

# Racquetball star Mike Ceresia inducted into the Ontario Sports Hall of Fame



[Calum O'Malley](#)

a day ago



*Ceresia found a natural affinity for racquetball after starting out in tennis as a teenager. | Mike Ceresia*

[Listen to this article](#)

00:03:09

Gold-medal winning racquetball player Mike Ceresia will be inducted into the Ontario Sports Hall of Fame (OSHF) in October 2024.

Born in Sarnia and a long-time resident of Burlington, Ceresia participated in some 50 major tournaments during his 18 year professional career that started in 1985, including representing Canada at 17 events.

Coming from a tennis background as a teenager, Ceresia was introduced to racquetball by a friend and found his future on the same day.

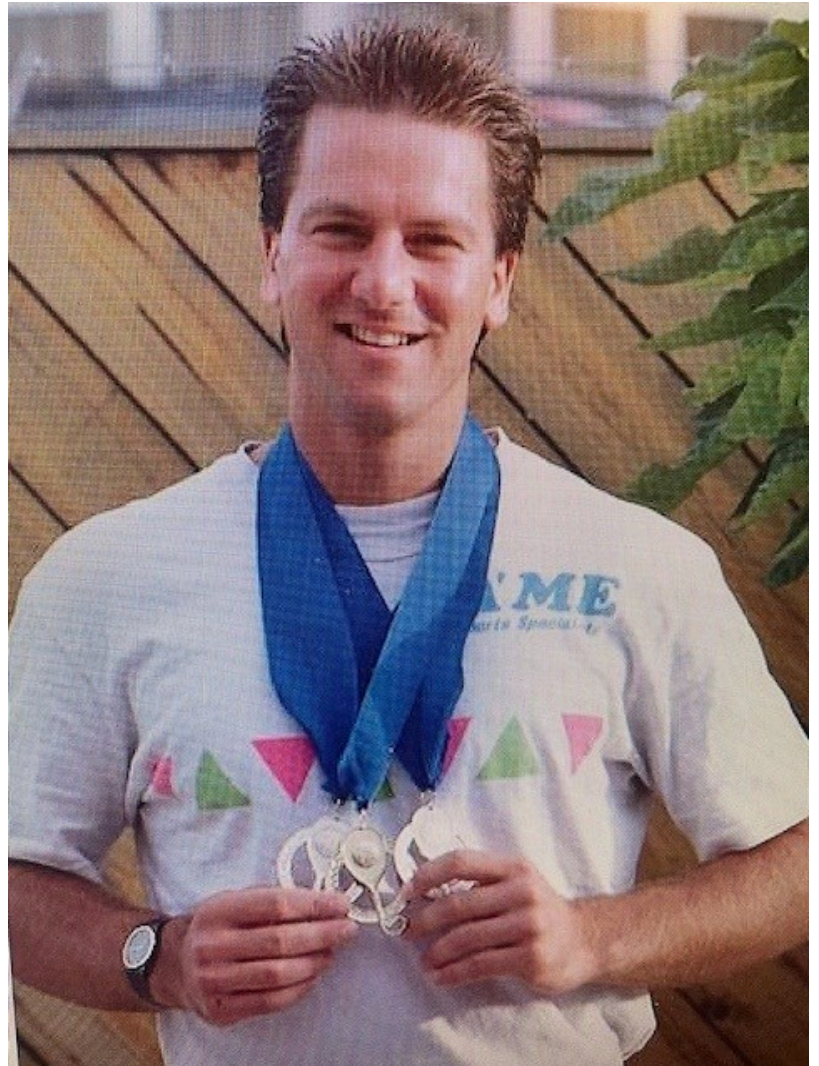
"I hit one ball and I looked at [my friend] and I said, this game was made for me," Ceresia said. "Twenty minutes later, a guy knocked on the window and it was the club owner. He wanted to work out a relationship with me since they were starting a junior program in Sarnia and he wanted to build it around me. He gave me a top of the line racket and he said 'from now on if you want to play, all you do is call and book a court. We'll take care of you.'"

Ceresia was competing at professional tournaments just a few years later, including a close match against one of the world's best players during a tournament in Davison, Michigan. Ceresia would lose the match, but realized then that he had the potential to play internationally.

His first international tournament was the World Championships in 1988 in Hamburg, Germany, where he would face the U.S. champions in the finals of the men's team event. Despite going down 14-3 in the title-deciding match, Ceresia's team managed to hold out and score 12 points in a row to win gold.

"To this day, I still don't know what happened," Ceresia said. "We ended up coming back and winning, it was unbelievable. As soon as I hit the winning shot, guys from the team poured onto the court to celebrate. It was like winning the Stanley Cup."

Ceresia would go on to win six gold, 20 silver and three bronze medals while representing Canada and land 21 podium finishes at the Canadian Championships between 1985 and 2003.



*Ceresia was part of the Canadian team in 2000 to win the World Championship, the only time Canada has won the overall competition in it's history. Mike Ceresia*

Ceresia was inducted into the Sarnia/Lambton Sports Hall of Fame in 2008 and the Racquetball Canada Hall of Fame in 2018 before being nominated for the provincial Hall of Fame this year.

"I don't generally get very emotional, but when I got a call from the president [of the OSHF] I was speechless," Ceresia remembered. "I was hoping, but I wasn't expecting it. To be nominated this year, especially with the legends who are also going in this year is extremely exciting for me and for my sport."

Derek Drouin, Geraldine Heaney, Scott Moir, Tessa Virtue, John Tavares, Brian Williams and Neil Lumsden are also being inducted to the OSHF this year.

Ceresia retired from high performance competition in 2004 at the age of 41.

---

## What's next?



**More local news**



**Browse local flyers**



**Weather forecast**



**Find local deals**



**Browse obituaries**

**Add to the story**

**Have a story idea?**

**Letter to the editor**

**Report a mistake**



### ***About the Author: Calum O'Malley***

Calum O'Malley was born and raised in Burlington and became a full-time reporter in 2024  
[Read more](#)