



JOHN BEDNARZ

John was born in Iron Mountain, MI on September 5, 1931, the youngest of five brothers and five sisters. He passed away January 19, 2009 at the age of 77.

John began skiing at age 6 and at age 15 jumped competitively for the Red Wing junior club in Iron Mountain/Kingsford for only one year before moving on to represent the senior Kiwanis Ski Club for an incredible span of thirteen years, 1948 – 1960.

1949 – entered 10 tournaments, placed 1st in 8 of them

1951 – named as alternate to the Olympic team

1952 – entered 11 tournaments, placed 1st in 7 of them

John was probably best known as a stylish jumper, but the records show he regularly outdistanced the competition as well. Of 81 tournaments he entered between 1948-1960, he won 30 of them, placed second in 15, and was third in 7, for an astounding 64% career podium rate, all despite other life-endavors taking precedence to ski jumping.

He did not compete in the US in 1953, as he was serving in the Army, stationed in Korea. In 1954, while stationed stateside, he was able to compete in a limited number of events, representing the Army, though there was scant opportunity for training. For the remainder of his competitive career, he was working to support his wife and three sons, again leaving little time for training.

John was a modest, unassuming individual; quiet and soft-spoken, but with a quick smile and a great sense of humor. His prowess on the ski hill was only second to his stature as an upright, hard-working, and humble family man.