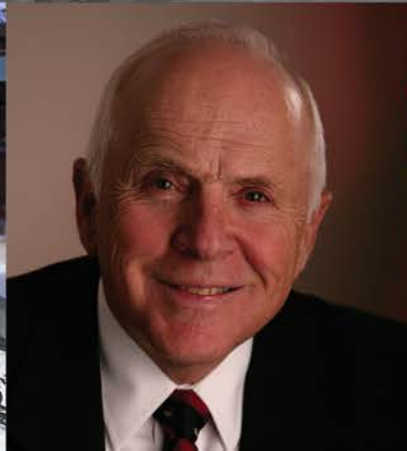
Tom Larsheid

W.A.C. Bennett Award

Marty Zlotnik

Team

2010 Olympic Men's Hockey Team
(Ice Hockey) BC members: Duncan
Keith, Roberto Luongo, Brent Seabrook,
Shea Weber and Scott Niedermayer





GARY GAIT

Athlete Category

Lacrosse

When discussing the greatest athletes in any given sport, usually only a select few individuals enter the discussion. Even rarer are those legendary athletes who transcend their respective sports with matchless combinations of astonishing skill, uncanny scoring prowess, and a heap of championship hardware to back it all up. Athletes who changed their games forever: Babe Ruth, Pele, Wayne Gretzky, Michael Jordan, Jerry Rice, Tiger Woods.

Add Victoria's Gary Gait to this illustrious list. Simply put, Gait is the greatest lacrosse player the world has ever known. If anyone cares to dispute this claim, please read on.

With his twin brother Paul, likely the closest competition to his crown as the game's greatest player, Gary played any sport that was available from a young age—soccer, basketball, and of course lacrosse, at age four. The Gaits' next door neighbours also happened to be a set of twins the same age: Greg and Grant Pepper. The four became partners in crime in any sport they could get involved in. In the end, lacrosse was their chosen path.

They chose wisely.

To start, Gary Gait has won every possible major lacrosse title a player can win, an achievement that is unmatched by any other player ever to play the game. It began in 1979 with a Canadian peewee championship, followed by a bantam national championship, then a midget national title and a U-19 Canadian field championship. The Junior A national championship might have been the toughest—it took six tries, but it, too, was captured in Gait's last year of eligibility. In four years at Syracuse University beginning in 1987, the Gaits led the Orange to three NCAA championships with Gary picking up 1988 NCAA player of the year.

On to pro and the success only continued: three Mann Cups (two with the WLA's Victoria Shamrocks), three Major League Lacrosse titles, three MILL/National Lacrosse League titles, the 2004 Heritage Cup, and the 2006 World Lacrosse Championship representing Canada.

Individually, Gait won the NLL MVP award a record six times, the MILL championship game MVP twice, and 2005 MLL MVP. He retired as the NLL's all-time leader in goals (634), assists (526), and points (1160) and remains amongst the all-time leaders despite being passed by a handful of longer-serving players. He added sixty-six goals in twenty-two career playoff games.

Perhaps the Gait brothers' greatest contribution however is the way they revolutionized the way the modern game is played and helped usher in the current professional game's popularity across North America. It was in university with his brother Paul that Gary devised the aerial maneuver around the goal crease that came to be popularly known as the "Air Gait." It proved so effective rules were made to restrict it. Other Gait innovations such as behind-the-back passing and shooting confounded opposing coaches and defenders alike. These "trick shots" are now an accepted and effective part of the modern game.

Only the second player in NLL history to have his jersey number retired, Gary Gait has been inducted into the US Lacrosse National Hall of Fame and was a charter inductee into the NLL Hall of Fame.



PAUL GAIT

Athlete Category

Lacrosse

Ask Paul Gait about the biggest surprise of his storied lacrosse career and he's likely to tell you it's the fact both he and his twin brother Gary are likely the first two professional lacrosse players to make their entire living from the game.

"Lacrosse chose us," he says.

