

2008 PROFILE

TODD ELDREDGE

PERSONAL DATA: Born: August 28, 1971, in Chatham, Mass.

COMPETITIVE RECORD: 2002 --- 6th Olympics
 1st U.S. Championships
2001 --- 3rd World Championships
 2nd U.S. Championships
1998 --- 4th Olympics
 2nd World Championships
 1st U.S. Championships
1997 --- 2nd World Championships
 1st U.S. Championships
1996 --- **World Champion**
 2nd U.S. Championships
1995 --- **1st U.S. Championships**
 2nd World Championships
1992 --- 10th Olympics
1991 --- **1st U.S. Championships**
1990 --- **1st U.S. Championships**

Todd Eldredge is one of the most gifted and well-respected American skaters and when you examine his gilded resume you will understand immediately why he was inducted into the U.S. Figure Skating Hall of Fame this year.

A six-time U.S. National Champion, he also garnered the coveted World Championship in 1996. Eldredge has won more than 30 international medals in his career, including five Skate America Championships. In 1995, he became the only skater to return to the U.S. Championships and win after a three-year absence from the podium (due to a back injury, 1992-1994).

In 2001, Eldredge placed second at the U.S. Championships and a very respectable third at the World Championships. His stunning victory at the 2002 U.S. Championships, his sixth national title, secured his goal of competing in his third Olympic Games.

Escorted by a group of New York City officers and firefighters, Eldredge was honored to be one of the eight U.S. athletes selected to carry the American flag recovered from the World Trade Center Rubble into the Opening Ceremonies of the 2002 Winter Olympics. Upon the conclusion of his participation in the Games, Eldredge announced his retirement from Olympic-eligible competition, and joined the cast of Smucker's Stars on Ice. He's now in his sixth year performing with America's premier ice skating tour.

Born on Cape Cod to a family of commercial fishermen, Eldredge began to skate at the age of five after asking for a pair of skates for Christmas. His parents bought him hockey skates, but three weeks later he wanted them returned for figure skates, so he could jump and spin. Doubtful of his possible seriousness and attention span at such a young age, they reluctantly indulged him. Weeks later, his mother would awaken to find him standing next to her bed, dressed and waiting to be taken to the rink before – and after – kindergarten.

By seven, Eldredge was attending summer camps for additional coaching, and at the age of 10, his parents made the difficult decision to allow him to leave home and move to Philadelphia and live with another family for advanced training. Eight years later, he had become the youngest man to ever win the National Novice (1985), Junior (1987) and Senior titles as well as the World Junior Championships (1988).

In 1983, the financial burden of Eldredge's training became too much for his family, and nearly brought a premature end to his blossoming career. However, his small hometown of Chatham quickly came to his aid through the Todd Eldredge Youth Hockey Fund, possibly the only time a figure skater has been supported by a hockey team. In appreciation, Eldredge has given substantial financial support to the Chatham Recreation Fund for the future development of young athletes, and a local multi-purpose field has been named after him. He was twice voted Athlete of the Month by the United States Olympic Committee, and has an honorary lifetime membership at the Los Angeles Figure Skating Club, which he has represented for two of his U.S. titles.

In recognition of his parents' sacrifice and support throughout the years, Eldredge placed the silver medal he received at the 1995 World Championships around his father's neck. One year later, at the 1996 World Championships, he honored his mother in a similar fashion, only this time the medal was made of gold.

For the past 20 years, Eldredge has been coached by Richard Callaghan, training with him in Philadelphia, Colorado Springs, San Diego and Rochester, Mich. Like Brian Boitano, Eldredge is one of the only skaters to remain with one coach for his entire career. Richard, along with Olga Volozhinskaya, a former ice dancer from Russia, choreograph his routines.

On September 3, 2005, Eldredge married Megan McCrea.

When not training, competing in Pro-Am (Open) events, or performing on tour, Eldredge is an avid, six handicap golfer, and enjoys testing his formidable skills on different courses across the country. He is becoming a regular in celebrity golf tournaments that raise funds for various community causes. He has also been active in Special Olympics and will serve as spokesperson for the Suite Dreams Project, a non-profit organization which creates a healing environment for children with serious medical conditions.

This year, he made a major move from Michigan to Florida to work with Callaghan coaching elite skaters. Among those skaters he trains is Kimmie Meissner, the 2006 world champion and Olympian. Meissner has credited Eldredge with much of her improvement, especially with her spins and her overall speed.