

Vern Powers

Born in Eau Claire WI, Vern began skiing as a young child. He never joined a junior club but was asked to join the senior Eau Claire Ski Club in 1936 at age 15. He competed for the next 26 years, and won championships in all four classes. In 1938 he was the first skier in the U.S. to jump under lights at a senior hill (Mt. Washington).

He was often introduced over the PA at tournaments as, "Vern Powers, the Power Jumper." He wasn't the most stylish skier out there, but he seldom fell. He could jump far, and his recorded jump of 257 ft at Iron Mountain in 1942 was the longest jump ever by an Eau Claire skier, and it stood for 6 years until Olympian Billy Olson surpassed it in 1948.

On November 21, 1991, Vern was inducted into the Eau Claire Ski Club Hall of Fame.

Although he participated in many more tournaments than those below, the following printed records give a good indication of Vern's accomplishments.

1936 - 2nd, 4th

1937 - 2nd

1938 - First skier to ski on a senior hill (Mt. Washington) in the U.S. under lights.
Two 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 7th, longest jump, completed Diamond Jump at Strum

1939 - 1st (Centrals), Two 2nd, 3rd

1940 - 1st, 5th

1941 - Two 1st, Four 2nd, 4th, 6th (Nationals), 7th

1942 - Two 1st, Three 2nd, 4th, 5th, 8th (Nationals)

1946 - Took 3 teammates to Beloit to get Eau Claire ski jumping restarted again after WWII.

1947 - 2nd, 3rd, 10th

1950-51 Served as Eau Claire Club President

1955 - 1st (Vets)

1956 - 1st

1957 - 1st

1958 - 2nd, 9th

1959 - Eau Claire Ski Club Board of Directors, 9th

1960 - Hill Co-Captain, 15th

1961 - Two 2nd

1962 - 5th



