Celebrity Bios

WAYNE GRETZKY
Born and raised in Brantford, Ontario, Wayne Gretzky is generally regarded as the best player in history, and has been called "the greatest hockey player ever" by many sportswriters, players and coaches. Gretzky regularly played at a level far above his peers. In 1978, he signed with the Indianapolis Racers of the World Hockey Association (WHA), where he briefly played before being signed by the Edmonton Oilers. When the WHA folded, the Oilers joined the NHL, where Gretzky won four Stanley Cups, nine Hart Trophies as the most valuable player, and ten Art Ross Trophies for most points in a season.

Throughout his career he tallied over 100 points in 15 NHL seasons, 13 of them consecutively. He is the only player to have his number (99) officially retired by the NHL for all teams. After his retirement in 1999, he was immediately inducted into the Hockey Hall of Fame. He became Executive Director for the Canadian national men's hockey team during the 2002 Winter Olympics, where the team won a gold medal. In 2000, he became part owner of the Phoenix Coyotes and following the 2004-05 NHL lockout became their head coach.

BRETT HULL
Brett Hull is a former NHL player, the current interim co-general manager of the Dallas Stars and the son of legendary player Bobby Hull and nephew of Dennis Hull. Though in the earliest years of his career few saw him as a potential star, the colorful and often outspoken Hull announced his retirement on October 15, 2005 with 741 career goals, placing him third on the all-time list. He played for the Calgary Flames St. Louis Blues, Dallas Stars, Detroit Red Wings and the Phoenix Coyotes. Hull also won the Cup as a member of the Red Wings in 2002. The son of a Canadian father and American mother, Hull holds dual U.S./ Canadian citizenship.

GRANT FUHR
Grant Fuhr played nineteen seasons in the NHL with six different teams (Edmonton, Toronto, Buffalo, LA, St. Louis and Calgary). He began his career with the Edmonton Oilers where he won five Stanley Cup Championships. In his time in Edmonton he also won the Vezina Trophy (NHL's best goalie) He was also runner-up for the Hart Trophy (MVP), the year it was awarded to teammate

Wayne Gretzky.He ranks sixth on the NHL all-time wins list and sixth on the NHL all-time games played list. He was elected to the Hockey Hall of Fame in 2003, and is now the goaltending coach of the NHL's Phoenix Coyotes.

JANET GRETZKY

Originally from Bridgeton, Missouri, Janet Jones Gretzky has an extensive career in both acting and dancing. Her big break came in The Flamingo Kid (1984), which was followed by the film version of A Chorus Line (1985). Later in 1986, she appeared in American Anthem, co-starring gymnast Mitch Gaylord. Janet met Wayne Gretzky when he was a judge on Merv Griffin's show Dance Fever in 1984. They ran into each other at a Los Angeles Lakers game in 1987, and on 17 July 1988 they were married in a ceremony at St. Joseph's Basilica in Edmonton that was broadcast live across Canada. Janet and Wayne have four other children: Ty, Trevor, Tristan, and Emma.

CHARLES BARKELY

Charles (Chuck) Wade Barkley (born February 20, 1963) is an American retired professional basketball player. Nicknamed "Sir Charles" for his aggressive and outspoken demeanor, and "The Round Mound of Rebound", for his unusual build and talent as a player, Barkley established himself as one of the National Basketball Association's (NBA's) most dominating power forwards. He was selected to both the All-NBA First Team and All-NBA Second Team five times and once named to the All-NBA Third Team. He earned eleven NBA All-Star Game appearances and was named the All-Star MVP in 1991.

In 1993, he was voted the league's Most Valuable Player and during the NBA's 50th anniversary, named one of the 50 Greatest Players in NBA History. He competed in the 1992 and 1996 Olympic games and won two gold medals as a member of the United States' Dream Team. In 2006, Barkley was inducted into the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame. Since retiring as a player, Barkley has had a successful career as an Emmy Award-winning color commentator on basketball.

DAMON ALLEN

Damon Allen (born July 29, 1963, in San Diego, California) is a former professional quarterback in the Canadian Football League, most recently with the Toronto Argonauts. Allen leads the all-time pro football passing chart with 72,381 passing yards; he surpassed Warren Moon's total of 70,553 yards (in both the CFL and NFL combined) on September 4, 2006 in the annual Labour

Day Classic.[1][2] The 2007 season marked Allen's twenty-third season in the CFL. He retired on May 28, 2008 at age 44. Allen is the younger brother of NFL Hall of Famer Marcus Allen.

Allen has been mentioned as one of the greatest CFL quarterbacks of all time; he has approximately 15,000 more passing yards than second-place Anthony Calvillo. In addition, he stands fifteenth on the all time professional rushing list (third on the all time CFL list behind Mike Pringle and George Reed) and retired only 323 yards behind his brother Marcus.

