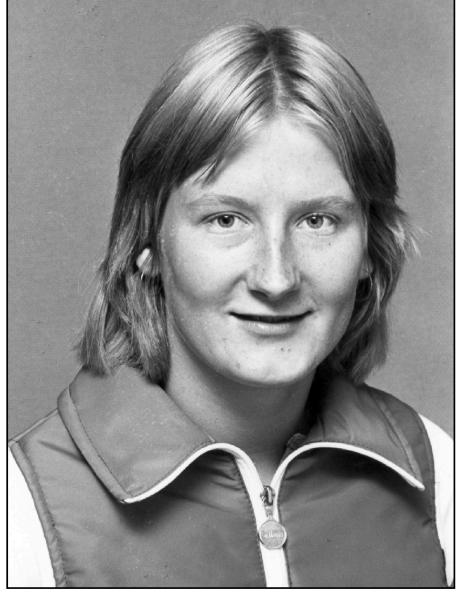
## #186 Kathy Kreiner

Born: 1958

Kathy Kreiner came roaring down the giant slalom course at the 1976 Winter Olympics in Innsbruck, Austria, and found that she had the best time for the field, and had struck Olympic Gold. To say she was a surprise winner certainly would be an understatement. It was a fairy tale win and was acclaimed by all of North America as a triumph second to none.

Kathy Kreiner was born in Timmins, Ontario, Canada, in 1958. Kathy was a product of the junior skiers' rank in the Canadian system and showed enough promise at the age eighteen to make the Canadian Women's Alpine Ski Team. This was an era when the Canadians were showing some promise in alpine events, but not showing particularly well on the world circuits against the very powerful French, Swiss, German, or Austrian teams.

At the Olympic Games in Innsbruck, Austria, this eighteen year old, all but unknown outside of her native Canada, attacked the giant slalom course in a time of one minute and twenty-nine seconds. This put her in first place in the giant slalom, ahead of such internationally known alpine skiers like Rosi Mittermaier, of Germany who



placed a close second; Danielle Debernard of France, third; Lisa-Marie Morerod of Switzerland, fourth; and Switzerland's Marie Theres Nadig, who placed fifth.

This youngster, who never dreamed of accomplishing a feat such as this, a true "Dark Horse" if there ever was one, had come from the middle of the pack of top women skiers, and snatched a Gold Medal from them for her native Canada, the only Gold Medal won by the Canadians at Innsbruck. Kathy became an overnight national hero in Canada.

Kathy remained on the Canadian Ski Team competing on the international World Cup Circuit, doing well, but never quite matching her success at the Innsbruck games.

Kathy was a member of the 1980 Canadian Olympic Team which competed at Lake Placid, New York, placing fifth in the Downhill. Her time was 139.53, two seconds behind Anne-Marie Moser of Austria, and just two one hundredths of a second ahead of Heidi Pruess of the United States Team. She went on to place ninth in the giant slalom, and fifteenth in the slalom at Lake Placid.

Kathy Kreiner, and her accomplishments at the 1976 games at Innsbruck, sparked a great deal of interest in skiing and the ski team in Canada, and was one of the catalysts that vaulted the Canadian Alpine Team into the world prominence they now enjoy.

Kathy was elected to the U.S. National Ski Hall of Fame in 1976, as a special tribute to all North American Skiers who have won medals in Olympic competition as part of the United States Bicentennial Year.