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## Joan Hannah

Born: 1939



*Joan Hannah hails from Franconia, New Hampshire, where she was introduced at an early age to skiing by her father Sel.*

Joan Hannah brought back one of two bronze medals won by Americans at Chamonix, in 1962. Her performance there helped to establish the new U.S. alpine image in international skiing.

Joan was raised in Franconia and literally was born into skiing. The Hannahs are a family of skiers. Her parents had four children – Joan, Lucy, Frank and young Sel – all skiers. They have often been referred to as America's "skiingest family."

Sel Hannah introduced his daughter to the sport at an early age. He made Joan's first pair of skis. As Sel said – showing a pair of little skis – "this little pair I made for Joanie when she started skiing," and that was about as soon as she could walk.

Sel was an accomplished racer. He achieved fame as a collegiate ski racing champion while attending Dartmouth. One of the races he won was the Canadian Combined Championship in 1936.

Joan credits her father as the individual who instilled in her both the fierce competitive spirit and technical skills that helped her compile one of the most distinctively successful careers in American women's alpine racing.

Under the guidance of Ollie Cole, Franconia coach and former university skier, Joan continued to develop her racing skills.

Joan's first major accomplishment came in 1954 when, at the age of 14, she made the USEASA Junior National Team. She continued to perfect her championship talents while racing for 4 consecutive years on the USEASA Junior National Team.

Joan's most outstanding accomplishment, of course was the winning of the bronze in the 1962 F.I.S. World Championship Giant Slalom at Charmonix, France. In this event, American women placed three in the first six.

In addition to competing in the 1962 F.I.S., she was also a member of the 1966 F.I.S. team which competed in Portillo, Chile.

Joan was also a member of the 1960 U.S. Olympic Team at Squaw Valley and at Innsbruck, Austria, in 1964.

She competed in many major ski meets, some of which are listed as follows:

- 1959 Won the International Downhill Race at Stowe
- 1959 Women's North American Giant Slalom at Squaw Valley
- 1966 Downhill at the Mt. Werner Classic
- 1966 Downhill in the Eoch Cup Championships
- 1966 Won the Giant Slalom in the Combined Canadian Nationals
- 1966 Took first place in the Alta Snow Cup

Joan Hannah was elected to the U.S. National Ski Hall of Fame in 1978.



*Joan with her Father, Selden Hannah, who is also an Honored Member of the Ski Hall of Fame.*