DONOVAN BAILEY

Bailey emigrated from Jamaica to Canada at age 13, and played basketball before his graduation. He began competing as a sprinter part-time in 1991, but he didn't take up the sport seriously until 1994. At that time, he was also a successful stockbroker.

The following year saw his international breakthrough. At the World Championships in Gothenburg, Bailey won the 100 metre sprint and the 4 x 100 metre relay titles respectively. He repeated that double at the 1996 Atlanta Olympics, setting a world record of 9.84 seconds in the 100m (the previous record was set in July 1994 by American Leroy Burrell at 9.9 seconds).

He retired from the sport in 2001 having been a five-time World and Olympic champion. Donovan Bailey still holds the indoor world record in the 50 metres (5.56, in Reno, Nevada, in 1996), and the Olympic, Commonwealth and Canadian records for the 100 metres.

JAVIER COLON

Javier Colon was born in Bridgeport, Connecticut, the son of a Dominican father, who owned a Spanish-language radio station, and a Puerto Rican mother. Though raised in a mostly white, middle-class area, he experienced a broad cross section of music in his childhood, including latin, pop and, of course, soul. He ultimately attended the University of Hartford's Hartt School of Music, where he graduated in 2000. After graduating from Hartt, he served as percussionist for a soul band covering classic 70s soul and funk. When his band opened for jazz-funk outfit Soulive, he came to the attention of modern guitarist supreme, Derek Trucks, and ended up touring with the popular Derek Trucks Band for a year and a half.

GERRY DEE
Gerry Dee (born Gerard Donoghue[1] December 31, 1968) is a Canadian stand-up comedian. Prior to his comic career, he was a physical education teacher and hockey coach at De La Salle College (Toronto) "Oaklands", a private co-ed high school in Toronto. He also attended and graduated from De La Salle in high school.

Dee was already relatively successful long before being on Last Comic Standing. He had already had his own comedy special on The Comedy Network in Canada, appeared on the Comedy Network special "The Nubian Disciples", and performed at the world famous Montreal Just for Laughs International Comedy Festival, having his segment aired on Just For Laughs. He has appeared in television commercials and has performed at many comedy clubs, including Just For Laughs and Yuk Yuks. Dee also had a role in the minor hit Trailer Park Boys: The Movie where he played the role of Donny. He won a 2008 Canadian Comedy Award as Best Male Comic in Canada. Gerry Dee is now married to Heather Donoghue and has a young daughter.

NANCY GEE
Nancy Gee, born April 1968, started skiing at 3 years old and skied competitively at the age of 8. A Canadian Juvenile Ski Champion at age 13, and again at 14, Nancy was invited to join the National Alpine Development Team in 1984. She became a full time member of the National Ski Team in 1986.

Nancy represented Canada at the World Championships in Crans -Montana, Switzerland in 1987 and again at the 1988 Calgary Olympics, where she placed 13th in the Combined. Scoring points for Canada in World Cup competition at Santa Caterina, Italy in March 1990, where she finished 14th in Super Giant Slalom competition, Nancy returned to Canada to win the Canadian National Ski Championships at Lake Louise, Alberta. In the summer of 1990, Nancy won a silver medal in the giant slalom at the first ever Winter Pan American Games in Las Lenas, Argentina.

CATRIONA LEMAY DOAN
Catriona Le May Doan was the fastest woman on ice. After carrying the Canadian flag into the 2002 Olympic Winter Games opening ceremonies (her fourth Olympics), Catriona defended her Olympic title with a Gold medal performance in the 500 metre event. Catriona became the first and only Canadian individual to defend a gold medal at any Olympic Games. She held the World Record in the 500m for 10 years and still currently holds the Olympic Record. During her career Catriona broke 13 World Records.

In 1998, at the Nagano Olympic Winter Games, Catriona won her first Olympic Gold medal in the 500m in Olympic record time, then added an Olympic Bronze Medal in the 1000m event. She finished the 1998 season first overall in the World Cup standings in both the 500m and 1000m events. In 1999 Catriona's domination in the speed skating world continued when she finished first overall in the World Cup standings for the 500m event.

Catriona's accomplishments earned her the 2002 Lou Marsh Award as Canada's Athlete of the Year and she is a three-time recipient (1998, 2001, 2002) of the Canadian Female Athlete of the Year award.

BOB MCCOWN

Robert "Bob" McCown (born in 1952 in Columbus, Ohio) is a Canadian sportscaster and the host of a late afternoon/early evening radio talk show called Prime Time Sports. The program is broadcast from the Toronto-based studio of the Fan 590 (the flagship radio station of the Fan Radio Network) and is syndicated nationally in Canada. Since 2004, this radio talk show has also been simulcast on television on Rogers Sportsnet.

KIRK MULLER

Kirk Christopher Muller (born Feb 8, 1966 in Kingston, ON, Canada) is a retired professional ice hockey centre who played in the National Hockey League for 19 seasons from 1984-85 until 2002-03. Muller is currently an assistant coach for the Montreal Canadiens.

