

**CLASS OF 2019
ATHLETE: KEVIN REYNOLDS**



**Induction banquet Thursday, Feb. 27
Reception 6 p.m., dinner 7 p.m.**

**By Grant Granger
Chair, Burnaby Sports Hall of Fame**

**Tickets: \$85
tickets09@shaw.ca 604-436-6372**

Reynolds jumps his way into hall of fame

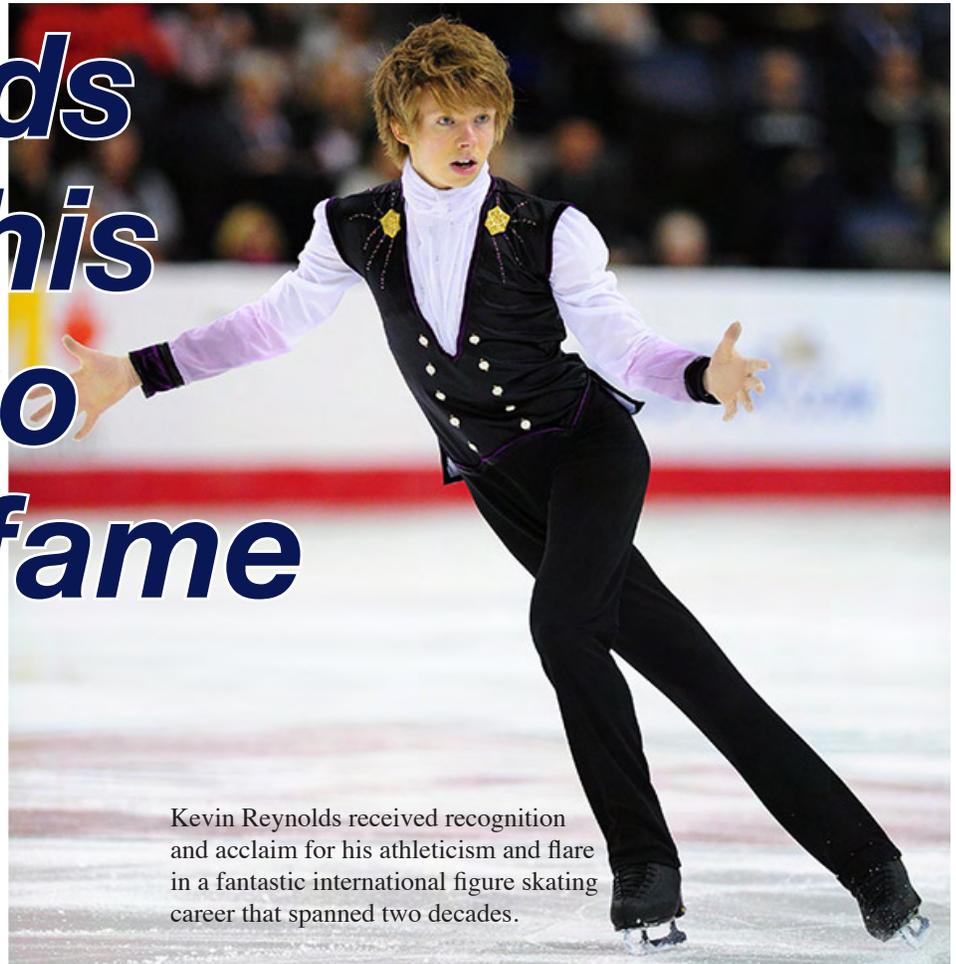
Like many Canadian kids, Kevin Reynolds was as comfortable flitting around an ice surface balancing on skate blades as he was darting and dashing around the playground in sneakers. He enjoyed skating so much he played hockey and figure skated. He was about eight, however, when it became evident he was having more success putting up points on the scorecards of figure skating judges than putting points on the board in hockey.

So he went looking for an elite-level place to train. The obvious choice was the figure skating centre of excellence based at Burnaby 8-Rinks. It was there where legendary coach Joanne McLeod (Burnaby Sports Hall of Fame 2005) was producing national and international champions. Seeing the success of three-time national champ Emanuel Sandhu, who had moved from Toronto to Burnaby to work with McLeod, had an influence on the direction he chose.

"We made a decision at that time to be a student under Joanne's tutelage and we were able to obtain rapid development," says Reynolds. "I spent almost 20 years working with her."

During those two decades Reynolds became the 2013 Four Continents champion, played a large role in helping Canada win a team silver medal at the 2014 Winter Olympics, and was a six-time Canadian medallist. He also achieved a fifth-place finish at the 2013 world championships.

Reynolds was the first skater to land two quadruple jumps in a short program, the first to land five quads in one competition (2013 Four Continents) with two in the short program and three in the free skate.



Kevin Reynolds received recognition and acclaim for his athleticism and flare in a fantastic international figure skating career that spanned two decades.

"First and foremost I liked the challenge of different elements," says Reynolds. "The competition structure of figure skating was quite rewarding to me. Figure skating gave me a mix of challenge and reward that was almost addicting."

The quads caught the skating community a bit by surprise. His athleticism helped push the technical abilities of the sport forward, even though sometimes his spectacular spins and jumps weren't being reflected on the scoreboard.

"I found that [the athletic moves were] something in the sport that motivated me to continue to challenge these difficult elements. I enjoyed them and at the same time I wasn't being rewarded," says Reynolds, who is "very proud" to have been part of a significant change in the sport. "Now it's completely flipped in the last 10 years."

After the 2014 Olympics in Sochi, Russia, Reynolds skated through a hip injury for a few seasons. He also had surgery to fix a torn labrum, which usually is career ending. It wasn't something a skater could come back from.

"Fortunately I was able to have a very successful surgery, and I asked the surgeon if there was

some rehabilitation if I could come back to the sport. He said he hadn't had anybody try it. I was encouraged by that."

He began the slow recovery to a comeback following surgery. By April 2016 he was competing in the national championships. "I ended up with another four years of a career that I thought was potentially ending."

In late 2018, he decided to call it a career on his own terms. Reynolds remains involved in the sport continuing to coach at the Champs International Skating Centre at 8-Rinks (now known as Scotia Barn). Along the way he's earned a degree in international relations from the University of British Columbia — with plans to study law — and learned to speak French and Japanese (he has a strong fan base in Japan).

"I had a longer career than most," says Reynolds. "I have nothing to complain about. There was definitely some very high highs and some low lows."

"There were so many different perspectives (in his career) that it was the full experience [and] it's made me appreciate the high moments."