As boys they excelled at anything that could be played—soccer, basketball, rugby, track and field. Take your pick, there's a good chance they could have taken it pro. Yet, in the end it was lacrosse. First as players, then coaches, then equipment distributors, and from here, who knows. In today's world of multi-million dollar contracts and ballooning endorsement deals for athletes in other major sports, it doesn't sound like much of a statement—"to make your entire living from the game"—but first consider where they came from, where the game of lacrosse was, and where Paul Gait went with it.

Born in Victoria, Paul learned the game beside his twin brother Gary and next door neighbours Greg and Grant Pepper, also twins their age. Their father Fred and Greg and Grant's father, Bob, first introduced them to lacrosse and coached the boys until age eleven. Looking to take their play to another level, the dads hired former Victoria Shamrocks player Ron McNeill as coach. Both Gaits attribute much of their success to McNeill now, ahead of his time in terms of teaching young kids technical skills and visualization, meditation, interval training, and nasal breathing techniques that just weren't taught at that time.

In 1986, Paul won a full scholarship to New York's Syracuse University and with brother Gary led the Orange to three national championships in four years. Three times Paul earned All-American standing and was named MVP of the 1989 NCAA Championship tournament.

Upon graduation, professional lacrosse was just taking hold in the US. A Kansas entertainment company specializing in monster trucks had established a fledgling indoor professional lacrosse league and needed star power. Enter Paul and Gary Gait. Over Paul's thirteen-year pro career he won nine championships: one Minto Cup (with Esquimalt-Victoria Legion), four Mann Cups (one with Victoria), three NLL championships, and one MLL title.

The only player whose team and individual accomplishments rival those of his twin brother, it's not difficult to see why Paul's name enters the discussion for greatest lacrosse player of all-time early and often. Four times he led the NLL in goal scoring, eight times was named to the First-Team All Pro, and in 2002 he won the league's MVP award. Paul currently ranks as the NLL's third all-time goal-scorer (410) and eighth in points (712). Lacrosse Magazine and the NCAA named him to its All-Twentieth Century Team and 25th Anniversary Team respectively. Four times he represented Canada at the ILF World Championships, earning All-World honours in 1994.

Like Gary, Paul is also inducted into the US Lacrosse National Hall of Fame and the NLL Hall of Fame. Currently, Paul remains heavily involved with the Gaits' own brand of lacrosse equipment, Gait Lacrosse based in Syracuse.



TREVOR LINDEN

Athlete Category

Ice Hockey

While a student at Prestwood Elementary School back home in Medicine Hat, Alberta, Trevor Linden's visits to the school library involved locating a particular hockey book.

While gazing at the glossy photos of past and present stars of the game, Linden dreamt about becoming one himself. A photo of a grinning, toothless Bobby Clarke complete with cut dripping blood down the side of his face made the deepest impact on the young Linden. That's what a hockey player should look like, he thought. (When someone drew ink teardrops down Clarke's cheeks, he vowed vengeance for the desecration of his hockey idol. He never found the culprit.)

It's an interesting tale when one considers his place today as perhaps BC's most universally beloved and revered athlete of all-time. For over a decade, in school libraries all over this province young children have dreamt their own dreams while gazing at an iconic photo of a battered, exhausted Linden with arm around goaltender Kirk McLean during the 1994 Stanley Cup Finals. The next generation is in good hands. It's hard to fathom a better role model on and off the ice than the man acknowledged as the ultimate Captain Canuck.

Early on, Linden's hockey world revolved around the Medicine Hat Tigers, his earliest memory a game-used Tigers puck his grandparents gave him. Protected by the Tigers at age twelve, Linden played his first junior game with his hometown heroes at fifteen. He helped the Tigers to two straight Memorial Cup championships in 1987 and 1988. His play earned selection to the national junior team at the 1988 world junior championships in Moscow helping Canada to gold.

