

Class Acts

U.S. Hall Of Fame Inductees A Diverse Group That Shares The Common Bond Of Success

By RYAN SATKOWIAK

F

our Stanley Cups, two Olympic silver medals, 924 men's college hockey wins and four silver medals in women's international tournaments. The credentials of the newly-named U.S. Hockey Hall of Fame class are certainly impressive.

So impressive, in fact, that one of the five members of the Class of 2013 opened his remarks with a joke.

"Good thing they didn't list my stats, because it would say zero goals and zero assists," Peter Karmanos, the owner and CEO of the Carolina Hurricanes, said with a chuckle.

Joining Karmanos in the Class of 2013 are former NHL and U.S. Men's National Team forwards Bill Guerin and Doug Weight, Women's National Team forward Cindy Curley

and college hockey coaching icon Ron Mason.

Despite not having the statistics and notoriety of the four other members, Karmanos' contributions to the game are certainly nothing to joke about. Even before he became an NHL owner, Karmanos made his mark at the grass-roots level as the founder of the powerhouse Compuware youth hockey program

He is one of the men most responsible for the growth of hockey in the south. In 1997, two years after purchasing the Hartford Whalers, he moved the team to Raleigh, N.C., where they became the Hurricanes.

"Whenever I had the opportunity to develop hockey, I did it without hesitation," said Karmanos who was awarded the Lester Patrick Award in 1998 for his contributions to the game. "I feel that it's the greatest game on the planet."

Curley was a pioneer of women's hockey in the United States, playing in the inaugural IIHF Women's World Championship in 1990. In that tournament, she post-



ed 23 points in five games, which still stands as a World Championship record.

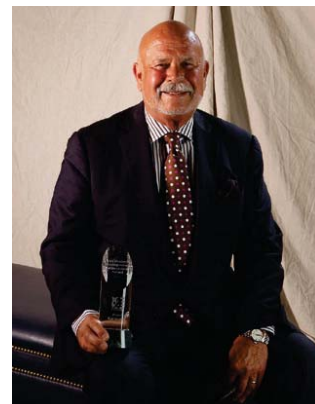
Additionally, she has worked with USA Hockey in several capacities, most recently as a member of the U.S. Olympic Athlete Advisory Committee.

"My favorite part of hockey has always been the people I've met over the years," she said.

A second-round pick by the New York Rangers in 1990, Weight finished his 19-year NHL career with 1,033 points in 1,238 career games. He also won a Stanley Cup with the Hurricanes in 2006.

Guerin, the fifth overall pick by the New Jersey Devils in the 1989 NHL Draft, played for eight NHL teams over his 18-year career in which he notched 429 goals and 427 assists.

It's only fitting that Weight and Guerin would enter the Hall together. Over the course



Long-time teammates Doug Weight and Bill Guerin, along with Peter Karmanos, a pioneer at all levels of the game, are part of the Class of 2013.

of their careers the pair played together on numerous occasions, starting in Edmonton from 1997-2001.

In addition to their NHL experience together, Weight and Guerin teamed up for three Olympic Winter Games (1998, 2002, 2006) and two World Cups of Hockey (1996, 2004).

"It's always been an honor to represent my country, playing a game I love so much," Guerin said. "It was always a dream, ever since I knew what USA Hockey was back in 1980. I was fortunate enough to be able to live out that dream."

Mason is one of the most decorated coaches in the history of college hockey. In his 36 years, he won 924 games coaching at Lake Superior State University, Bowling Green and Michigan State, where he won an NCAA title in 1986.

"I had a great deal of support from all those schools, and I got to know so many people over the years through the game," said Mason, who serves as a senior advisor for the Muskegon Lumberjacks of the United States Hockey League. "It went by so quickly, now that I look back at it."



Cindy Curley, left, still holds the mark for the most points in an IIHF Women's World Championship, while Ron Mason won 924 Div. I games.

