

# Roger E Dion

Roger was born and raised in Lebanon, New Hampshire a town that has produced many Olympians. Roger's immediate and extended family was all about ski jumping. Led by his Dad, Ernest, who was the leader of the "Flying Dions." Ernest had Roger on skis and jumping by the time he began walking. Roger went off the twenty meter jump by the age of five and on up to sixty meter jumps by the age of ten. At that age, Roger made his first "big hill" jump at Brattleboro, Vermont flying 109 feet. Roger was too young to compete in the All Eastern Tournaments however, he was invited to exhibition jump before the competitions began.

Ernie the father of Roger and Douglas, Raymond Dion the father of Bernard, and younger brother Leon became known as the Flying Dions and passed the moniker on to Roger, Doug and Bernie. As ski jumping became more popular and interest in the daring sport gained interest throughout the Eastern United States newspapers, magazines and eventually television took notice of the Flying Dions. The December 27, 1952 Colliers Magazine featured a two page article with pictures of the Flying Dions Kid Ski Whizzes. After the Colliers Magazine article, RKO-Pathe, Inc. sent a letter to Ernie Dion asking for his permission to feature Roger, Doug and Bernie on the RKO-Pathe Sportscope. Sportscope was a nine minute film which had previously featured ski greats Torger Tokle and Hannes Schneider, baseball great Ted Williams, Bobby Shantz the most valuable player in the American League, and golf great Ben Hogan. These films were released theatrically to some eight to ten thousand motion picture theaters. Ernie considered the offer ultimately declining because he felt the three boys were getting too much attention in newspapers and magazines. A copy of the letter is included with this nomination. People and Places Magazine in their July, 1953 edition included an article on summer ski jumping on crushed ice at Laconia, New Hampshire's Belknap Ski Area featuring the Junior Flying Dions.

Boys' Life Magazine, a magazine for all boys, included an article about the Junior Flying Dions in their February 1954 issue which was their issue celebrating the forty-fourth anniversary of the Boy Scouts of America. The popularity of the Flying Dions continued in to 1955. Television entertainer, Arthur Godfrey, invited the boys to perform exhibition jumps on the Lake Placid, New York Olympic ski jump as part of the Arthur Godfrey Winter Special television show. After the exhibition, the boys were included as honor guards when the famous actor Kirk Douglas was crowned King and Olympic gold medalist Tinley Albright was crowned Queen. The boys were understandably thrilled when the famous McGuire Sisters sang a song just for them.

In addition to high school events, Roger's Dad Ernest made sure Roger, Doug and cousin Bernie attended all of the USEASA ski jumping meets which included Berlin, N.H., Brattleboro, Vt., Lake Placid, N.Y, Salisbury, Ct., Rumford, Me., Bear Mountain, N.Y. and many Canadian events. Ski Jumping during this period was high profile and therein it must be noted that all the publicity that The Flying Dions, Roger, Doug and Bernie, were receiving was of historic value to Eastern Ski Jumping. I mention Roger, Doug and Bernie together because Roger should join his Dad Ernest, brother Doug and cousin Bernie in the American Ski Jumping Ski Hall of Fame to complete the legacy of The Flying Dions.



List of Honors  
For  
Roger E. Dion

1954

- New Hampshire, Eastern Schoolboy Jumping Champion
- Selected for Junior National Ski Team representing the United States Eastern Ski Association placing 5th at the competition held in Chester Park Duluth, Minnesota
- Eastern Class "C" Ski Jumping Champion

1955

- New Hampshire, New England and Eastern Schoolboy Ski Jumping Champion
- 1st Place Junior National Ski Jumping Championship held at Whitefish, Montana

1956

- New Hampshire, New England and Eastern Schoolboy Ski Jumping and Downhill Champion
- Again selected for Junior National Ski Team placing 2nd in Ski Jumping and 3rd in Downhill at the competition held at Franconia, New Hampshire
- Eastern Class "B" Champion in Adult competition and was promoted to Class "A"

1957

- New Hampshire, New England and Eastern Schoolboy Champion
- Again selected for Junior National Ski Team as a four event skier held at Mount Rose Reno, Nevada. Unable to compete due to injury suffered in practice

1958

- New England Prep School Ski Jumping Champion
- New Hampshire and Maine Ski Jumping Champion
- Eastern Senior Ski Jumping Champion

1959

- 1st Place Eastern Olympic tryouts held at Salisbury, Connecticut; selected for Olympic training team
- 11th Place North American Ski Championship held at Olympic Hill in Squaw Valley, California

1960

- Olympic Training Team Member

1961

- FIS Training Team Member

1962 – 1964

- 7th Place National Ski Jumping Championship held in Chicago, Illinois
- All U.S. Army Ski Team

1966

- Scored Highest American Ski Jumping point total ever recorded in the history of Bear Mountain, New York

Note: Enclosed are pictures and articles to support nomination





ROGER DION LEAVENWORTH, WASHINGTON 1959