

# John Bednarz (1931 – 2009)

## – Bio –

John Bednarz was born in Iron Mountain, Michigan 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 through 1960, establishing a phenomenal record of accomplishments.

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 and 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.

Career highlights:

### 1949

- Fox River Grove – 1<sup>st</sup> Class C, long standing jump
- Duluth – 1<sup>st</sup> Class C, set new hill record
- Iron Mountain – 1<sup>st</sup> Class C, set national Class C record



- entered 10 tournaments, placed 1<sup>st</sup> in 8 of them

### 1950

- Ishpeming (February) – 1<sup>st</sup> Class B, long standing jump, overall tournament winner
- Ishpeming (March) – 1<sup>st</sup> Class B, long standing jump, most graceful
- Iron Mountain – 1<sup>st</sup> Class B, most graceful

### 1951

- Iron Mountain – Olympic tryouts, named alternate to 1952 team
- Ironwood – 1<sup>st</sup> Class A, out-jumped 4 Olympic team members

### 1952

- Westby – 1<sup>st</sup> Class A, set new hill record
- Iron Mountain – double winner Class A; most graceful both days
- entered 11 tournaments, placed 1<sup>st</sup> in 7 of them



### 1953

- Hokkaido Japan – 1<sup>st</sup>, All-Army Championships

### 1954

- Lake Placid – FIS tryouts, named alternate to team

### 1955

- Iron Mountain – Olympic tryouts, tied for long standing, but a fall and a short jump took John out of contention for the team

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.

Fittingly, John's ashes were broadcast from the top of the Pine Mountain scaffold. Pause there for a moment to honor his legacy.

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## – Stats –

Date		Location	Standing	Remarks
1947		Kingsford MI		age 15, 1 <sup>st</sup> year of competition, Red Wing Ski Club
1948	01 04	Madison WI	4 <sup>th</sup> Class C	age 16, skiing for Kiwanis Ski Club
	02 01	Manistique MI	1 <sup>st</sup> Class C	
	02 15	Ironwood MI	2 <sup>nd</sup> Class C	Central Championships; 187, 175
	02 22	Ishpeming MI	3 <sup>th</sup> Class C	
	02 29	Iron Mountain MI	3 <sup>rd</sup> Class C	255, 262
1949	01 09	Beloit WI	1 <sup>st</sup> Class C	158, 169
	01 16	Fox River Grove IL	1 <sup>st</sup> Class C	long standing – 196
	01 23	Caspian MI	1 <sup>st</sup> Class C	95, 107
	01 30	Wisconsin Rapids WI	1 <sup>st</sup> Class C	
	02 06	Duluth MN	1 <sup>st</sup> Class C	new hill record
	02 13	Ironwood MI	1 <sup>st</sup> Class C	199, 192
	02 20	Salt Lake City UT	2 <sup>nd</sup> Class C	Inter-Mountain Championships
	02 21	Salt Lake City UT	4 <sup>th</sup> Class C	National Championships
	02 26	Iron Mountain MI	1 <sup>st</sup> Class C	267, 285; National Class C distance record
	03 02	Iron Mountain MI	1 <sup>st</sup> Class C	259, 277
1950	01 01	Madison WI	1 <sup>st</sup> Class B	age 18, moved to Class B
	01 08	Eau Claire WI	3 <sup>rd</sup> Class B	
	01 15	Beloit WI	2 <sup>nd</sup> Class B	211, 213
	01 29	Caspian MI	1 <sup>st</sup> Class B	
	02 05	Alston MI	1 <sup>st</sup> Class B	
	02 12	Duluth MN	4 <sup>th</sup> Class B	National Championships
	02 19	Ishpeming MI	1 <sup>st</sup> Class B	Central Championships; 228, 211; long standing, overall tournament winner
	02 26	Iron Mountain MI	2 <sup>nd</sup> Class B	208, 225
	02 27	Iron Mountain MI	6 <sup>th</sup> Class B	274 (F), 260



