



COLORADO SKI & SNOWBOARD HALL OF FAME NOMINATION
JOHN BUXMAN
SPONSORED BY JOHN GARNSEY
CATEGORY ATHLETE
ACHIEVEMENTS 1973 – 2015



Ms. Susie Tjossem
Colorado Ski and Snowboard Hall of Fame

NOMINATION LETTER

Dear Susie,

I have had the privilege to know John Buxman for over forty years starting when John was a young ski racer at ski Club Vail. At an early age John was turning heads, with a reputation of being dedicated and focused on ski racing with tremendous promise. In 1968 eight year old Johnny Buxman meet Jean-Claude Killy , Killy watching John ski commented, "You're skiing better at your age than I ever did at the same time in my Life."

John trained with Ski Club Vail from 1968-1976 and in 1975 at the young age of 14 was named to the Junior National Team. In 1975 John placed 7th at the Junior Nationals, triggering an appointment to the US Ski C Team, at age 15. The next year at age 16 John placed 10th in the Heavenly Valley World Cup.

John was named to the US Ski A Team, in 1980. A very successful World Cup career followed, with many top twenty finishes, being named the overall North American slalom Champion in 1985 and in 1985 recognized as the number one Slalom Skier in the United States. John was a member of two World Alpine Championship Teams and stood on the podium at three US National Championships.

Following his retirement from the US Ski Team, John moved on to the World Pro Tour, where he continued to ski at a very competitive level.

John's peers from around the world on the World Cup and Pro circuits, to this day remember John as the most pure talented Slalom skier the US has ever produced.

John continues to give back to the sport he loves as a coach at the Sunlight ski area, working with Buddy Werner and Master racers.

I believe John would be a very worthy addition to the Colorado Ski and Snowboard Hall of Fame and appreciate your consideration.



John Garnsey
Sponsor

JOHN BUXMAN

Once rated as the top Slalom skier in the United States, John Buxman was an amazing pure ski racing talent throughout the course of his 18-year amateur and professional career.

Buxman started that career at a very young age, competing with the Ski Jets at Arapahoe Basin, while living with his family in Denver. By the age of 7, he was already quite accomplished in the sport, providing a view of what was to come.

When his family decided to move to the Vail Valley, it not only provided his father with the opportunity to open his own grocery store, but it gave his son the chance to take his ski racing talents to the next level at Ski Club Vail. Buxman trained with Ski Club Vail from 1968 through 1976, and was named to the Junior National Team in 1975.

The following winter, he was selected for a spot on the U.S. Ski Team's C Team at the age of 15. He was awarded the U.S. Ski Team Alpine Development Medal for the 1978-79 campaign.

Buxman was promoted to A Team status in 1981, showcasing his abilities with what would prove to be the top result of his amateur career with an 8th place showing in the famed Hahnenkamm Slalom in Kitzbuhel, Austria. In addition, he also placed among the top three in every Europa Cup Slalom he finished that winter.

He would make history the following season, becoming the first American male to ever compete in the new World Cup discipline of Super-G. In addition, he was also named to the U.S. team for the 1982 Alpine World Ski Championships in Schladming, Austria.

On the home front, Buxman was victorious in the 1983 North American Trophy Series (NorAm) Finals Slalom. The following winter, he would be crowned the season-long NorAm Slalom champion, while finishing fifth in the overall rankings. He would also earn the runner-up spot in Slalom at the U.S. National Championships.

Entering the 1985 campaign, Buxman was ranked as the top Slalom skier in the United States, earning a 10th place World Cup finish in Slalom in Park City, Utah. He was also named to represent the U.S. at the 1985 Alpine World Ski Championships in Bormio, Italy.

Following his 1986 retirement from the U.S. Ski Team, Buxman joined the ranks of the U.S. Pro Tour, where he would continue to chase his ski racing dream for another eight years. The final pro race of his career, held at Beaver Creek, ended on a true high note as he proposed to his wife Regina.

Buxman continued to be involved with ski racing in his post-competition life, coaching both Buddy Werner and Masters Downhill athletes at Ski Sunlight. In 2015, he was honored with the Decade of Excellence Award (1970-1980) by Ski and Snowboard Club Vail.

Through it all, John Buxman remained humble, grounded and appreciative of everyone that had supported him every step of the way in pursuing his dream.

Mark Taché
1001 East Hyman
Aspen, CO 81611

January 16, 2017

Dear Hall of Fame Committee,

I am writing on behalf of John Buxman Jr., a Colorado native raised in Vail, for consideration for induction into the Colorado Ski Hall of Fame.

“Bux” was one of the most remarkably talented alpine racers to ever come out of the Vail Ski Club, and Colorado. I spent over twenty years competing with and against John first in the Rocky Mountain Division, then as members of the US Ski Team on the Nor-Am, Europa Cup and finally the World Cup circuit, with a highlight of making and competing together on two US World Championship Teams, 1982 and 1985.