Drafted second overall by the Canucks in 1988, few could have foreseen Linden's impact in quickly becoming the face of a struggling franchise. Within three years Linden became the Canucks' youngest-ever captain holding the title for seven seasons and the club's fortunes were on the upswing. Linden recorded six thirty-goal seasons, the Canucks rattled off back-to-back Smythe Division titles and made the playoffs six straight seasons.

The highlight of course was leading the Canucks to within a goalpost of the Stanley Cup in Game Seven of the 1994 Cup Finals. Scoring two goals while playing through broken ribs and torn rib cartilage in one of sport's most pressure-packed situations, Linden singlehandedly carried a tired, injured and underdog hockey club on his back. It might just rank as the greatest championship final game performance by any athlete representing a BC team.

Later, Linden represented Canada at the 1996 World Cup of Hockey and the 1998 Olympic Winter Games. He also served as NHLPA president, a key figure in navigating the 2004-05 lockout. After short stints in New York, Montreal, and Washington, Linden returned home to Vancouver in 2001 and stayed until his emotional 2008 retirement. His jersey was only the second retired in club history.

During his career, Linden rewrote the Canucks' record book, amassing 867 points in 1382 regular season games and adding 99 points in 124 playoff games. His prodigious off-ice efforts for community charity organizations are unmatched, leaving an indelible mark in the hearts of many British Columbians.



MAËLLE RICKER

Athlete Category

Snowboarding

Each year the BC Sports Hall of Fame awards two athletic scholarships to BC's top graduating high school student athletes. The BC Sports Hall of Fame has offered the Jack Farley Youth Sports Achievement Award for close to two decades. Never before has the importance of this gentle financial nudge toward greatness been so clear because never before has a youth scholarship winner returned as a full-fledged BC Sports Hall of Fame inductee.

Until now.

In 1996, a young seven-sport phenom from West Vancouver's Sentinel Secondary named Maëlle Ricker won the Farley Award. At that time she was a former BC Summer Games athlete, national level sprinter and snowboarder, captain of her school's soccer and basketball teams, and the North Shore's all-star field hockey goaltender.

Within two years, Ricker represented Canada at the 1998 Olympic Winter Games in Nagano during snowboarding's Olympic debut finishing fifth in the halfpipe. Tonight she returns to the occasion where first honoured, this time as a world champion snowboarder and Canada's first female athlete to win an Olympic gold medal on home snow.

Growing up in West Vancouver and now living in Squamish, Ricker first took to the slopes after her older brother Jörli. She remembers her first time snowboarding on Mount Seymour with boots too small for her bindings, so she threw her dad's size twelve soles over top and off she went.

Starting out at Blackcomb Snowboard Club on weekends under the guidance of coach Ben Wainwright, Ricker's rise was nothing short of remarkable. Local Whistler/Blackcomb events led to her World Cup debut in 1996 and a spot on the Canadian national snowboard team by 1997. Then the stars aligned for Nagano and her Olympic debut. It wasn't the last time fate appeared on her side.

Hard road stood in her way however. Ricker overcame a Bobby Orr-like eight separate knee surgeries with a training regimen rivaling that of any high-performance athlete in the country. At the 2006 Olympic Games in Torino, she narrowly missed a snowboard cross medal finishing fourth in the event's Olympic debut, although requiring an airlift off the mountain after suffering a concussion during a crash. As early as waking up in the helicopter, Ricker's mind was made up. Vancouver 2010 was now the goal: be the world's best in her own backyard.

She threw herself into training and the results showed. By 2010, the fourteen-year national team veteran accumulated fourteen career victories and thirty-two podium finishes in 106 starts. She added boarder cross gold and bronze medals to her earlier 1999 Winter X Games gold. In 2008, she claimed the World Cup overall title in snowboard cross.

Two days after Alex Bilodeau's historic gold medal, Ricker followed suit with one of her own. Overcoming a disastrous first qualifying run in which she fell, Ricker stormed back in the quarters and semis and led wire-to-wire in the final at foggy Cypress Mountain. The next night over 20,000 proud Canadians at BC Place Stadium celebrated her gold medal presentation. And if winning Olympic gold at home wasn't enough, a month later Ricker locked up the World Cup Overall title as the topper on her dream 2010 season.



