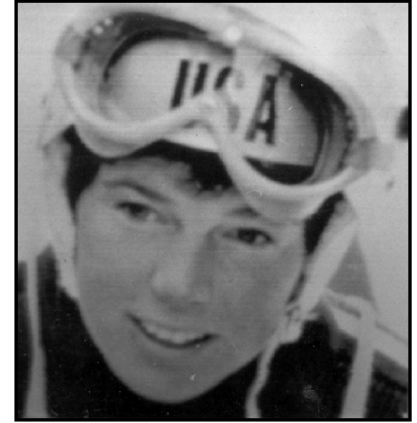


#172  
**Jean Saubert**  
Born: 1942



*Jean Saubert's big break occurred when Dave McCoy invited her to train at Mammoth Mountain. While skiing for Mammoth, Saubert won the National Ski Association National Slalom and Combined titles in 1957 at Slide Mountain, and repeated again in 1959 at White Pass, Washington.*

Jean Saubert was the best of the “Amazing Americans” during the 1964 Olympic Winter Games at Innsbruck, Austria. Her silver and bronze medals represented a 2<sup>nd</sup> place tie in giant slalom and a 3<sup>rd</sup> place in slalom – each contest producing dramatic duels between Jean and France’s Goitschel sisters, Marielle and Christine. The two French sisters traded places in the slalom events, Marielle taking 1<sup>st</sup> place in giant slalom and 2<sup>nd</sup> place in slalom and Christine reversed the order in both races.

Jean’s time of 1:53.11 equaled 2<sup>nd</sup> place Christine in the giant slalom, while she was a split second behind Marielle to take 3<sup>rd</sup> place in the slalom. It was a brilliant performance for the Oregon State University and member of California’s Mammoth Mountain Ski Club.

Jean was 22-years-old, a product of training programs established at Mammoth Mountain by Dave McCoy, area owner and himself a long-time competitor. She had grown up in Cascadia, Oregon, where her father, Jack Saubert, was a Forest Service district ranger. Part of his responsibility was Forest Service administration of Hoodoo Ski Bowl, and it was there that Jean got her racing career started. Later, the Sauberts moved to Lakeview, Oregon, where Jean skied Warner Valley. All this time she was racing, winning junior national championships on the road to senior titles and Olympic and F.I.S. World Championship competitions. Her big step upward came when Dave McCoy invited her to train at Mammoth.

There was a string of National Junior Championships lashed to Jean’s belt when she reached Mammoth. Competing out of the Pacific Northwest Ski Association, she had won the 1957 National Slalom and the National Combined titles at Slide Mountain, Nevada, and picked up the same titles again in 1959 at White Pass, Washington. For Mammoth Mountain, Jean soon proved a skier to be reckoned with, her triumphs including the 1963 National Downhill won at Alyeska, Alaska. Prior to that, she had competed in the 1962 F.I.S. World Championships at Chamonix in France, placing 6<sup>th</sup> in giant slalom, 17<sup>th</sup> in slalom, 9<sup>th</sup> in downhill and 9<sup>th</sup> in alpine combined. There was joy on Mammoth Mountain.

The U.S. Olympic Ski Team trained at Mammoth ahead of the 1964 Winter Games. More than half the women were members of the Mammoth Ski Club, and for the first time, the entire team returned home together. This provided the public a chance to see the team it had supported and gave the racers an opportunity to test each others’ mettle around the national circuit. Again, there were sparkling performances by Jean Saubert, including a clean sweep of the National Downhill, Slalom, Giant Slalom, and Alpine Combined Championships at Colorado’s Winter Park. Previously she had won several European events ahead of her silver and bronze medals, with the Associated Press tabbing her “best woman of the year” going into the Winter Games.

During 1965, Jean and other American girls pointed toward the F.I.S. World Championships of 1966. This produced an exciting season in the United States, with the highlight the American International Team Races at Vail, Colorado. Here, Jean tied Marielle Goitschel to win the slalom and had a 5<sup>th</sup> in downhill.

With the 1966 F.I.S. Championships set for the summer in Portillo, Chile, Jean elected not to race the European circuit and remained to continue graduate studies at the University of Utah. She already had won a place on the 1966 F.I.S. team and ranked high in the seeding lists. However, Jean did enter the World University Winter Games in Sestriere, Italy, taking a silver medal in downhill and a bronze in the slalom. The summertime F.I.S. Championships followed in Chile, where Jean was 4<sup>th</sup> in slalom and 11<sup>th</sup> in downhill to end her competitive ski career.

Jean has been involved in a teaching career ever since her racing days, first at Vail Country Day School in Colorado and at Brigham Young University, Provo, Utah.

She’s a director of the Intermountain Ski Division and serves on several committees of the United States Ski Association – true tributes to Olympic traits of the fast-flying skisport.

Jean Saubert was elected to the U.S. National Ski Hall of Fame in 1976.