



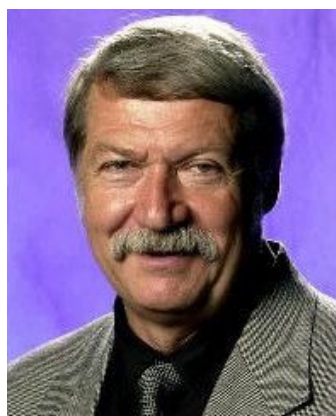
BELA KAROLYI

World-Renowned Gymnastics Coach

Birthdate	9/13/1942
Hometown	Cluj, Romania
Resides	Houston, TX

COACHING CAREER

- 2000 USA Gymnastics Women’s National Team Coordinator
- 1997- Inducted into the international Gymnastics Hall of Fame
- 1996 Olympic Games, Atlanta, Georgia- U.S. Gymnastics Team Head Coach; team gold medal
- 1992 Olympic Games, Barcelona, Spain- U.S. Gymnastics Team Head Coach
- 1991- Led the U.S. Team to a silver medal finish at the World Championships, the first team medal ever won by the U.S. women in a World Championships competition
- 1988 Olympic Games, Seoul, Korea- U.S. Gymnastics Team Head Coach
- 1984 Olympic Games, Los Angeles, California- U.S. Individual Coach of Mary Lou Retton where she won the individual gold medal (the US Team’s first Olympic team medal since 1948)
- 1980 Olympic Games, Moscow, USSR- Head Coach of Romanian Team
- 1976 Olympic Games, Montreal, Canada- Head Coach of Romanian Team
- 1972- Eastern Bloc Friendship Cup, Sofia, Bulgaria- Coaches team to a silver medal and coaches Nadia Comaneci to the individual gold



BACKGROUND

Bela Karolyi has become the most successful coach in the history of gymnastics. His coaching efforts have produced 28 Olympians, nine Olympic Champions, 15 World Champions, 12 European medalists and six U.S. National Champions in 30 years of coaching gymnastics in both his native Romania and the United States. Among his most accomplished gymnasts are Nadia Comaneci, Mary Lou Retton, Julianne McNamara, Phoebe Mills, Kim Zmeskal, Betty Okino, Kerri Strug and Dominique Moceanu.

Born in Cluj, Romania, Karolyi pioneered the Romanian centralized gymnastics training system in the late 1960’s and early 1970’s before bringing his esteemed talent to the United States. He debuted as an international coach in 1974, shortly before becoming the Head Coach of the Romanian squad at the 1976 Summer Olympics in Montreal, and again at the 1980 Olympics.

When the Karolyi’s moved to the U.S. in 1981, American gymnastics would never be the same again. Karolyi was approached with an offer to coach at a private gym in Houston, TX in 1982. He eventually bought the business and turned the gym into a cornerstone of the American gymnastics movement.

In the Lifetime Achievement category, Bela Karolyi has earned a position of honor as a truly outstanding coach of internationally renowned gymnasts. For bringing great gymnasts to the national and international arena, not only from one country but from two different lands, Bela was inducted into the International Gymnastics Hall of Fame in 1997.

Bela Karolyi retired from coaching after the 1996 Olympics. In 2001, the National Team Coordinator position was handed over to Karolyi’s wife, Marta. Together with Marta, Karolyi has coached both the United States and Romanian Olympic teams to medal success. The Karolyi’s Houston, TX ranch is home to the U.S. National Team training camp. They have one daughter, Andrea.



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