



BC SPORTS HALL OF FAME 2011 INDUCTEES

ATHLETE CATEGORY

GARY GAIT – Lacrosse

Widely considered the greatest lacrosse player of all time—perhaps challenged only by his twin brother Paul—Gary Gait revolutionized the way the modern game is played and helped usher in the current professional game's popularity across North America. After learning the game in his hometown of Victoria, Gait played four seasons at Syracuse University beginning in 1987 setting numerous NCAA records and leading the Orange to three NCAA championships. In 1988, he was named NCAA Player of the Year. It was in university with his brother Paul that the Gait brothers devised the aerial maneuver around the goal crease that came to be popularly known as "Air Gait." Other Gait innovations such as behind-the-back passing and shooting confounded opposing coaches and defenders alike. Team success has followed Gait everywhere giving him every possible major lacrosse title to his name: three Mann Cups (two with the WLA's Victoria Shamrocks), three Major League Lacrosse titles, three 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, was only the second player in NLL history to have his number retired, and remains the NLL's all-time leader in goals and points. Already a member of the US Lacrosse National Hall of Fame and the NLL Hall of Fame, Gait came out of retirement in 2009 to join the NLL's Rochester Knighthawks and the MLL's Toronto Nationals.

PAUL GAIT – Lacrosse

The only lacrosse player whose team and individual accomplishments rival those of his twin brother Gary, it's not difficult to see why Paul Gait's name enters the discussion for greatest lacrosse player of all-time early and often. The Victoria-born Gait played soccer, rugby, and basketball growing up, although it became clear his calling was Canada's national summer sport. In 1986, the Gait twins won full scholarships to New York's Syracuse University and led the Orange to three national championships. Three times Paul earned All-American standing and was named MVP of the 1989 NCAA Championship tournament. Over his thirteen-year pro career he won another nine championships: one Minto Cup (with Esquimalt-Victoria Legion), four Mann Cups (one with Victoria), three NLL championships, and one MLL title. Four times he led the NLL in goal scoring, eight times was named to the First-Team All Pro, and won the league's MVP award in 2002. Gait ranks as the NLL's third all-time goal-scorer and eighth in points. 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 serves as head coach of the Rochester Knighthawks, coaching his brother, and remains heavily involved with their own brand of lacrosse equipment, Gait Lacrosse.

TREVOR LINDEN – Ice Hockey

Perhaps the most universally beloved and respected athlete in Vancouver sports history, Trevor Linden left an indelible mark in the hearts of British Columbians with his herculean on-ice play and leadership, as well as his prodigious efforts for community charity organizations. Drafted 2nd overall by the Canucks in 1988, few could have foreseen then Linden's impact in quickly becoming the face of the franchise. Within three years, the Medicine Hat, Alberta boy was the Canucks' youngest-ever captain holding the title for seven seasons. During that time, he recorded six thirty-goal seasons and led 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 might just rank as the greatest-ever single-game performance by any athlete representing a BC team. After returning for a second stint with the Canucks that ended with his 2008 retirement, Linden became only the second player to have his number retired by the club. During his career, he amassed 867 points in 1382 regular season games, but was at his best in the playoffs adding 99 points in 124 games. A recent recipient of both the Order of BC and Order of Canada, Linden makes his home year-round in Vancouver and remains one of the most revered figures in BC sport.

MAËLLE RICKER – Snowboarding – Snowboard Cross

Growing up in West Vancouver and now living in Squamish, Maëlle Ricker took on the world's best in her own backyard in 2010 and emerged a champion, golden for the ages. Two days after Alex Bilodeau captured Canada's first-ever Olympic gold on home snow, Ricker matched the feat in the women's snowboard cross becoming the first Canadian woman to win gold at home. Overcoming a disastrous first run in which she fell only to storm back in the quarters and semis and lead wire-to-wire in the final held at foggy Cypress Mountain, Ricker's victory served as the climax of a decade's worth of trial and toil. A fourteen-year veteran of the Canadian National Snowboard team, Ricker represented Canada at the 1998 and 2006 Olympic Winter Games. She nearly graced the podium in Torino, finishing fourth, but required an airlift off the mountain with a concussion. It wasn't her only injury. Remarkably, Ricker overcame a Bobby Orr-like eight separate knee surgeries with a training regimen rivaling that of any high-performance athlete in the country. 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. The world's top-ranked women's boarder, in 106 career starts she collected fourteen victories and thirty-two podium finishes.

LAUREN WOOLSTENCROFT – Para Alpine Skiing

Canada's most decorated Paralympic alpine skier before the Vancouver 2010 Paralympic Winter Games, Lauren Woolstencroft merely owned the podium on her way to becoming the 'Golden Girl' of the 2010 Games capturing gold medals in all five disciplines in which she competed. And Woolstencroft didn't just win; she dominated, winning the Super Combined, Downhill, Super G, Slalom, and Giant Slalom by a combined thirty-five seconds. Her feat marked the first time in history a Winter Paralympian won five gold medals at a single Paralympic Games. Woolstencroft had earlier represented Canada at the 2002 and 2006 Paralympics winning another three gold medals, as well as one silver and one bronze. A member of the Canadian Para-Alpine Ski Team since 1998, during her career Woolstencroft won over fifty World Cup medals, eight World Championship titles, and was named the 2006 International Paralympic Committee Athlete of the Year. Born in Calgary, Woolstencroft moved to BC to attend the University of Victoria in 1999 and now resides year-round in North Vancouver, where she is employed as an electrical engineer with BC Hydro. She announced her retirement from competitive skiing in June 2010.

