



MICHELLE BLESSING

Professional Endurance Triathlete, Runner and Cyclist

Inducted October 27, 2015

Michelle Blessing's athletic accomplishments began at Palmer High School where she was a record-setter in both track and cross country. Since then, she has made her name as a professional endurance triathlete, runner and cyclist.

Locally, Blessing is an accomplished Pikes Peak Marathoner, consistently placing at the top of her age group and often the top overall female. She is one of the few female runners to complete the "Double," finishing both the Pikes Peak Ascent and Pikes Peak Marathon back-to-back, a Herculean achievement in endurance running.

Blessing was on the first Team USA at the World Mountain Running Championships in Scotland, finishing as the



second fastest American in 1995. That same year, she won the Empire State Building Run-Up in New York City.

Blessing competed nationally in 14 races for Team Saturn in 1996 and by 1998, she transitioned into coaching, initially working as the Junior National Teams coach for USA Triathlon. In 2000, she was selected as the inaugural U.S. Olympic Triathlon Coach for

the men's and women's teams for the Sydney Olympic Games. She was also named the U.S. Olympic Committee's National Triathlon Coach of the Year in 2000 and 2001. In 2014, Blessing finished the year ranked second in the world for her age group in the Half Ironman out of nearly 2,000 women.