



LOUISE KENNEDY



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Inducted as an athlete in 1995

Louise Kennedy, born on August 16, 1950, is a member of a very successful Canadian swimming family. She began competitive swimming at the age of 9 at the London Y Aquatic Club, under Head Coach Dr. Paul Hauch. Her coaches during her national and international swimming career included Paul Hauch, Rosemary Dawson, Don Gambril and Bob Eynon.

Louise competed in her first nationals in 1963 and her last was the 1967 Pan-American Games Trials in Winnipeg. She was a very versatile performer at both the national and international levels. She was the national champion in the 400 freestyle in 1965 and the 200 freestyle in 1966. She also medalled several times in the 100 freestyle, the 100 backstroke, the 200 backstroke, the 100 butterfly and the 400 individual medley.

Louise represented Canada on four occasions. She was a member of the 1964 Olympic Team where she competed in four individual events and was a member of two relays that finalled. She anchored the sixth place 400 medley relay team and was a member of the seventh place 400 freestyle relay team. Louise's next international jaunt was in 1965 as a member of a Canadian team that competed in several European countries. Her mother Jean was one of the two chaperones on this trip.

Louise's most successful international performances were at the 1966 Commonwealth Games in Kingston, Jamaica. She, along with Elaine Tanner, Jane Hughes and Marion Lay won gold and established a world record in the 4x100 yard freestyle relay. She was the backstroker on the silver medal team in the 440 yard medley relay, was fifth in both the 100 yard freestyle and backstroke, and seventh in the 440 yard freestyle.

Louise's final international competition was as a member of a National Tour Team to South Africa in the winter of 1967. During that trip she established a Western Provinces All-Comers record in the 110 yard freestyle. Her national competitive career ended at the 1967 Pan-American Games Trials. She is remembered as a fierce competitor who earned the nickname "Tiger" from the men's team at the University of Western Ontario. She is a member of the Canadian Aquatic Hall of Fame.

Louise is a graduate of the University of Western Ontario and is married with four children. She was a successful swimming coach for a number of years with various Ontario teams. Today, she resides in London, Ontario where she and her family are very active in tennis and where she volunteered her time to numerous fundraising endeavours, including London's 50m indoor aquatic facility.

Louise Kennedy was truly one of Ontario's finest competitors.