LAUREN WOOLSTENNCROFT

Athlete Category

Para Alpine Skiing

Going into the Vancouver 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games, much was made of the ambitious “un-Canadian” goals laid out in the Own The Podium program, which was intended to do just that. And while much of Canada was still basking in the glow of a record fourteen gold medals along came North Vancouver’s Lauren Woolstencroft.

Already Canada’s most decorated Winter Paralympian of all-time going into the 2010 Paralympics, perhaps we should have had an inkling of what was to come. Then again, Woolstencroft herself didn’t expect such lofty success.

She merely went out and won five gold medals in all five para-alpine skiing disciplines in which she competed, tying a Paralympic record. The Games had its’ new “Golden Girl” and a Canadian athlete truly did ‘own the podium.’ Five of them actually.

Born in Calgary, Woolstencroft began skiing at age four, her strongest early memories of family skiing vacations down to Whitefish, Montana. Despite being born missing her left arm below the elbow, as well as both legs below the knees, she never saw herself as having any disability. Even while very young, an incredible determination marked her personality. Woolstencroft’s mother likes to tell the story of how her daughter came home from school one day and without telling anyone went down into the basement and wouldn’t leave until she’d taught herself how to skip rope.

Woolstencroft first became involved in competitive skiing at age fourteen when a friend, who was the only girl on the Alberta provincial team, wanted her to try it as well. Within two years she was attending her first World Cup event in Europe and by 1998 she was a full-time member of the Canadian Para-Alpine Ski Team.

In 1999, Woolstencroft moved to BC to attend the University of Victoria and success appeared just around the bend. She represented Canada at the 2002 and 2006 Paralympic Games winning three gold medals, as well as one silver and one bronze. By the time the 2010 Paralympics rolled around, Woolstencroft had accumulated over fifty World Cup medals, eight world championship titles, and was named the 2006 International Paralympic Committee Athlete of the Year. She had also completed her degree at UVIC and taken a job with BC Hydro as an electrical engineer, even working on some of the venues in which she would later be competing.

Few recall today that she skied poorly—for her—during the early part of the 2009-10 season leading up to the Paralympics. Some good pre-Games training straightened things out, but nothing could have prepared her for what was to come. Woolstencroft didn’t just win her events; she dominated, winning the Super Combined, Downhill, Super G, Slalom, and Giant Slalom by a combined thirty-five seconds. Five gold medals in five events in six glorious days.

For her efforts, she was chosen as Canada’s flagbearer at the Closing Ceremonies of the 2010 Paralympic Games and nominated for the prestigious Laureus World Sportsperson of the Year. Now residing year-round in North Vancouver, she announced her retirement from competitive skiing in June 2010.



1993 Chinese Students Soccer Team

Pioneer Category

In an era when BC's Chinese population were treated like second-class citizens, the Chinese Students Soccer Team stood as pillars of strength and a beacon of hope, the only Chinese-Canadian soccer team in Canada and thought to be the only such team outside of China.

In the 1920s and 1930s, Vancouver's Chinatown would empty during Chinese Students' matches down at the old Powell Street or Cambie Street grounds. The games served as a brief respite for a people living through the dual burdens of a widespread economic depression and daily racial prejudice from the surrounding white population, its most blatant forms the infamous \$500 Head Tax and the 1923 Chinese Exclusion Act. Members of the Chinese community were not permitted to vote—full Canadian citizenship wouldn't arrive until after World War II—and couldn't gain admittance to basic community centres such as swimming pools. Simply stepping out of neighbourhood boundaries was often enough to put themselves at risk.

"It was like something out of the deep South," says Robert Yip, son of Chinese Students' star player Quene Yip.

