



Patti Grady

Trailblazer & Nordic Combined Champion

Patti Grady of Duluth, Minnesota is a true pioneer of women's ski jumping. In 1970, at only 15 years old, she became the first woman to ride the 70-meter jump at Fond-du-Lac — an achievement the Duluth Ski Club called one of the only times a woman in the world had conquered a 70-meter hill. In 1971 she won the Nordic Combined Junior National Championship, and news coverage from across the country heralded her as one of the finest junior skiers in America. She trained at Chester Bowl Ski Club in Duluth, competing primarily against boys — many of whom are now Hall of Fame members themselves.

Tournament programs and newspaper accounts from the era document Patti's remarkable achievements: a seventh-place finish in the Junior Boys Class (Duluth News Tribune, Jan. 4, 1971), recognition as a Nordic star in national publications, and featured billing at the 66th and 67th Annual Duluth Ski Club Invitational tournaments. She was described as "America's Only Ski Jumpress" by Duluth Ski Club officials.

Patti remained active in downhill and cross-country skiing throughout her life. Her induction honors a career that shattered expectations, inspired generations, and opened the door for women in a sport that desperately needed her courage.