

Jerry Martin

Jerry's father Ken, introduced him to ski jumping at age five. Just a few jumps off a small snow bump at Theodore Wirth Park and Jerry was hooked.

At age 7 he entered into Selmer Swanson's program at Theodore Wirth and took his first ride off the 30m. A dollar bribe went a long way in those days. From that moment on, he couldn't get enough of it.

Jerry was fortunate to have an involved father and mother, a jumping program that was thriving at the time and the coaching of Ed Brisson.

Gymnastics was another sport Jerry was involved in at the time and the skills he learned in gymnastics helped him develop good technique and style in his ski jumping. He finally had to make a decision which sport he was going to pursue. His love and enthusiasm for ski jumping made his decision easy.

In 1965 at age 14, Jerry won the National Junior Championships in Bend Oregon. He was the youngest ever to win the championships. He went off his first 70 meter jump when he was 12 and his first 90 meter when he was 15.

When he was 17 he was invited to join the US Ski Team to train and compete in Europe. That same year he tried out for the 1968 Olympics, but just missed making the team.

Jerry injured his right eye in a work related accident in the fall of 1971, losing most of his sight in the eye. He managed to come back and dominate the 1972 Olympic tryouts.

Some of Jerry's accomplishments are:

- 1969-1976 US Ski Team member
- 1965 1st Junior National Championships – Bend, Oregon
- 1968 2nd place Junior Class - Senior National Championships – Westby, WI
- 1969 3rd place Junior Class – Senior National Championships – Brattleboro, VT
- 1970 World Championship Team member – Czechoslovakia
- 1971 1st Senior National Championships – Purgatory, CO
- 1972 1st Olympic Tryouts
- 1972 Olympic Team member – Sapporo, Japan
- 1973 1st Senior National Championships – Ispheming, MI
- 1973 Winner of Samsonite Series
- 1974 World Championship Team member – Falun, Sweden
- 1975 1st Senior National Championships – Brattleboro, VT
- 1976 1st place Canadian National Championships – Thunder Bay, Ontario
- 1976 2nd place Senior National Championships – Squaw Valley, CA
- 1976 2nd Olympic Tryouts
- 1976 Olympic Team member – Innsbruck, Austria

Former North American Distance record at Iron Mountain MI., 345 ft - 1971
Former hill record holder at Ispheming, MI., 284 ft - 1975
Former hill record holder at Ironwood, MI ski-flying 147 meters, 482 feet - 1975

Best International placings:

1969 St. Moritz, Switzerland – 8th
1972 Olympics – Sapporo, Japan - 70 meter – 25th
1973 Obertsdorf, Germany – Springer Tournee 13th
1975 Oslo, Norway - Holmenkollen – 24th
1975 Kulm, Austria – Ski Flying – 14th
1976 Olympics – Innsbruck, Austria – 70 meter – 27th

After retiring in 1976, Jerry contributed highly to the sport as Mpls. Ski Club president, Central Division Head Ski Coach and also coaching Minneapolis Ski club junior skiers.

Some of his favorite memories are; jumping at Theodore Wirth and Bush Lake on a beautiful sunny winter day, the excitement of participating in the many junior tournaments around the Central Division and the great friendships made over the years.

He feels blessed to be able to have experienced such a wonderful sport and is thankful to all the sport builders who given of their time and resources to keep the sport alive.