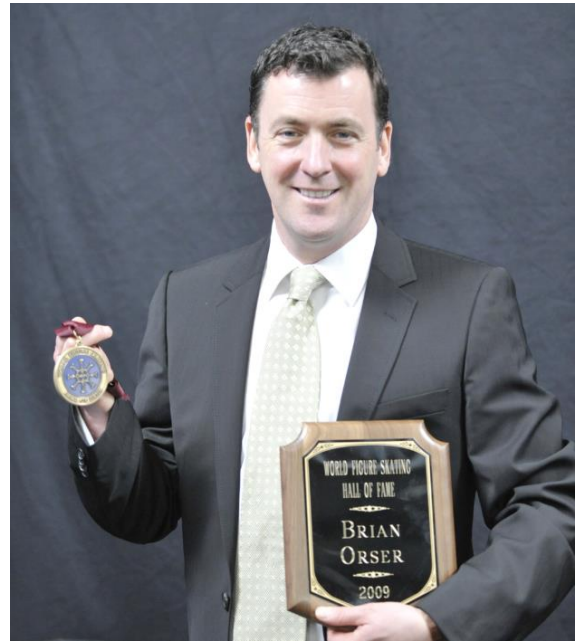


WORLD HALL OF HONOUR: BRIAN ERNEST ORSER, OC, UE

Brian Orser was born in Belleville, Ontario on 18 December 1961, the youngest of five children of Harl Edward Orser and Joanne Crouchman. At an early age the family moved to Penetanguishene and soon got involved in figure skating. Brian Orser is the only man in Canadian singles skating to have won all three major Canadian titles: Novice, 1977, Junior, 1979 and, from 1981 – 1988, Senior. During most of his competitive years, he trained at the Mariposa School of Skating, located originally in Orillia, Ontario. After winning the national novice title in 1977, he went to the World Juniors and placed 4th. He won the Canadian Junior Level in 1979. In 1980 he moved to the Men's Senior Level Competitions, winning a bronze medal at his first international competition in Vienna, and placing 4th in the Canadian Figure Skating Championships.



That would be the last time he would finish off the podium in Canadian competitions. Brian was known for his triple Axels and extraordinarily fluid footwork earning him the nickname of “Mr. Triple-Axel”. His talent, discipline, perseverance and perfectionism drove him in his quest for excellence. In 1983 he won his first World Medal, placing bronze, which positioned him well for the upcoming 1984 Winter Olympics in Sarajevo. At that event, he received the silver medal and became the first man to land a triple axel in an Olympic games, placing close behind winning American skater Scotty Hamilton. Orser won the gold in the World Skating Championship in Cincinnati, putting him in great position for the upcoming Calgary Olympics of 1988. He served as flag bearer for Team Canada at the opening of those games. During what was known as the “Battle of the Brians” he won his second silver Olympic Medal, losing out to his long-time American rival Brian Boitano. Orser won Silver in the World Figure Skating Championship later that same year. At the end of 1988 he turned professional and began touring with Stars on Ice, performing with them off and on for close to 20 years, retiring in 2007 after breaking his wrist. He also starred in the film *Carmen on Ice* in 1990 for which he won an Emmy Award. His other films were *The Planets* in 1994, and *Nutcracker on Ice* made in 1995.

In addition to his skating performances, he has also had a long career coaching top international skaters with the Toronto Cricket Skating Club, and continues to coach potential Olympic skaters to this day. Personally, he came out in 1998 and is married to his partner Rajesh Tiwari.

In addition to his Canadian, World, and Olympic medals, he has received many other honours. He was named a member of the Order of Canada in 1985 and promoted to Officer in 1988. He was inducted into the Canadian Sports Hall of Fame in 1989, the Canadian Olympic Hall of Fame in 1995, the Midland Ontario Sports Hall of Fame in 1998, the Penetanguishene Sports Hall of Fame in 2003, the World Figure Skating Hall of Fame in 2009 and the Ontario Sports Hall of Fame in 2012. The Brian Orser Foundation, established in 2012 is a federal corporation

in Toronto incorporated with Corporations Canada, a division of Innovation, Science and Economic Development (ISED) Canada.

Brian Orser has deep family ties across the province and Loyalist ties to both the Quinte and Niagara areas, being a descendant of Loyalists Gilbert Orser, Samuel Wright, Edward Hicks Sr, Albert Hainer, Heinrich Hainer, and Isaac Vollick.

He was inducted into our UEL Hall of Honour on September 9, 2023 by Brian Tackaberry.