



Athlete Category

Ann Saasto
Thunder Bay, Ontario
Inducted: 2007

Saasto began her ascent to the top of the Canadian ten-pin bowling world in the early 1980s. Going on to represent her region and her country at competitions around the world in three decades, she did so in record setting style.

Consistently claiming provincial titles, she was a force to be reckoned with at World Cup national tournaments. Her 3rd place finish in 1984, and 2nd place showing in 1987, was followed up with back to back titles in 1991 and 1992, becoming the first female ever to do so. Named to Team Canada in 1990 and 1994, and as an alternate in 1992, she was the first bowler from northern Ontario to accomplish such a feat.

Representing Canada at the FIQ World Championships in Singapore in 1991, she was part of another record setting moment, claiming gold in the Ladies Trio Event with Catharine Willis and Jane Amlinger. This marked the first ever gold for Canada in World FIQ and the first medal won by Canadian women. Her individual accomplishments at the event included a 9th in the All Events and 12th in the Masters. Proudly donning the maple leaf at competitions around the world, she represented Canada at the AMF World Cup championships in Beijing, China in 1991 and in LeMans, France in 1992. In 1993 she earned 2nd place honours in mixed doubles at the 13th International All Stars Open Competition in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia and another silver in doubles at the Fred Perry International Tournament in Singapore that same year.

As a member of Canada's first ever victory in team bowling at the 1995 Pan American Games in Mar Del Plata, Argentina, she added more gold to her collection, contributing to Canada's sports history.

Well known to the viewers of TSN Pins Games while competing in 6 national finals, she claimed the title in 1990 and again in 1995. Her 6th place showing in the 1992 WIBC Queen's Professional Tournament in Lansing, Michigan marked the highest placing ever by a Canadian woman at that time.

Her silver medal earned while competing for the provincial team at the 2003 National Classified Championships, rounded out a competitive career that has set the standard for others to follow.

Ann was also Inducted into the Northwestern Ontario Sports Hall of Fame, September 30, 2006