

TORCHY PEDEN

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 Torchy Peden as an inductee for 2015 acknowledging his legendary position in Canadian track cycling and pioneering accomplishments worldwide.

Torchy Peden was the most prominent Canadian cyclist in the highly competitive six-day race events that took place between 1929 and 1948. During the first four years in that era, Torchy won 24 of the 48 races that he entered. He teamed with various riders from around the world throughout his career but his most memorable victories were the ones with his brother Doug who also was a gifted athlete. He represented Canada in the 1928 Olympic Games.

This legend of six-day races was able to cater to the audiences picking up his speed and gaining laps at those times when the audiences were largest. Riding in two rider shifts over the six days, the team would cover more than 3,200 kilometers. Peden was one of the stars of the circuit having competed in 148 six-day races over his career and winning 38 of them.

One of the many promotional stunts that he was famous for was riding behind a car equipped with a special vacuum to shield him from the wind. He reached a record speed of 73.5 mph (120 km/h) covering a mile in less than 50 seconds.

In the latter part of his six-day career Torchy raced with younger brother by ten years Douglas Peden. In May 1939 the Peden Brother won the second to last six-day event at Madison Square Garden in New York City, the Mecca for six-day bicycle racing.

Together the Peden brothers won 5 races.

In his six-day career Peden won 4 races at Madison Square Garden. In 1939, 1940 and 1941 Torchy won the World's Six-Day Championship.

Torchy also coached two Canadian Olympic Teams: 1932 and 1936 in addition to becoming a race organizer for track events in the Chicago area.