

# REDDON, Lesley

## Hockey



Born: November 15, 1970  
Mississauga, Ontario

When she was six years old and playing her very first game in the fledgling Mississauga Girls Hockey League, it didn't cross Lesley Reddon's mind that one day down the icy road she would make sports history backstopping Canada's team in the first Olympic women's hockey final.

For one thing, in 1976 when Lesley began her love affair with the sport, organized women's hockey at the international level was, if anything, merely a glint in some dreamer's eyes. Another thing, Lesley was playing forward trying to score rather than prevent goals. She spent her first four seasons as a forward to work on her skating before becoming a goalkeeper, which had been her desire right from the start. Monday nights at Cawthra Arena and practice sessions at Huron Park or Burnhamthorpe arenas were highlights of the week for Lesley during the winter months.

It all paid dividends in later years and she has a display case of trophies and medals to attest.

Reddon tasted success for the first time when she kept goal for the Mississauga Peewee All-Star team that won the 1982-83 Ontario girls championship. Soon other triumphs followed and success became a second nature for Lesley at various levels of women's hockey. She made the National Team for the first time following the 1994 selection camp and over the years won a handful of medals with the team, including a gold in the 1994 and 1997 World Women's Hockey Championships; and a silver in the historic 1998 Winter Olympic Games in Nagano, Japan, when women's hockey became a bona-fide Olympic medal sport.

Reddon was top goalie in the 1995 Pacific Rim Championships and also the Nationals in the same year; and was named to the All-Star team at the 1997 Three Nations Cup. All in all, she played in 13 Canadian National Championships between 1990 and 2002 and was winner of two gold, three silver and three bronze medals.

The Mississauga native holds a Bachelor of Commerce degree from the University of Toronto (1993) then attended the University of New Brunswick, graduating with her Master's Degree in Physical Education (1996.)

She played four seasons with the U of T Lady Blues (1989-90 through 1992-93), winning four OWIAA Championships and was a four-time OWIAA All-Star.

While attending the University of New Brunswick, she played with the Maritime Sports Blades in the Canadian National Women's Championships, winning silver (1995) and bronze (1996). Another notable accomplishment: she was the first female to play men's CIS hockey with The University of New Brunswick Varsity Reds in 1994-95 and 1995-96.

Lesley is an NCCP Intermediate-certified coach. Since 1995, she has participated as a goalie coach and evaluator at provincial selection camps in Ontario, New Brunswick and Alberta as well as instructing at numerous summer hockey schools. She has been a goalie coach for male Bantam AA, Midget AA and Junior B teams in north Calgary since 2000. She moved to Calgary in 1996 to train at the Olympic Oval and remained part of the national team player pool



until the summer of 2000. She then began working on contract at Hockey Canada in 2000, has been in her current fulltime position with Hockey Canada as Coordinator High Performance since September 2002. This position involves looking after logistics for the National Women's Team and Women's Under 22 Team.

She was part of the women's hockey team support staff and Canadian Olympic Commission mission staff at the 2006 Torino Olympics where Canada emerged the gold medal winner again.

Reddon is also an accomplished athlete away from the hockey rinks. She won a gold medal in 1992 and a silver in 1994 at the Roller Hockey World Championships. When she was growing up, she she played softball with Sheridan Homelands in the Mississauga Girl's Softball League and later competed in the 1990 and 1994 Canadian national junior fastball championships, emerging a winner with the Oakville Bandits (Mississauga didn't have a team competing that year).

Lesley attended Erindale Secondary School and was Athlete of the Year (field hockey and soccer) in her graduating year in 1989.

Her hometown recognized Lesley Reddon's considerable accomplishments by inducting into the Mississauga Sports Hall of Fame on June 1, 2006.

