



MARY CARILLO

— Hall of Fame Class of 2026 —



Carillo's voice humanized the sport, and her influence opened doors for generations of women in sports media.
(Courtesy ITHF)



Carillo is a 2026 inductee into the International Tennis Hall of Fame in the Contributor category.
(Courtesy ITHF)

What makes a great sports broadcaster? The ability to connect with audiences, explain complex moments clearly, and tell stories that bring the sport to life. Meet Mary Carillo, a broadcasting pioneer whose exceptional communication skills transformed how millions experience tennis. After competing on the WTA Tour and winning the mixed doubles title at Roland-Garros in 1977, Carillo discovered her true calling. She became the first woman to regularly commentate on tennis matches, including men's matches, in the early 1980s. Her clear explanations, engaging storytelling, and ability to connect with both players and audiences helped her break into—and excel in—a male-dominated field. With six Emmy Awards, three Peabody Awards, 2018 induction into the Sports Broadcasting Hall of Fame, and 2026 induction into the International Tennis Hall of Fame, Carillo proved that great communication skills can amplify your impact far beyond what you initially imagined!



Carillo has covered
17 Olympic Games
throughout her
broadcasting career.



She **won the 1977 Roland-Garros mixed doubles** with John McEnroe!

She won
six Emmy Awards and three Peabody Awards
for her broadcasting work!

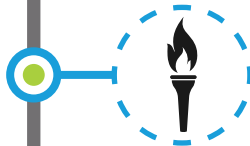


Carillo became the **first woman to regularly commentate men's tennis matches.**



She was **inducted into the Sports Broadcasting Hall of Fame** in 2018.



1957Born in Queens,
New York, USA**1977**Begins her professional
tennis career and wins
the Roland-Garros mixed
doubles title**1980**Reaches her career-high
singles ranking of World
No. 33; retires from
professional tennis**1980-85**Becomes the first woman
to regularly commentate
on men's tennis matches;
named Broadcaster of the
year by the WTA twice
(1981, 1985)**1986**Joins CBS Sports as a
tennis analyst; named
Best Commentator by
World Tennis magazine**1999**Wins her first
Peabody Award**2004**Debuts as a full-time
Olympics host in
Athens, Greece**2006**Wins her first Sports
Emmy Award**2018**Inducted into the Sports
Broadcasting Hall of Fame**2026**Inducted into the
International Tennis
Hall of Fame

Mary Carillo was born in New York and grew up playing tennis in Queens alongside John McEnroe. She began her professional tennis career in 1977 at age 20 and quickly made her mark. That same year, Carillo and McEnroe won the Roland-Garros mixed doubles title together, an exciting victory that showcased her talent on the biggest stage! During her time on the WTA Tour from 1977 to 1980, Carillo reached No. 33 in singles while developing the deep understanding of tennis that would later define her broadcasting career.

When her playing career ended in 1980, Carillo recognized an opportunity: use her insider knowledge and natural communication skills to help audiences understand and love tennis the way she did. In the early 1980s, she started working as an analyst for USA Network and became the first woman to regularly commentate on tennis, including men's matches. This was groundbreaking! Carillo succeeded by being an exceptional communicator—speaking clearly about strategy and technique, listening to what players and fans cared about, and connecting with audiences through vivid storytelling. Her ability to humanize athletes and explain the sport made her invaluable, opening doors for many other women to enter the field.

Throughout her career, Carillo has covered hundreds of tennis events for major networks like ESPN and NBC, earning the WTA's "Broadcaster of the Year" award. She also expanded beyond tennis, covering 17 Olympic Games and serving as a correspondent for HBO's "Real Sports." Her talent for storytelling and connecting with audiences earned her six Emmy Awards and three Peabody Awards, including one for her work on the documentary about Billie Jean King that brought the tennis legend's story to life. In 2018, she was inducted into the Sports Broadcasting Hall of Fame, and in 2026, she will be inducted into the International Tennis Hall of Fame in the contributor category.

What makes Carillo special is her exceptional ability to communicate—to speak clearly about complex moments, to pay attention to what players and fans truly care about, and to tell stories that makes tennis accessible and exciting for everyone. Her voice, influence, and gift for connection transformed her into a legendary broadcaster who humanized the sport and inspired generations of women in sports media. Mary Carillo's story shows that great communication skills can amplify your impact and help you connect with millions!



Carillo gets Hall of Fame Call

Fellow tennis legends surprise
Carillo with the exciting news
of her induction.