Out on the field however, regardless of race, the same rules applied to everyone and the small group of skilful Chinese Students thrived. The players became heroes for the community, revered for their quickness, skill, and determination in the face of white opponents who often employed rough and dirty tactics. Formed in 1920 and active until 1942, the team reached its apex during the 1933 season even gaining a grudging respect from the largely white Vancouver press, who marveled at the clinical goal-scoring of star centre forward Yip, a 1998 BC Sports Hall of Fame inductee, the deft passing of his brother Art Yip, and the cat-like quickness of goaltender Shupon 'Spoon' Wong, nicknamed for his skill at scooping up loose balls.

That season the Chinese Students were one of the favourites in the Lower Mainland's First Division to take the prestigious Mainland Cup, indicative of Lower Mainland soccer supremacy. After defeating North Shore United 1-0 in the semifinal, the Chinese Students advanced to the rainy May 29, 1933 championship final versus the favoured UBC Varsity at Con Jones Park before over a thousand spectators.

With the score tied 3-3 on goals by Buck Sing, Quene Yip and Horne Yip, Jack Soon scored the winning goal in the final minute as delirious fans swept onto the field to celebrate. The victory party poured down Pender Street, bands playing and firecrackers exploding, players riding in an open car holding the three-foot high trophy aloft. The following day was declared a holiday in Chinatown as free tea and dim sum were served for all.

Although many of the same racial issues persisted until after the war, members of the 1933 and successive Chinese Students squads went on to remarkable success. Midfielder Dock Yip became the first Chinese-Canadian lawyer called to the Canadian bar, while team vice president and treasurer William Lore became the first Chinese-Canadian naval officer, accepting the surrender of Hong Kong at the end of World War II. Ghim Yip and Tong Louie, who both played for the Students later in the 1930s, became the first Canadian-trained Chinese doctor and the CEO of London Drugs respectively.



MIKE JONES

Builder Category

Wrestling

When Mike Jones first moved to BC at age twenty-five in 1976, he had so little hope the SFU wrestling program could succeed he joked to his wife, “Best leave our stuff in the boxes.”

In his initial estimation his best wrestler that first year was slow and weak, albeit tenacious. This wrestler surprised everyone, most of all Jones, never losing a match and leading the newly-formed Burnaby Mountain Wrestling Club to its first of twenty-eight national titles.

Jones and his wife eventually unpacked and have stayed thirty-five years to date. Today he is regarded not only as Canada’s greatest wrestling coach of all-time, but one of the country’s great coaches in any sport in terms of unmatched success at the national and international level.

There may be no better way to sum up the impact of Jones’ coaching career than to simply list the only four wrestlers inducted into the BC Sports Hall of Fame: Bob Molle, Chris Wilson, Daniel Igali, and Carol Huynh. Jones coached all of them and each won either Olympic or Commonwealth medals, three of them gold, one silver. Huynh and Igali stand as Canada’s only Olympic gold medalists in the sport.

Born in Lebanon, Oregon, Jones began wrestling in junior high when introduced to the sport by his math teacher. Without the height to pursue a basketball career—“the only other winter option in small-town USA” as he puts it—he stuck with wrestling through high school and wrestled at Oregon State University. Under legendary coach Dale Thomas, who Jones took many of his coaching cues from later on, Jones finished second in the NCAA championships twice.

After graduating from OSU, he heard through the grapevine a fellow Oregon State alum was quitting as SFU’s wrestling coach. On a gamble he took the next flight up, met with Lorne Davies, and the rest is history. From the autumn of 1976 when he started with a total program budget of \$18,000 until today, Jones has helped rewrite the Canadian wrestling record book. Since forming the Burnaby Mountain Wrestling Club that first fall, Jones has turned the organization into a veritable wrestling factory, a dynasty that has churned out eighteen Olympians, thirteen world and Olympic medals, eight NAIA team titles, and produced more individual champions than any other comparable program in North America.

Over that time Jones’ resume makes a strong claim as the most influential architect wrestling has ever known in Canada. He served as the Canadian national wrestling team coach at two Olympic Games and countless world championships. For over twenty-five years, Jones has served as a technical volunteer on the BC Wrestling Association’s board of directors providing technical expertise and guidance to countless wrestling programs while fostering an army of young coaches who have risen to prominent roles under his direction most notably Dave McKay, the current national team coach.

