

Matt Petri

Matt Petri started jumping at the age of 14 at Deerfield Academy in Deerfield Massachusetts under the coaching of Don Burdick. He jumped through high school and then 4 years in college at St. Lawrence University (SLU) on the Eastern collegiate winter carnival circuit, and at regional and national events.

After graduating from SLU in 1981, Matt moved to Lake Placid, New York to live and train full-time in pursuit of a spot with the U.S. Ski Team and Olympic Team. Over the next three years, he paid his own way to travel to training camps and competitions in North American, Scandinavia and Europe, many times with the U.S. Ski Team with the help of national team coaches-Rex Bell, Greg Windsperger and Erling Rimeslåtten.

In January 1984, Matt skied his way onto the U.S. Team at the U.S. National Championships & Olympic Trials in Steamboat Springs, CO. The next week, he secured a spot on the U.S. Olympic Ski Jumping Team with a 1st place finish in the fourth, and final, Olympic Trial on the 90 meter hill in Lake Placid with a jump of 122 meters; at the time the longest jump in competition on that hill by an American.



Matt's 122 meter jump at the U.S. Olympic Trials on the Lake Placid 90 meter hill in January 1984.

Injured at the 1984 Winter Olympic Games in Sarajevo, Matt decided to compete for another 4 years. While he fought to recover from his injury in the years that followed, Matt again skied his way onto the U.S. team for the 1988 Winter Olympic Games in Calgary, Alberta, Canada. Matt retired from competitive ski jumping after those Games at the age of 29.

Some notable skiing career highlights:

- Deerfield Academy Ski Team, captain and MVP: 1977
- St. Lawrence University Ski Team, captain and MVP: 1981
- U.S. Ski Jumping Teams: 1984, 1985 and 1988
- U.S. Winter Olympic Ski Jumping Teams: 1984 and 1988
- United States Ski Association, Board of Directors: 1989-1991
- Eastern Ski Jumping Council, Chair: 1992-1993
- USA Nordic Sport, Board of Directors, Secretary: 2019-present

Some notable career jumping results:

- 1st Eastern U.S. Eastern Prep School Ski Championships-February 27, 1977
- 11th at the final NCAA Ski Jumping Championships (3rd American) 70m-March 5, 1980
- 1st Empire State Games, Lake Placid NY 70m-March 15, 1981
- 5th FIS International Ski Jump Lake Placid 90m-February 21, 1982
- 10th US Nordic Combined Championships, Laconia, NH 70m-February, 1982
- 16th Trondersk Hoppelg Europa Cup-March 28, 1982
- 18th Europa Cup Kaustinen, Finland 70m-March 1982
- 5th Paul Bietila Memorial Ski Tournament, Ishpeming, MI 70m-February 26, 1983
- 29th 90 Meter Subaru World Cup, Lake Placid, NY-December 18, 1983
- 3rd Masters Ski Jump Lake Placid 70m-December 31, 1983
- 2nd New Year's Ski Jump Lake Placid, NY 70m-January 1, 1984
- 6th Tarvisio, Italy Europa Cup 70m-January 7, 1984
- 28th World Cup Cortina d 'ampezzo 70m-January 11, 1984
- 4th U.S. National Championships and Olympic Trials, Steamboat 70m-January 1984¹
- 4th U.S. National Championships and Olympic Trials, Steamboat 90m-January 1984¹
- 5th U.S. Olympic Trials, Lake Placid NY 70m-January 21, 1984¹
- 1st U.S. Olympic Trials, Lake Placid NY 90m-January 22, 1984¹
- 3rd New Year's Ski Jump Lake Placid, NY 70m-January 6, 1985
- 3rd Paul Bietila Memorial Ski Tournament, Ishpeming, MI 70m-February 16, 1985
- 2nd 70m Special Jump, Lake Placid , NY-December 19, 1987
- 3rd New Year's Day Jump Lake Placid 70m-January 2, 1988
- 2nd U.S. Olympic Trials Lake Placid 70m-January 20, 1988²
- 8th U.S. Olympic Trials Lake Placid 90m-January 22, 1988²
- 9th U.S. Olympic Trials Lake Placid 90m-January 23, 1988²
- 10th U.S. Olympic Trials Lake Placid 70m-January 24, 1988²

¹ 1984 U.S. Olympic Trials: 1st overall in points

² 1988 U.S. Olympic Trials: 6th overall in points

Now:

Matt recently retired from the financial services industry after 35 years working to help Americans save for retirement in 401(k) retirement plans as senior sales executive at Fidelity Investments, Financial Engines, and T. Rowe Price. His new “office” is the outdoors – skiing, mountain and road biking, and golf. Matt skied over 1 million vertical feet this season!

Matt lives with his wife Nell in Larkspur, CA (just north of the Golden Gate Bridge). Nell is a Director at Continuing Education of the Bar – California in Oakland. His daughter Molly graduated from Duke School of Nursing in May 2021 and now is a nurse at Duke University Hospital in Durham, NC. His son Chase graduated from University of Denver in June 2021 with a degree in finance and now is an Associate Internal Sales Director for Empower Retirement.



Matt with his family at Molly's graduation from Duke University, May 2021.