

JOCELYN LOVELL

INDUCTED 2015



The Canadian Cycling Hall of Fame recognizes exceptional contributions to the sport of Cycling by both Athletes and Builders.

The Canadian Cycling Hall of Fame is pleased to welcome Jocelyn Lovell as an inductee for 2015 acknowledging a career, although shorter than we all would have desired, was exceptional in every way.

Jocelyn first represented Canada at major Games in 1968 when he was selected as a teenager to the Olympic Team that competed in Mexico City. He finished seventh in the 1,000 metre time trial. In 1970 he won three medals at the Edinburgh Commonwealth Games including gold in the 10-mile scratch race making him the first Canadian in 32 years to win a cycling gold at those Games.

Lovell dominated the 1,000m time trial throughout the 1970s, winning gold at both the 1971 and 1975 Pan-American Games and in the process setting a record for the distance that would stand for 28 years. His successes led to being named the winner

of the 1975 Norton H. Crowe Award as Canada's top male amateur athlete.

He competed at two more Olympic Games at Munich in 1972 and Montreal in 1976. At the 1978 Commonwealth Games in Edmonton he won three gold medals, all in Games-record times, becoming the first man to achieve such a feat. Later the same year he claimed a silver medal at the world championships in Munich. Lovell continued to compete as one of Canada's top-ranked cyclists into the 1980s.

Domestically he won his first National Championship as a 15 year old Junior and went on to win 35 Canadian Championships.

His successes were all the more remarkable because he trained himself, never working with a personal coach. Yet, what more Lovell might have achieved was cut short, violently, in 1983 when a dump truck ran him down during a training session. At age 33, he was a quadriplegic.

Demonstrating the same fierce competitiveness and combativeness that characterized his cycling career, he took a leadership role advocating research into spinal cord injuries. Lovell was the long-time Canadian head of the international advocacy group, the Spinal Cord Society, which promotes research aimed at curing paralysis.

He passed away on June 3, 2016 at the age of 65. "Jocelyn was one of the pioneers in Canadian cycling that paved the way internationally for people like me, Steve Bauer and Curt Harnett," said Gordon Singleton, who won gold with Lovell at the 1978 Commonwealth Games in Edmonton in the tandem bike sprint.

"He just was such a world-class athlete on the track at a time when track cycling wasn't well understood in North America and he was also very strong on the road," said Cycling Canada president John Tolkamp, who called Lovell "one of my cycling heroes."