Jones has received one National Coaching Award, three times been named CIS Coach of the Year, and was inducted into the Canadian Amateur Hall of Fame in 1992 and the USA Wrestling Hall of Fame in 2005.



AUDREY WILLIAMS

Builder Category

Figure Skating

You couldn't have asked for a more difficult debut.

Vancouver's Audrey Williams, a figure skating judge since the age of fifteen, made her Olympic debut judging the women's figure skating at the 1994 Olympic Winter Games in Lillehammer. Williams was only vaguely aware of the firestorm she was about to walk into. You might recall it: Nancy Kerrigan, Tonya Harding, and the biggest controversy to explode in world figure skating in years. After a few 747's had landed full of hungry media before the first women's practice of the Games, it sounded like war in the arena with the camera shutters snapping the two feuding skaters' every move.

With thirty-five years of experience to that point, Williams faced the pressure-packed media circus with her customary grace and smile and judged at her best. For this province's first female Olympic figure skating judge, she'd reached the peak of a fifty-year climb to the top of the figure skating world and nothing could faze her.

Vancouver and figure skating have been two constants throughout Williams' entire lifetime. She remembers catching the cross-town streetcar to skate at the Forum, which during her childhood was still a block and a half outside the city limits at Hastings and Renfrew. Seeing Sonja Henie in the 1941 film *Sun Valley Serenade* first inspired her to seriously take up skating. Not long after she was part of the same Connaught Club skating carnival as Barbara Ann Scott. Barbara was the headliner; Williams was a tree in an awful green satin dress, but the young girl was spellbound by the elder skater's delicate grace on ice.

Williams became a championship skater herself in pairs for three straight years between 1952-54 with partner Brian Power winning the western Canadian pairs competition and finishing second at nationals behind reigning world champions Francis Dafoe and Norris Bowden.

Appointed a national judge in 1959, she judged the first of over thirty Canadian championships in her career in 1961. By 1967, Williams was appointed an international judge by the ISU and went on to judge numerous international competitions including the 1994 Olympic Winter Games in Lillehammer, six world championships, and four world junior championships. Williams remains the only native female British Columbian to serve as an Olympic judge in figure skating. In 1984, she was appointed as an ISU Referee, leading to countless referee assignments at international competitions. In that time, she judged many of the giants of the ice: Toller Cranston, Petra Burka, Kurt Browning, Brian Orser, and Karen Magnussen.

Earlier, she served as Canadian team leader for female skaters at the 1972 Olympic Winter Games in Sapporo, fostering the environment that allowed Magnussen the opportunity to capture Canada's only medal—a silver—of the Games. A huge believer in volunteerism and giving back to her sport what she got out, Williams served on countless provincial and national committees ranging from skater development to official development to judging.

Boundless energy, smiling and styling in equal quantities, Williams mentored dozens of individuals over the years, many of whom rose to prominent roles at the sport's provincial, national, and international levels.



TOM LARSCHEID

Media Category

Here's a story.

In November 1961, Tom Larscheid, an All-American running back from Utah State University stepped off a plane in Toronto introduced to the media as the BC Lions' newest fleet-footed gridiron savior. The first man behind the microphone to greet him was none other than CKWX's Jim Robson.

Remarkable how certain life threads become woven together later on, isn't it?

Sixteen years later that same American college football player and cub reporter would begin working side-by-side for nearly two decades as the radio and television voices of the Vancouver Canucks, later considered by some the best duo in the business. Larscheid would stay on another fifteen years after Robson's departure further honing his craft and enlarging on the enthusiasm and personality the radio signals could barely contain.

