



For Immediate Release

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GERMAN OLYMPIC TRIPLE MEDALIST ROSI MITTERMAIER HONORED AS 2006 LEGEND OF HONOR AT COUNTRYWIDE AMERICAN SKI CLASSIC

VAIL, Colorado--A very special ceremony will round out the 2006 Countrywide American Ski Classic social festivities Saturday evening, March 25, as one of Germany's most prolific ski racers will be honored as Rosi Mittermaier is inducted into the International Ski Hall of Fame at the Legends Banquet.

"Rosi Mittermaier is a tremendous ambassador for the sport of skiing," explained Ceil Folz, president of the Vail Valley Foundation. "Her competitive career ranks among the all time greats, while her professional endeavors continue to promote and further skiing at all levels. It is indeed an honor for us to welcome Rosi to the International Ski Hall of Fame as 2006's Legend of Honor."

A triple Olympic medalist at the 1976 Games in Innsbruck, Austria, Mittermaier claimed the gold in Downhill and Slalom, while mining silver in Giant Slalom. She also collected an FIS World Championships gold medal in Combined at the Innsbruck Games.

Mittermaier missed the Olympic hat trick by a mere 12-hundredths of a second as Canadian Kathy Kreiner spoiled the celebration with the Giant Slalom gold. One half second ahead of Kreiner's pace at the midway timing split, the German lost precious fractions of a second when she took too direct a line into one of the final gates.

The season-long 1976 campaign proved to be a special one for Mittermaier. She also earned the season-long World Cup overall crown, in addition to her Olympic exploits. During the course of her World Cup career, she posted a total of ten wins, eight in slalom and one in Giant Slalom, along with a Combined Victory.

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After that incredible season, "Gold Rosi" gave up World Cup competitive skiing and in 1980 married slalom champion Christian Neureuther. The parents of two children, son Felix Neureuther is a current member of the German World Cup technical team.

A three-time Olympian, Mittermaier is now a member of the German National Olympic Committee. German sports fans can still see the native of Reit im Winkl regularly as she comments on televised ski events, endorses products and develops Erbacher ski products for the company she and her husband co-own. She is also intimately involved in Garmisch-Partenkirchen's bid for the 2011 World Alpine Ski Championships.

Previous Legend of Honor recipients have included the following:

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|-------------|---------------------------------|-------------|--------------------------------|
| 1984 | Emile Allais | 1994 | Christian Pravda |
| 1985 | Birger Ruud | 1995 | Tom Corcoran |
| 1986 | Dick Durrance & Gretchen Fraser | 1996 | Barney McLean |
| 1987 | Toni Seelos | 1997 | Anderl Molterer |
| 1988 | Stein Eriksen | 1998 | Nancy Greene-Raine |
| 1989 | Freidl Pfeifer | 1999 | Pepi Gramshammer |
| 1990 | Karl Molitor | 2000 | Marielle & Christine Goitschel |
| 1991 | The Werner Family | 2001 | Toni Sailer |
| 1992 | Andrea Mead Lawrence | 2002 | Billy Kidd & Jimmie Heuga |
| 1993 | Christl Cranz | 2003 | Gustavo Thoeni |
| | | 2004 | Bob Beattie |
| | | 2005 | Bernhard Russi |

The 2006 Countrywide American Ski Classic is a project of the Vail Valley Foundation and sponsored by Countrywide Financial Corporation, the nation's leading home loan lender*. For additional information on the Countrywide American Ski Classic or the Vail Valley Foundation, visit <http://www.vvf.org>.

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