



JOHN C. BALFANZ

1940 Born in Minneapolis and introduced to the sport of ski jumping at the age of six. He won his first competition in his age group at the age of seven.

He competed for the Minneapolis Ski Club in the Central Division of USSA until his retirement following a serious injury just after the 1968 Winter Olympics.

1956 First place in the CUSSA Ski Jumping Championships

1957 – 1961 Joined the US Army; no competition

1962 First place in all eight of the F.I.S. Jumping Tournaments tryouts in Poland; set a new North American Ski Jumping distance record of 323 feet at Westby, WI.

1963 At the German-Austrian Springer Tournament, was the only American Medal holder from this prestigious event.

He competed in 17 major international competitions throughout Europe in this year, winning two of them and placing no lower than 7th in the rest.

Placed 2nd in the Holmenkollen, a personal highlight.

1964 Member of the US Olympic Team in Innsbruck, Austria

1965 Established another new North American distance of 325 feet at Iron Mountain, MI; 1st in all but four jumping events he entered.

1968 Member of the US Olympic Team in Grenoble, France

1980 Inducted into the US National Ski Hall of Fame.