MARK NAPIER

Mark Napier (born January 28, 1957 in Toronto, Ontario) is a retired former professional ice hockey player who played over a thousand professional games between the National Hockey League and World Hockey Association. An alumnus of the Toronto Marlboros organization, Napier turned pro as a teenager for the Toronto Toros of the WHA and also played for the Birmingham Bulls. After the WHA folded, Napier joined the Montreal Canadiens, winning the Stanley Cup with them in 1979. He also played for the Minnesota North Stars before joining the Edmonton Oilers, winning his second Cup with them in 1985. In 1987 he was traded again, and would finish his career in Northern America in a Buffalo Sabres uniform before playing three seasons in Italy. After his career ended he spent a couple seasons as head coach of the Toronto St. Michael's Majors of the Ontario Hockey League.

MATTHEW BARNABY
A native of Ottawa, Ontario, Matthew Barnaby played for the Buffalo Sabres, Pittsburgh Penguins, Tampa Bay Lightning, New York Rangers, Colorado Avalanche, Chicago Black Hawks and the Dallas Stars before retiring in 2007. Often known as one of the NHL's "tough guys", Barnaby was always willing to stick up for a teammate. Matthew played left wing and in his career, scored 113 goals, had 187 assists and had 2,562 penalty minutes.

CASSIE CAMPBELL
One of Canada's most popular female athletes and Captain of Team Canada for the 2002 Olympic Winter Games, Cassie Campbell has had a stellar rise to the top ranks of women's hockey. Campbell led her team to Canada's first Gold medal in hockey in 50 years, at the 2002 Winter Games in Salt Lake City. She's been a member of the National Team since 1994 and she helped her team earn gold five times at World Championship tournaments. She was also part of the silver medal-winning team at the Nagano Olympics in 1998.

DARREN PANG
Darren Pang is a retired Canadian professional ice hockey goaltender who played for the Chicago Blackhawks. Standing only 5-foot-5, Pang was one of the shortest players ever in the modern era of the NHL. It was often joked that he was the only goalie with a "6 hole," right above his head. He was named to the NHL All-Rookie Team in 1988 and also set a Blackhawks goaltender's record with 6 assists in the 1987-1988 NHL season. Pang suffered a career-ending knee injury on September 21, 1990. Today, Pang is a color commentator for the Phoenix Coyotes television broadcasts and a part time playoff analyst for TSN. He was recently named an "Inside the Glass" reporter for regular season and playoff action for The NHL on NBC.

SCOTT THORNTON
Currently a left wing for the Los Angeles Kings, Scott Thornton was drafted third overall in the 1989 entry draft by the Toronto Maple Leafs. Scott began his career in the NHL in 1990 and has since played for 6 different teams; Toronto Maple Leafs, Edmonton Oilers, Montreal, Dallas Stars, San Jose Sharks and the LA Kings. During his eighteen year with the NHL Scott has scored 144 goals and had 141 assists.

GINO REDA

Gino Reda (born 1960 in England) is currently host of TSNs That's Hockey since 2001 after being on SportsCentre for the previous fourteen years. He joined TSN in the summer of 1988 as a reporter covering the 1988 Summer Olympics in Seoul, Korea.

Moving to Canada in 1964, Reda worked as a freelance play-by-play announcer for the Humber College Hawks, Junior B Hockey, Junior A box lacrosse, the Canadian National Soccer League and the Canadian National Gymnastics Championships between 1983 and 1987. Reda also serves as a host of Junior Hockey Magazine, a weekly syndicated radio show covering the weekly stories from the Canadian Hockey League.

BRIAN STEMMLE

Brian Stemmle was born in 1966 and joined the Canadian Alpine Ski Team in 1985, announcing his retirement 14-years later in July, 1999. His rise to prominence on the Federation Internationale de Ski (FIS) World Cup circuit was more rapid than any Canadian skier preceding him. In just two seasons, his natural talent made him the 7th ranked downhill competitor in the world. Brian was inducted to the Canadian Ski Hall of Fame in 2002.

MIKE KEENAN

Michael Edward Keenan (born October 21, 1949 in Bowmanville, Ontario) is a former head coach in the NHL, most recently with the Calgary Flames, and former General Manager of the Florida Panthers. Keenan was a player for the St. Lawrence University Skating Saints (1969-72), the University of Toronto (1972-73), the Roanoke-Valley Rebels (1973-74), and his native Whitby Warriors (1976-77).

DWAYNE ROLOSON

Albert Dwayne Roloson (born October 12, 1969 in Simcoe, Ontario) is a professional ice hockey goaltender with the New York Islanders of the National Hockey League. He has previously played for the Buffalo Sabres, Calgary Flames, Minnesota Wild, Edmonton Oilers during his professional career. He signed a 2 year, $5 Million contract with the Islanders on July 1, 2009.