The man local media initially scorned as an American who knew nothing about hockey had not just survived, but thrived in this cutthroat media jungle in that time. At the final curtain call of his thirty-three-year career—highlighted by a prolonged Rogers Arena standing ovation on opening night of the Canucks' 2010-11 season—Larscheid found himself highly respected, wildly popular, and a straight-shooting, opinionated expert on the frozen game in the country and province he now called home.

As Larscheid himself would gleefully quip if describing his own amazing career arc over the airwaves: "Remarkable. Don'tcha just love it?!"

Born in Milwaukee and raised in California, Larscheid first fell in love with baseball, idolizing the New York Yankees, particularly pitcher Whitey Ford. At Pleasant Hill High School east of San Francisco, Larscheid lettered in four sports, yet only began playing football as a junior. After a short stint at junior college, he earned a football scholarship to Utah State and rewrote the university's record book. In 1960 Larscheid was the NCAA's second leading rusher, darting for 1044 yards at 8.4 yards per carry.

Signed by the BC Lions to play beside Willie Fleming, Larscheid played two promising CFL seasons scoring two touchdowns in his rookie season before serious knee injuries ended his career in 1963. Trying his hand at radio advertising and the stock market and finding neither to his liking, he discovered his calling in 1969 while doing radio colour commentary on CHQM beside Brad Keene during Lions games. He nailed down the position full-time at CKNW in 1975 and stayed twenty-five years working beside Jim Cox and J. Paul McConnell for legendary Lions victories in the 1985 and 1994 Grey Cups. He relinquished his Lions duties in 2000 to focus on hockey.

In 1977, Larscheid added Canucks commentary to his resume joining the legendary Robson. Over the next three decades Larscheid called the good and bad as he saw it, giving British Columbians honest, one-of-a-kind opinions on their beloved hockey team. His trademark staccato laugh and energized enthusiasm resonated through the airwaves making many of his unrehearsed one-liners water cooler chatter for weeks. With Robson, Larscheid broadcast two Canucks trips to the Stanley Cup Finals in 1982 and 1994 and later worked beside Jim Hughson and John Shorthouse, forming with the latter arguably the best on-air chemistry of any broadcast duo in BC history.



MARTY ZLOTNIK

W.A.C. Bennett Award

They say to be good at golf—or any game for that matter—you need some measure of luck.

Tied into that is also the notion of good karma: what you put in, you are likely to get out.

This all makes sense when considering the career of Marty Zlotnik, a man who has raised more money for amateur sport than perhaps any other individual in Canada, let alone BC. An avid golfer for much of his life, Zlotnik has also amassed seven—count'em *seven*—hole-in-one aces in his career thus far.

Coincidence? Hardly.

For Zlotnik it truly is a tiny return on a large investment.

The fourteenth individual honoured with the W.A.C. Bennett Award, the BC Sports Hall of Fame's highest honour, Zlotnik was born in Regina before his family moved to Vancouver when he was only six months old. Sports were a way of life for him from an early age, the change of seasons meaning a change of sports. A natural athlete, at sixteen Zlotnik set Canadian junior records in the 100 and 200 yards while dabbling in football and rugby for the Meraloma Club.

Golf was his passion however. Zlotnik first discovered the game through his father and began his lifelong love affair with the game by caddying for him. In 1961, he won the Vancouver city junior championship. In 1969, he represented Canada at the Maccabiah Games in Israel finishing third.

The Zlotnik drive, vision, and organizational ability now so associated with the man with a legendary reputation for turning foundering organizations into outright success stories was evident early on while attending UBC. A member of the university golf team when the sport was struggling in the mid-1960s because of a lack of funding, Zlotnik reorganized the teams, raised funds, and developed a schedule while tripling as manager, coach, and team captain. The sport has been a UBC mainstay ever since. In 1984, at the request of UBC athletic director Bob Hindmarch to save the golf program, Zlotnik formed the Thunderbird Golf Society, which has since raised over \$1 million and annually supports UBC's men's and women's golf teams.

