

JOHN MCMURTRY

John McMurtry, U.S. Ski Team coach and alpine development leader during the 1980s, established a regional feeder program bringing thousands of athletes to the sport.

John McMurtry might be best known for his career coaching the U.S. Ski Team in the 1980s. His racers won World Cup titles, Olympic medals and the team's only Nation's Cup. Many of the skiers he coached have become Honored Members of the national ski hall of fame.

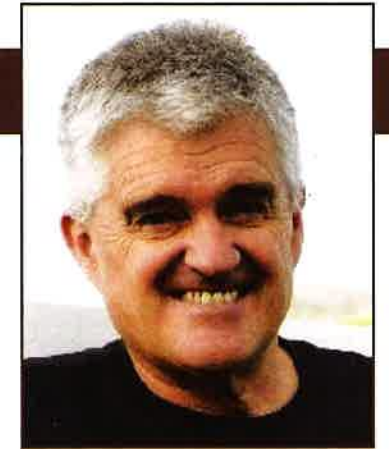
Yet his most significant contribution to the sport of skiing could be the USSA's Regional Development Program that has brought and continues to bring thousands of young athletes into the sport. After he left the U.S. Ski Team in 1984, it rarely achieved top 10 results. It was the top alpine ski team at the 1984 Sarajevo Olympics

but won no medals at the 1988 Games in Calgary. In 1987 he was invited back as the Alpine Director and the Director of Athlete Development. He envisioned and executed a regional development program that set the team up for its consistent success today.

He proposed that the country be divided into three regions: Eastern, Rocky/Central and Western. These regions would organize training camps and competitions for the top junior talent and their coaches. They would remain connected to their home program. This exposed these athletes to national programs and allowed regional and national directors, coaches and staff to identify talent. Within three years 14 medals had been won

at the World Junior Championships. This structure remains in place today and has produced racers like Picabo Street, Tommy Moe, Bode Miller, Julia Mancuso, Lindsay Vonn and Kristina Koznick.

He is presently the Chief Development Officer of the Steadman Philippon Research Institute where he and his team work to prevent ski injuries through research and education. Their goal is to increase lifelong enjoyment of sports through proper physical preparation. He has created a legacy with his training performance manuals for athletes and coaches, assisting with international ski programs and sports medicine research.



John McMurtry

Born June 28, 1950
Resides in Colorado

Career Awards & Highlights

1969-1971

Member of the University of Denver's NCAA national championship team

1974

Rocky Mountain Coach of the Year

1976-1984

U.S. Ski Team Women's Coach

1978

Authored the first comprehensive U.S. Ski Team Alpine Training Manual

1980-1984

Coach, U.S. Women's World Cup, Olympic Slalom and Giant Slalom Ski Teams

1982

Colorado has John McMurtry Day

1985

Chief of Race for the first World Cup races held in Utah

1987-1990

U.S. Ski Team Alpine Director and Director of Athlete Development

1994 to present

Director of Development, Steadman, Philippon Research Institute

1995

Inducted into the Colorado Ski and Snowboard Hall of Fame