

DOROTHY HAMILL

Every four years the Olympic Games produce a new group of champions, but only rarely does one of these champions transcend their sport to completely capture our imaginations.

Such was the case when nineteen year old figure skater Dorothy Hamill won her Gold Medal at the 1976 Winter Games in Innsbruck, Austria. Her interpretation of music, fluid skating and infectious charm led all nine judges to unanimously vote her the winner.

Dorothy is most proud of her World Championship title in Gothenburg, Sweden following her win at the 1976 Olympic Games in Innsbruck, Austria. Everyone had advised her to retire from amateur competition, saying that even a second place would tarnish the luster of her Olympic gold. Characteristically, once she set her mind to it, she would not be dissuaded, and won.

As a professional, Dorothy has skated with many productions, including eight years with the company she helped bring to preeminence among touring ice shows, the Ice Capades. She had an unprecedented four ABC television prime time specials produced in her honor. Along with winning five consecutive World Professional titles, Dorothy has produced and starred in her own touring productions of “Cinderella – Frozen In Time”, “Hansel, Gretel, the Witch and the Cat”, and “Nutcracker On Ice” and won an Emmy for her starring role in “Romeo and Juliet.” Dorothy was inducted into the Olympic Hall of Fame and the Figure Skating Hall of Fame and was very proud to run the torch into the Olympic Stadium in Salt Lake City with her friend Dick Button as well as skate the closing ceremonies with vocalist Harry Connick Jr. In addition to her skating roles, Dorothy was the first recipient of the Stars of Madison Avenue Award for her continued roles in successful advertising campaigns.

Dorothy’s charity work includes the President’s Council on Physical Fitness and Sports, the International Special Olympics, Big Brothers & Sisters of America, Buoniconti Fund, Olympic Aid, Vaccine Fund, American Cancer Society, Ronald McDonald House, and teaching blind children to skate through the March of Dimes. Dorothy does a lot of motivational speaking engagements to Women’s Organizations and Corporations and she was a featured speaker at the 2004 Republican National Convention in New York.

Recently, with the loss of so many dear friends to the scourge of AIDS, Dorothy has donated her time to helping raise money for a variety of AIDS foundations. When asked about special memories, she often cites the simple joy expressed by a blind child as she flew around a rink on Dorothy’s back: “Oh! I can feel the wind on my face!”

Dorothy was a judge on Skating with Celebrities on FOX TV, which aired during primetime beginning Winter 2006. She continues to tour with Champions on Ice and Broadway on Ice throughout the country. In late 2007, Dorothy released her memoir entitled “A Skating Life: My Story” from Hyperion Publishing, which made the NY Times Best Seller List. In her deeply moving and honest memoir, Dorothy opens up about love, family, courage, and what it means to truly win both on and off the ice.