BUILDER CATEGORY

MIKE JONES – Wrestling

There may be no better way to sum up the impact of Mike Jones' coaching career than to 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. For over thirty years, Jones has turned Simon Fraser University's Burnaby Mountain Wrestling Club into a veritable wrestling factory, a dynasty that has churned out twenty-eight national championship teams, eighteen Olympians, thirteen world and Olympic medals, eight NAIA team titles, and produced more individual champions than any other comparable program in North America. It could well be argued that the Lebanon, Oregon-born Jones is 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. Jones has received one National Coaching Award, three times 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 – Figure Skating

Involved for over fifty years in the sport of figure skating in a multitude of capacities—all volunteer it should be noted—Vancouver’s Audrey Williams stands as one of the all-time great skating officials from BC. Beginning her career as a pairs competitor, she judged her first test at age fifteen. 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 female native 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. Earlier, she served as team leader for female skaters at the 1972 Olympic Winter Games in Sapporo, fostering the environment that allowed North Vancouver’s Karen Magnussen the opportunity to capture Canada’s only medal—a silver—of the Games. She 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 has mentored dozens of individuals over the years who rose to prominent roles at the sport’s provincial, national, and international levels.

TEAM CATEGORY

2010 Canadian Olympic Men’s Hockey Team (BC Members)

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 Sidney Crosby slid a give-and-go pass from Jarome Iginla past the USA’s 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 win gave Canada fourteen gold medals, the most ever won by any nation in a single Winter Olympics. Five British Columbian players made sizable contributions to the Canadian gold medal effort. Montreal’s Roberto Luongo, who has played in Vancouver for the Canucks since 2006, started Canada’s final five 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. Weber was named to the tournament all-star team.

BC Team Members

| | | |
|----------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Duncan Keith | Roberto Luongo (goaltender) | Scott Niedermayer (captain) |
| Brent Seabrook | Shea Weber. | |

Please note there were no women from British Columbia on the Women’s National Team *

PIONEER CATEGORY

1933 CHINESE STUDENTS SOCCER TEAM

In an era when the Chinese population in BC was made to feel like second-class citizens, the Chinese Students Soccer Team stood as a pillar 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. 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 Head Tax and the 1923 Chinese Exclusion Act. The players became heroes for the community, revered for their quickness, skill, and determination in the face of white opponents who often employed openly 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 forward Quene 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 Wong. That season the Chinese Students were one of the favourites in the Lower Mainland's 1st Division to take the prestigious BC Mainland Cup, indicative of provincial 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 a boggy Con Jones Park before over a thousand spectators. With the score tied 3-3, 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.

Team Members

| | |
|---|---|
| Gordon Chang | Gam Jung |
| George Lam (Secretary) | Charles Louie (Playing Manager) |
| Jackson Louie | William Lore (Vice-President & Treasurer) |
| Lem On | Buck Sing |
| Jack Soon | Frank Wong |
| Shupon Wong (Goalkeeper & Team President) | Art Yip |
| Dock Yip | Gibb Yip |
| Horne Yip | Quene Yip |



MEDIA CATEGORY

TOM LARSCHIED

Known best as the excitable, straight-shooting Canucks radio colour commentator for most of the past thirty-three years, Tom Larscheid called the good and bad as he saw it, giving British Columbians honest, one-of-a-kind opinions on their beloved hockey team. From “Bingo, bango, bongo, his name is Roberto Luongo!” to “Come on, Bert, time to dance the Watuzzi!” Larscheid’s energized enthusiasm resonated through the airwaves making many of his unrehearsed one-liners water cooler chatter for weeks. Born in Milwaukee and raised in California, Larscheid first showed up on BC’s sports radar as a BC Lions running back in the early 1960s after a spectacular college career at Utah State University. When a serious knee injury ended his promising career in 1963, Larscheid got his start in broadcasting Lions football in 1969. He became the Lions’ full-time colour commentator on CKNW in 1975, a position he held for a quarter-century until 2000. In 1977, Larscheid added Canucks commentary to his duties joining the legendary Jim Robson and later working beside Jim Hughson and John Shorthouse. Larscheid’s trademark staccato laugh was heard one last time when he announced his final Canucks game on October 9, 2010 at Rogers Arena, the Canucks’ fortieth anniversary since joining the NHL.

W.A.C. BENNETT CATEGORY

MARTY ZLOTNIK

The fourteenth recipient of the BC Sports Hall of Fame’s highest honour and the first in three years, Vancouver’s Marty Zlotnik joins an elite group of movers and shakers who have significantly shaped BC sport in remarkable ways. The Zlotnik drive, vision, and organizational ability that have come to be so associated with the man was evident early on while attending UBC in the 1960s. A member of the university golf team when the sport was dropped from UBC Athletics in 1965 because of a lack of funding, Zlotnik reorganized the teams, raised funds, and developed a schedule while tripling as manager, coach, and player. The sport has been a UBC mainstay ever since. In 1984, 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 introduce 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 Millenium Scholarship Breakfast which raised over \$5 million for UBC Athletics scholarships, making it the most successful fundraising event in Canadian athletics. 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’ season ticket drive that ensured the NBA franchise came to Vancouver. More recently, Zlotnik has served as president of the Kids Up Front Foundation, chair of the BC Sports Hall of Fame, and Vancouver Parks Board Commissioner.