John turned Pro in 1987, as I had done the year prior, and we competed eight more years together on the US Pro Tour. Bux was like another brother to me as we navigated the rich and challenging life of ski racers competing first for country, then for paychecks and career.

Slalom was John’s specialty, and he dominated at every level on the way up. At age 16, he was one of the youngest male athletes ever to make the USST. As a twenty year old, in his first full season on the World Cup, he finished 8th in the hallowed Hahnenkamm slalom, having started well back in the field. It was an exceedingly impressive result for such a young American on his first attempt racing this famed course, in those days a treacherously icy, rough and intimidating slope. (That race was won by Ingemar Stenmark, who had raced the hill for 8 years on the World Cup at that point, and knew its terrain).

John would score still another top 15 result in that rookie season, in Oslo, Norway, and twice more in subsequent years, on top of wins and podiums on the Europa Cup, and in Nor-Ams. He would add three US National Championship podiums before turning to the grueling head-to-head Pro format for eight more years.

John had a reputation for possessing the quickest feet on the World Cup *and* the Pro Tour. His top speed was so high that even John couldn’t always harness it from top to bottom. He famously led to the halfway point of many World Cup slalom races before running out of luck or the ability to control his incredible snap, failing to find the finish line after stunningly brilliant runs. The best in the world would watch Bux from the start house to gauge the fastest line, and see what was possible. At the height of his career, Stenmark commented, after watching Bux rip the top section of a World Cup course, “I can’t match those turns.” The fast splits and DNFs were a frustrating legacy for John, of course, but his talent, precision and speed were unmatched and highly respected. For me, as a competitor, John’s agility, style and quickness was intimidating to watch without being thoroughly psyched out.

John was recognized by his peers in the US and in Europe as one of the most talented “pure” slalom skiers the US has ever produced, making his ski racing legacy significant not only to Colorado, but to US ski history.

Bux was completely committed to his sport over his long career, and was a true ski ambassador, who embodied all that is genuine in ski racing and in life... seeking to reach his true potential, and rarely retreating from his top speed just to finish in the pack.

John would be a worthy addition to the COHOF and deserves to be acknowledged for his contributions to Colorado and North American skiing.

Thanks for your consideration,

Sincerely,

Mark Taché
COHOF Inductee, 2006
Member COHOF Nominating Committee

February 10, 2017

Colorado Ski & Snowboard Hall of Fame
Elected Members and Board of Directors

John Buxman may be the best US Ski Team skier of the 70's and 80's who received the least attention. Why? The Vail, CO product was the understudy to the great Mahre Brothers, around whom all things orbited at the US Ski Team in those days.

And yet, looking back, he was within an eyelash of greatness on a daily basis for a long period of time. He shared many podiums with Phil and Steve Mahre, and is close friends with them today.

At this time I was Men's Downhill Coach and watched John Buxman from afar. But as a fellow Vailite I was a big fan. I watched John race in the Classics in Europe and slug it out in Europa Cup and NorAms. As a Coloradoan there was a lot to be proud of at this time, and John Buxman was the gentleman of the era.

It crushed my heart when John did not get named to the 1984 Olympic Team. Quotas were rethought and the Women's Team received more spots than the Men. John ended up on the short end of that stick. He was the training partner to the Gold and Silver medalists in Slalom, but got no slot.

John matured into a seasoned World Cup veteran and outstanding role model for young skiers.

I write this seconding letter on behalf of John Buxman as an ambassador of our sport, the outstanding talent of his generation and a racer who will forever be tied to the wonderful story of the Mahre Brothers.

Sincerely,

Erik Steinberg

SUMMARY

Once rated as the top Slalom skier in the United States, John Buxman was an amazing pure ski racing talent throughout the course of his 18-year amateur and professional career. Buxman trained with Ski Club Vail from 1968 through 1976, and was named to the Junior National Team in 1975. He was promoted to U.S. Ski Team A Team status in 1981, showcasing his abilities with what would prove to be the top result of his amateur career with an 8th place showing in the famed Hahnenkamm Slalom in Kitzbuhel, Austria. In addition, he also placed among the top three in every Europa Cup Slalom he finished that winter, while also being named to the U.S. team for the 1982 Alpine World Ski Championships in Schladming, Austria. Entering the 1985 campaign, Buxman was ranked as the top Slalom skier in the United States, earning a 10th place World Cup finish in Slalom in Park City, Utah. He was also named to represent the U.S. at the 1985 Alpine World Ski Championships in Bormio, Italy. Following his 1986 retirement from the U.S. Ski Team, Buxman joined the ranks of the U.S. Pro Tour, where he would continue to chase his ski racing dream for another eight years. He continued to be involved with ski racing in his post-competition life, coaching both Buddy Werner and Masters Downhill athletes at Ski Sunlight. In 2015, he was honored with the Decade of Excellence Award (1970-1980) by Ski and Snowboard Club Vail.