

## HALL OF FAME BIOS

### Gordon Singleton

Hometown: Niagara Falls, ON

Birthdate: August 9, 1956

Discipline: Track

Married: Louann in 1981

Children: Christopher (born 1986) and James (born 1990)

Email: [gord@granbarworld.net](mailto:gord@granbarworld.net)



First Canadian World Champion - 1982

### CAREER HIGHLIGHTS

1976 - First Canadian sprinter to advance to 1/8 finals 1000m sprint

1977 - Broke British records for flying 200m and flying 500m

1978 - 1st - Grand Prix, London ENG & 2nd - Grand Prix, Copenhagen DEN

1979 - Selected Ontario Athlete of the Year

1980 - Alternative to Olympic boycott, Gord attempted and broke 3 World

Records in 24 hours on October 9-10: 200m flying start - 10.58s; 500m flying start - 27.31s; 1000m standing start - 1.03.8s

1982 - 1st, Grand Prix, London ENG broke British records for flying 200m & 500m

First Canadian to win a World Championship Gold medal

1987 - Received the Order of Canada

1998 - Returned to the track and won double Gold at the World Masters

Cycling Championships - Manchester ENG

### OLYMPIC GAMES

1976 - Montreal - 9th, 1000m sprint

1980 - Moscow, Russia - USA Boycott

### WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

1975 - Liege, Belgium - eliminated, first round 1000m sprint  
1977 - San Cristobal, Venezuela - 9th, 1000m sprint  
1978 - Munich, Germany - 16th, 1000m sprint  
1979 - Amsterdam, Holland - **Silver**, 1000m TT & 9th, 1000m sprint  
1981 - Bruno, Czechoslovakia - **Silver**, 1000m sprint & 4th, Keirin  
1982 - Liecester, England - **Gold**, Keirin & **Silver**, 1000m sprint

#### PAN AMERICAN GAMES

1975 - Mexico City - eliminated, first round 1000m sprint  
1979 - Puerto Rico - **Gold**, 1000m sprint & **Gold** 1000m TT

#### COMMONWEALTH GAMES

1978 - Edmonton, Alberta - **Gold**, 1000m sprint & **Bronze**, 1000m TT

#### CANADIAN NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

1974 - **Silver**, 1000m sprint jr. & 4th 1000m TT  
1975 - **Gold**, 1000m sprint & 4th, 1000m TT  
1976 - **Gold**, 1000m sprint & **Gold**, 4000m team pursuit & **Silver**, 1000m TT  
1977 - **Gold**, 1000m sprint & **Silver**, 1000m TT  
1979 - **Gold**, 1000m sprint & **Gold**, 1000m TT & **Gold**, 4000m team pursuit  
& **Gold**, Omnium Overall  
1980 - **Gold**, 1000m sprint & **Gold** 4000m team pursuit & **Gold**, Omnium  
overall  
& **Silver**, 1000m TT

### **GORD'S NARRATED CAREER AND PHOTO HIGHLIGHTS**

#### **First Track Race - 1974 - Ontario Junior Sprint Championships**



I went to the Woodbridge Velodrome on the Thursday night before the weekend Championships. I had never seen a velodrome, nor did I own a specialized track bike. Peter Junek (former 6 day racer from St. Catherines) took me there and loaned me a bike. It was rather difficult to teach such a novice any race tactics, so I simply went from the gun and tried to hold everyone off. The other racer in the photo is Gino Greco.

#### **World Championships - 1977 - Venezuela**



My third World Championship, I was able to eliminate some formidable riders and placed 9th overall. This Championship was part of sports history. The East Germans were supposed to win all the events the previous year at the Montreal Olympics. Their program fulfilled that dream at these Championships as they swept all the medals at the velodrome. Today we are aware of their doping of athletes programs.

### **Commonwealth Games - 1978 - Edmonton, AB CAN**



Jocelyn Lovell and Gordon Singleton were not considered as one of the favorites in this event. But, what the opposition failed to consider was Jocelyn's great bike handling skills and the fact that Team Canada had the two best Kilo riders on one machine. A tremendous asset for an event where speeds reach over 80 kph. We won the Gold Medal and Jocelyn went on to win 3 Gold Medals at these Championships

### **Pan Am Games - 1979**



Gordon with Norman Shiel. Norman was a former two time world champion, 1955 & 1958, who had been coached by Eddie Soens in the 50's. Although I was in control at these championships, it was comforting to have

someone with Norman's experience and wisdom in my corner.

Winning here was a great confidence boost heading into the World Championships in Amsterdam.

### **Mexico City - 1980 - 500m World Record!**



October 9th, 1980, Mexico City. The Federal government funded a program for 20 of Canada's top athletes as an alternative to boycotting the Olympics in Moscow. I had to think of something to establish my worthiness. I attempted to break 3 records! 200 meter, 500 meter and 1000 meter in a 24 hour period. But what made this so unique was the fact that apart from a few Canadian, English and American junior racers, there were no spectators. I did supply my own official time keepers and doctors for dope control. It was more like a morning training session.

### **Grand Prix - 1982 - London, ENG**



Herne Hill Velodrome, London, England. Hosted many famous events and many great riders in events filled with tradition for over 60 years. It is a 500 meter track with very shallow pitched banking. Race tactics here were similar to those experienced in road racing. You had to contend with wind and weather conditions and be very strategically placed coming out of turn four before the finish line. It was always very stimulating to compete at a facility with such a rich racing history. I actually won this event twice: 1978 and 1982.

### **6 Day Racing**



I rode a variety of races from road to almost everything on the track. Six day races were something to help stay in shape in the winter. I rode many "6 days" in Montreal, as well as overseas, Copenhagen, Amsterdam and Milan. Six day races originally started in North America in the 1920s in which teams of two riders competed for 6 days and 6 nights. Today's six day races have the riders averaging 4-6 hours per day; a little more humane.

### **Montreal 6 Day - 1979**



Photo of Gordon and Steve Bauer riding one of many team races on the track. Steve's cycling career began on the track but later switched to the road and he culminated his career by leading the Tour de France for 5 days in 1989 and 10 days in 1990.

### **GORD AND HIS COACH - THE GREAT EDDIE SOENS**



I met Eddie at a famous Liverpool bike shop in 1975. From that first meeting, we developed a father and son relationship. Eddie said from the beginning, "if you want to be a good bike racer, you must eat right, rest, and ride your bike." "But if you want to go to the top, you have to do it better than everyone else." Eddie took me to the top!

### **DOUBLE GOLD - 1998 WORLD MASTERS CHAMPIONSHIPS**



I prepared for the Masters Championships for over a year and never in my wildest dreams did I think I could re-live the memories of all my previous accomplishments.

And what made it all the more special, was being able to do this with my family there.

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