

2002 Colorado Springs Sports Hall of Fame Class of Inductees

Carlo Fassi

One of the most respected and successful coaches in the history of figure skating, Carlo Fassi brought national and international acclaim to Colorado Springs and the Broadmoor Skating Club.

Fassi was born in Milan, Italy and, as a skater, represented Italy in four World Championships (1949, 1951, 1952 and 1953), finishing as high as third in 1953. He also competed at the 1948 Olympic Winter Games in St. Moritz, Switzerland and was a two-time European Champion (1953 and 1954). His success as a competitive figure skater, however, was a prelude to a remarkable coaching career that would span more than three decades.

Following a plane crash in 1961 in which every member of the U.S. Figure Skating Team was killed on their way to the World Championships in Brussels, Belgium, Fassi was hired as head coach of the Broadmoor Skating Club. The club's coach at the time, Edi Scholdan, died in the plane crash, as did many of the club's most talented skaters. Fassi and his wife, Christa, were hired to rekindle the tradition of excellence that had been established by Scholdan.

One of the first athletes with whom Fassi would work at the Broadmoor Skating Club was Peggy Fleming - who moved to Colorado Springs in 1965 and, under Fassi's tutelage, captured the gold medal at the 1968 Olympic Winter Games in Grenoble, France. Another Fassi protegee, Tina Noyes, finished fourth at the 1968 Olympics.

In 1969, Carlo and Christa decided to relocate, but in 1979, Fassi returned to Colorado Springs as Director of Skating for the Broadmoor Skating Club. During the 1981-82 season alone, 43 international figure skaters arrived at the Broadmoor to train with the legendary coach.

The list of figure skaters coached by Fassi includes some of the most accomplished athletes in the sport's history: Peggy Fleming (three-time World Champion and 1968 Olympic gold medalist), Dorothy Hamill (1976 World Champion and 1976 Olympic gold medalist), John Curry (1976 Olympic gold medalist), Robin Cousins (1980 Olympic gold medalist), Jill Trenary (1990 World Champion and three-time U.S. National Champion), Caryn Kadavy (1987 World bronze medalist) and, during the early days of his competitive career, Todd Eldredge (1996 World Champion and six-time U.S. National Champion).

In 1997, while at the World Figure Skating Championships in Lausanne, Switzerland, Fassi suffered a heart attack and passed away at the age of 67.