

LINDA JACKSON

The Canadian Cycling Hall of Fame is pleased to welcome World Championship medallist and accomplished international road racer Linda Jackson as an inductee for 2018.

Linda Jackson of Nepean, ON had a remarkable career in road cycling despite entering into the sport at the age of 32. In August 1993 she quit her lucrative finance job to race full-time. Jackson made her first national team at age 34, when many athletes are considering retirement. She quickly achieved international success, including fifth-place finishes in the women's Tour de France races in 1994 and 1995. Her most prestigious result was a bronze medal performance at the 1996 World Championships in Lugano, SUI in the Road Race.

This end of season result at the World Championships showed the form she had in 1996 although it would not lead to success at that summer's Olympic Games in Atlanta. She crashed early in the 104-kilometre cycling road race - her specialty - when Svetlana Bubnenkova of Russia tumbled ahead of her. Television footage showed Jackson catapult off her bike, with her arm striking either a sign or a mailbox. She was 37 years old at the time. "The last four years have been headed to this (Olympic) goal," she told reporters. "I gave up a lot for this. It's probably one of the most disappointing days in my life."

Showing remarkable resiliency she was able to compete 13 days later in the Olympic individual time trial where she finished ninth.

She won a silver medal at the 1994 Commonwealth Games in the Road Race and followed that up with another silver medal performance at the 1998 Commonwealth Games in the Individual Time Trial. Linda won the General Classification in the 1996 Tour de Toona. In 1997, she had seven top-three finishes, including gold at the prestigious Tour de l'Aude in France. Linda was second in the General Classification at the 1997 Giro de Italia Femminile, which she repeated in 1998, and third in the General Classification of the 1997 Tour de France Feminine. In 1998 she won the Prologue, Stage 2 and the General Classification at the Women's Challenge and finished 7th at the World Championships in the Road Race.

Added to this were six National Road Championships, three each in the Road Race (95 / 97 / 98) and Individual Time Trial (96 / 97 / 98).

Linda was voted top female North American cyclist by VeloNews in 1997 and 1998.

Jackson herself has difficulty choosing a single 'best' performance. "I feel proudest about my mountain stage results; being able to climb there with the best, to continue to

dig deeper and deeper. I remember in '94, at my first major national team project, riding Alpe d'Huez. First there was a group, then down to 5 riders, and then finishing second... I also feel good about taking the pink jersey from Luperini in the '98 Giro. I couldn't keep it but I did take it away from her."

Since her retirement from competitive racing Linda has given back to the sport in a very significant manner. In 2004 she founded the women's road racing team Tibco-Silicon Valley Bank which is now the longest running professional women's cycling team in North America. "I am proud of my success as a racer, but watching the women's team grow and help create champions has been the most rewarding part of my cycling career. I'm excited for our future in international competitions," Linda said on the 10 year anniversary of her team.

She was also a founding Director of the CCA – Hamilton 2003 Road Cycling Foundation and served as Chair of the Foundation until 2017. The Foundation has supported numerous age group road riders through the years.

Linda was inducted into the Ottawa Sports Hall of Fame in 2006.

She currently resides in Pescadero, California with her husband Kevin.

Linda Jackson you are now an honoured member of the Canadian Cycling Hall of Fame.