

Jay Martin

ski jumper for life



Jay Martin has been a respected figure in ski jumping for 50 years. He's been an athlete, program director, promoter, ski jump builder, coach and official.

Jay was born on September 8, 1944. His father, Ken Martin, signed him up for downhill ski lessons at the age of five. He learned to ski at Theodore Wirth Park under the Jimmy Johnson ski program. After lessons and skiing with his dad at Moon Valley, he began ski jumping in a neighbor's back yard. He was soon jumping full time at Theodore Wirth Park. Ken was the inspiration and main coach for Jay's junior years of jumping.

In 1960, 1961, and 1962 Jay was a member of three Junior National teams. In 1962, he won the Central Division Junior Championships. Jay then went on to win the Junior Nationals at Steamboat Springs, Colorado where he was awarded the Sons of Norway trophy. Following that win, he accepted a full scholarship to the University of Wyoming. During his freshman year of 1963, he won the junior class in the USSA Senior Nationals at Steamboat Springs, CO. Jay was a three-time letter man for skiing at the University of Wyoming and President of the university's newly formed ski club.

During the next five years Jay made two Olympic teams an FIS team and was National champion. The following is a list of accomplishments and awards during those years.



- ❖ Made two Olympic teams: 1964 in Innsbruck, Austria & 1968 in Grenoble, France
- ❖ Earned Collegiate Regional Champion in 1965
- ❖ Jumped in Oslo, Norway for the FIS World Championship team in 1966
- ❖ Helped the University of Wyoming for the first time take 2nd place honors at the NCAA Ski Championships in 1967
- ❖ Awarded National Champion in 1968 in Westby Wisconsin & the

Prestigious Paul Bietila memorial trophy by the Central division

- Was the first ski jumper to wear a speed skating hat to reduce friction, increasing speed down the in-run
- ❖ Received the coveted USSA Toger Tokle memorial trophy



Jays' Top 10 International Results

- 8th Innsbruck, Austria Springer Tourney 1967
- 8th St. Moritz, Switzerland 1968
- 1st in Vogel, Austria 1964
- 2nd Vickersund, Norway 1964
- 2nd Drummen, Norway 1964
- 2nd Porschgren, Norway 1965
- 5th Norwegian Ski Week 1965

Top 20 Results

- 13th Rupolding, Austria 1967-68
- 16th Bishofshoven, Austria 1965
- Holds Hill Records at Berlin New Hampshire & Winter Park Colorado

Following Jays jumping years, he became actively involved in all

aspects of the sport. He was elected president of the Minneapolis Ski Club in 1973 and other years. He has been a board member of the club to the present time and is now acting as treasurer. Jay became program director from 1974 to 2005. As program director, he was responsible for running two programs. One program was run at Theodore Wirth Park and the other was at the Bush Lake jump site. Jay organized the snowing in of both areas, getting each site ready for winter training and competitions. Eight competitions were organized and run by him each year. He was also responsible for hiring Coaches for each area.

Jay was a board member on the Central Ski Jumping Panel for many years. His position on the board was chairman of Junior Program Development. He was the first to inventory the size of jumps, equipment, and number of participants in each club in the Central division. Through this process, he found equipment availability was a huge problem for each club. This made it very difficult to introduce and promote ski jumping to young people. He recommended each club begin an equipment rental system. He was the first to establish an equipment rental equipment system for the Minneapolis Ski Club. He was also the first in the division to recommend that each club identify a junior development coordinator.

Jay was the first to hire a coach/director for the Theodore Wirth jumps and the Bush Lake jumps. This was soon followed by those clubs that could afford a coach/director. As equipment became more difficult to obtain, Jay bought a ski jumping equipment business. He named it *Martin's Ski Cellar* and ran it from his house. This business continued to provide the needed equipment to clubs and jumpers throughout the U.S.

Jay has been an active Coach for the Central division and in time became a level 3 coach. He coached the Christmas training camps and jumps in the Central division. Jay's coaching and programs for the Mpls Ski Club were instrumental in developing National Champions, World Junior Team members, US Ski Team Members and Olympians. Matt Laue and Mike Keuler went on to become Olympians. He also coached other jumpers from other clubs that were National Champions, US Ski Team members, and Olympians. He was later elected Treasure for the Central Coaches Association.

For the Olympics in Lake Placid in 1980 and Salt Lake City in 2002, Jay was a member of the hill crew responsible for preparing the jumps.

He initiated and was instrumental in writing, promoting, lobbying and securing \$500,000 in funding for the new 70 meter jump at Bush Lake. Jay wrote the bill and had it authored by both party's for the money and lobbied the State Legislature to appropriate the funding for the jump. It was the first in the country to have the new F.I.S profile design to allow for the V-style jumping.

Today, Jay is a National judge and Technical Delegate. He is presently a board member of the Central Division Officials Association.

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He is also honored by the State of Minnesota by having his name engraved on the Olympic wall in the Minnesota National Sports Stadium in Blaine.