In 1998, Zlotnik became chair of the UBC Thunderbird Council, an alumni group devoted to developing fundraising for university athletics and introducing the concept of UBC joining the NCAA. At the same time, through a personal challenge to then-UBC President Martha Piper, which she accepted, Zlotnik created the Thunderbird Millennium Scholarship Breakfast which has raised over \$7 million for UBC Athletics scholarships, making it the most successful fundraising event in Canadian athletics. For his prodigious volunteer efforts, Zlotnik was recognized as the 2008 NAADD Volunteer of the Year from a pool of nearly 4000 American and Canadian schools.

Feeling the city needed a PGA event, Zlotnik served as founding chair of the Greater Vancouver Open / Air Canada Championship, a regular PGA Tour stop from 1996-2002. He was also crucial to the Vancouver Grizzlies' 12,500 season ticket drive that ensured the NBA franchise came to Vancouver. More recently, Zlotnik has served as chair of the Kids Up Front Foundation, the BC Sports Hall of Fame, and the First Tee organization, while also serving a term as Vancouver Park Board Commissioner.



2010 Olympic Men's Hockey Team (BC Members) Team Category

For Canadians, it was a storybook ending.

A perfect finish to the nearly perfect Vancouver 2010 Olympic Winter Games.

February 28, 2010.

Seven minutes and forty seconds into the first overtime period Canada's Sidney Crosby slid a give-and-go pass from Jarome Iginla past USA goaltender Ryan Miller to give Canadians their only acceptable result: Olympic hockey gold.

The goal ignited celebrations on the ice, in the Canada Hockey Place stands, all over Vancouver, and in bars and living rooms across the country. Within minutes hundreds of thousands of red, white, and gold Canadian hockey revelers clogged Vancouver's downtown streets in the largest, most spirited post-game celebration BC has ever known. The dramatic victory gave Canada fourteen gold medals, the most ever won by any nation in a single Winter Olympics and ended a rollercoaster two-week ride on a monumental high.

After an opening game 8-0 waltz over Norway and a much tighter 3-2 shootout win over Switzerland, Canada suffered its only setback of the tournament, a 5-3 defeat at the hands of the foe they eventually met in the gold medal final—the US. Although whispers of doubt permeated nearly every corner of the Canadian universe, inwardly Team Canada used the setback as a rallying point. In hindsight, it might have been the best result Canadians could have hoped for.

With a few minor changes, including inserting Roberto Luongo as the team's starting goaltender, Team Canada was a team reborn. Finishing second in Group A, Canada met Germany in the qualification playoffs. An 8-2 drubbing proved the team had rebounded and felt no ill effects.

A much tougher quarterfinal test awaited in Russia, like Canada a pre-tournament favourite. Experts predicted a tight, exciting affair in a classic match-up between bitter rivals that any other Olympics could have passed for the gold medal final. The experts foresaw everything except the most explosive Canadian start in recent memory as Team Canada built a 6-1 lead four minutes into the second period and simply overpowered the Russians in a 7-3 manhandling.

In the semi-finals versus an underrated Slovakian team, the Canadians built a 3-0 lead before relying on Luongo and his iron-clad defence to hang on for a 3-2 victory.

The gold medal final featured more build-up than any hockey game in this country's history—the first time Canada contested the Olympic gold medal in its national winter sport on home soil against its mortal rival to the south no less. Canadian goals by Jonathon Toews and Corey Perry were answered by American tallies from Ryan Kesler and Zach Parise. Then overtime and Crosby's unforgettable moment of magic, the memory of which will live on as long as hockey is played.

Five British Columbian players made sizable contributions to the Canadian gold medal effort. Montreal's Luongo, who has played in Vancouver for the Canucks since 2006, started Canada's final four games in goal, compiling a 5-0 record, one shutout, and 1.76 goals against average. Canada's stingy defence that allowed only fourteen goals in seven tournament games was led by four BC defenders: Cranbrook's Scott Niedermayer, the Canadian team captain, Penticton's Duncan Keith, Sicamous' Shea Weber, and Tsawwassen's Brent Seabrook, a BC Winter Games athlete in 2000.