	03	12	Ishpeming MI	1 <sup>st</sup> Class B	Inter-Club meet; 243, 244; long standing; most graceful
	03	19	Iron Mountain MI	1 <sup>st</sup> Class B	Michigan State Championships; 269, 278; most graceful B; unofficial 300'
1951	01	07	Madison WI	2 <sup>nd</sup> Class A	age 19, moved to Class A
	01	14	Beloit WI	2 <sup>nd</sup> Class A	
	01	21	Fox River Grove IL	2 <sup>nd</sup> Class A	Central Championships
	01	28	Westby WI	4 <sup>th</sup> Class A	
	02	04	Duluth MN	7 <sup>th</sup> Class A	
	02	11	Brattleboro VT	5 <sup>th</sup> Class A	National Championships
	02	18	Ishpeming MI	10 <sup>th</sup> Class A	North American Championships
	02	24	Iron Mountain MI	12 <sup>th</sup>	Olympic tryouts; 259, 240, 236
	02	25	Iron Mountain MI	8 <sup>th</sup>	Olympic tryouts; 227, 252, 250; named 3 <sup>rd</sup> alternate
	03	04	Ironwood MI	1 <sup>st</sup> Class A	193, 193; out-jumped 4 Olympic team members
1952	01	06	Madison WI	1 <sup>st</sup> Class A	180, 173
	01	13	Beloit WI	1 <sup>st</sup> Class A	190, 193
	01	20	Minneapolis MN	1 <sup>st</sup> Class A	
	01	27	Westby WI	1 <sup>st</sup> Class A	new hill record
	02	03	Oconomowoc WI	5 <sup>th</sup> Class A	
	02	17	Ironwood MI	1 <sup>st</sup> Class A	Central Championships; 177, 175
	02	10	Duluth MN	2 <sup>nd</sup> Class A	
	02	24	Ishpeming MI	3 <sup>rd</sup> Class A	
	03	02	Salisbury CT	2 <sup>nd</sup> Class A	National Championships
	03	08	Iron Mountain MI	1 <sup>st</sup> Class A	285, 273
03	09	Iron Mountain MI	1 <sup>st</sup> Class A	285, 289; most graceful, "Poetry in the Fog"	
1953			Hokkaido Japan	1 <sup>st</sup>	All-Army Championships
1954	01	03	Lake Placid NY	5 <sup>th</sup>	FIS tryouts; named second alternate
	01	24	Sault Ste. Marie ONT	1st Class A	
	02	20	Ishpeming MI	2 <sup>nd</sup> Class A	
	02	22	Ishpeming MI	6 <sup>th</sup> Class A	National Championships; 214, 228
	02	27	Iron Mountain MI	3 <sup>rd</sup> Class A	Michigan State Championships; 213, 222

1955	01	02	Madison WI	9 <sup>th</sup> Class A	
	01	30	St. Paul MN	2 <sup>nd</sup> Class A	North American Championships
	02	06	Duluth MN	3 <sup>rd</sup> Class A	
	02	13	Ironwood MI	1 <sup>st</sup> Class A	199, 200
	02	25 & 27	Iron Mountain MI	11 <sup>th</sup>	Olympic tryouts; 249, 261, 298 (F), 275, 236, 253; tied for long standing on 27 <sup>th</sup>
	02	27	Iron Mountain MI	2 <sup>nd</sup> Class A	Central Championships; 275, 236
1956	01	01	Ishpeming MI	4 <sup>th</sup> Class A	Michigan State Championships
	01	15	Fox River Grove IL	4 <sup>th</sup> Class A	
	01	22	Westby WI	14 <sup>th</sup> Class A	National Championships
	02	18	Ishpeming MI	12 <sup>th</sup> Class A	
	02	19	Ishpeming MI	13 <sup>th</sup> Class A	
	02	25	Iron Mountain MI	10 <sup>th</sup> Class A	158, 194
	03	04	Iron Mountain MI	5 <sup>th</sup> Class A	241, 221
1957	01	06	Sault Ste. Marie ONT	5 <sup>th</sup> Class A	
	01	15	Iron Mountain MI	1 <sup>st</sup>	Exhibition Tournament, Intermediate Hill
	02	03	Madison WI	1 <sup>st</sup> Class A	Central Championships
	02	10	Eau Claire WI	3 <sup>rd</sup> Class A	
	02	17	Ishpeming MI	10 <sup>th</sup> Class A	
	02	23	Iron Mountain MI	DNP Class A	279 (F), 297 (F)
	02	24	Iron Mountain MI	5 <sup>th</sup> Class A	236, 239
	03	10	Ironwood MI	1 <sup>st</sup> Senior Class	182, 196
1958	01	26	Madison WI	2 <sup>nd</sup> Class A	
	02	23	Ironwood MI	2 <sup>nd</sup> Senior Class	178, 178
	03	08	Iron Mountain MI	2 <sup>nd</sup> Senior Class	National Championships; 237, 249
	03	09	Iron Mountain MI	9 <sup>th</sup> Senior Class	219, 195
1959	02	01	Madison WI	3 <sup>rd</sup> Class A	Central Championships
	02	22	Ironwood MI	1 <sup>st</sup> Senior Class	180, 191
	03	07	Iron Mountain MI	7 <sup>th</sup> Senior Class	International Tournament
1960	03	13	Ironwood MI	3 <sup>rd</sup> Senior Class	166, 171