



COLORADO SKI & SNOWBOARD HALL OF FAME NOMINATION

JOHN MCBRIDE

SPONSORED BY MARK TACHE
CATEGORY SPORT BULDER
ACHIEVEMENTS 1989 – PRESENT



Mark Taché
1001 East Hyman
Aspen, CO 81611

January 27, 15

Dear Hall of Fame Committee,

I am writing on behalf of John McBride Jr. for consideration for induction into the Colorado Ski Hall of Fame. "Johnno" is a Colorado native, born and raised in Aspen, where he still resides on his family's Lost Marbles Ranch in Old Snowmass with his wife Sunni, and three children today.

John was a talented young ski racer in the Aspen Ski Club (ASC) who rose through the Rocky Mtn Division, was named to the US Development Team and went on to compete for the competitive University of Vermont on the Collegiate circuit.

Upon graduating from UVM, Johnno returned to Aspen to coach juniors with the ASC embarking on what would be a long and storied coaching career. I was the ASC Head Coach and Athletic Director during Johnno's coaching years and remember being immediately impressed by his connection and commitment to his athletes. He had a unique ability to create a healthy, focused team environment in which kids had loads of fun while learning. His gift was his ability to relate - he was a kind of Pied Piper - and the kids universally loved him. He believed strongly in the benefits of exposing them to the challenges of the mountain beyond running gates. He encouraged focused free skiing in all kinds of terrain and conditions to challenge and develop fundamental skills and create passionate skiers that loved to be on the mountain. For his seven years with the ASC, Johnno developed well-rounded athletes, many of who went on to competitive careers divisionally, nationally, and on the international circuit.

It wasn't long before the USST came calling. Johnno was recruited to the US Ski Team staff in 1996 and in just two years was promoted to Head US Men's Speed coach, where he led a talented group of speed skiers to a record number of World Cup wins and podiums, Olympic and World Championship medals over the course of a decade. He coached Bode Miller to 17 World Cup wins, over 60 World Cup podiums, two overall World Cup Titles, 2 Olympic medals and 5 FIS medals. Bode hired Johnno, with the USST's approval, to be his private coach during his semi-independent "Team America" years. Under Johnno's tutelage, American downhill star Daron Rahlves would amass a US men's record 12 World Cup DH victories, including the coveted Hahnenkamm, 28 podiums, and gold and silver medals in two World Championships. Daron said of Johnno's coaching style, "Johnno has a good eye on the hill and whenever he sees something, good or bad, he voices his opinion right away. He is to the point. That is what I respect most about him as a coach. I've run across a bunch of coaches in my career who blow too much sunshine or hold back. Johnno will tell it like it is."

Johnno's reputation was of a tireless, hardworking coach and mentor willing to spend every waking hour on the hill, in the gym or working behind the scenes for his skiers. He was fully committed to them, and expected them to meet him at the same level with the same level of intensity. Daron said, "Johnno works incredibly hard on behalf of his athletes. It's not unusual to catch him still in his work clothes well after dark. For him it's a set of coach's bibs, ski boots, and a dirty Spyder coat that gets tons of abuse on the hill with chair-lift grease, dye, tree bark and sap, even dirt. He scrambles all over the World Cup hills for the best advantage to film us or get a good eye on the line. Another thing he brings to the table is a lot of fun and humor. He keeps a strong positive attitude. I don't know where he gets all his energy."

After 15 years with the USST, Johnno wanted to get off the road to raise his family. He returned to Aspen to begin coaching adaptive athletes with cognitive or physical challenges through the Challenge Aspen organization. Johnno was instrumental in establishing Aspen as a major national training center for adaptive skiers.

In fall of 2009, the Canadian Ski Team lured Johnno onto the road yet again to lead their talented speed team into their home Olympics in Vancouver. He knew 4 years was needed to affect real change and committed through the Sochi Olympics in 2014. As Head Men's Speed Coach, Johnno led the famed "Canadian Cowboys" to 4 World Cup wins, 20 podiums, World Championship Downhill gold in Garmisch 2011 (Erik Guay) and Jan Hudec's Olympic Super G medal in Sochi, tying McBride protégé Bode Miller for Bronze.

Hudec believes the “wiry rancher from Aspen” created a legacy that will remain with the Canadians into the future. “John was a Pied Piper with any group of athletes. He was able to connect with every different personality type and he knew the importance of that. He could identify and relate and knew how to motivate different individuals depending on their needs, bringing out the most in each person. He was able to get us all to come together. One of his biggest assets was his ability to instill a sense of team in an individual sport. Creating a team is one of the biggest challenges in ski racing,” said Hudec, adding, “For me especially, having a son, it was really cool having a coach who understood priorities and the importance of family.”

Johno retired from the World Cup, for good this time, following the Sochi Olympics and returned to Aspen to spend time with his family on the ranch. But he wasn’t done giving back to skiing, or his community. Johno is currently back sharing his unique gifts as a coach and motivator in his first season as Head Alpine Coach for the Aspen Valley Ski Club (formerly ASC).

“My goal for this program is to give kids opportunities and expertise so they can reach their potential as skiers. With these mountains, our facilities and the support of the community, we have the ability for these athletes to really flourish,” says Johno.

Johno’s coaching legacy is unique in Colorado history. He will surely be recognized in skiing history as one of the most successful US coaches to date. He embodies all that is admirable in sport and in life: limitless commitment, dedication, innovation, heart, humor and plain hard work. He deserves to be acknowledged by the COHOF for his contribution to Colorado and North American skiing. Johno McBride would be a worthy addition to this special group.

Thanks for your consideration,

Sincerely, Mark Taché

COHOF member (2006)

8-year member of the US Ski Team

2-time World Championship Team member

7-year World Pro Tour competitor

John McBride Jr.

'BIOGRAPHY'

John was raised in Aspen and came up through what was then the Aspen Ski Club (ASC) competing in the Rocky Mountain Division where he was a standout in his age group and represented the division on Junior Olympic Teams. He rose through the ranks and was named to the US Development Team and went on to compete on the collegiate circuit for the University of Vermont.

He coached the AVSC Alpine program from 1989 to 1995 and then went on to coach the US Ski Team for a decade, eight of those years as the head speed coach. During his tenure, He led his athletes to a US record number of wins and podium finishes on the World Cup in addition to Olympic and World Cup medals. He coached Bode Miller to Olympic medal performances and two overall Crystal Globes with over 60 World Cup podiums, 17 of which were victories. Daron Rahlves during that period, amassed 28 World Cup podiums, 12 World Cup victories including the coveted Hahnenkamm DH and gold and silver medals in two World Championships.

He retired and returned to Aspen and began coaching at Challenge Aspen, a competitive ski team in Aspen for individuals faced with cognitive or physical challenges. He was responsible for establishing Aspen as the new home base for this inspirational program.

A year later, the Canadian Team recruited him to lead their speed team through the Sochi Olympics and he headed back to the World Cup circuit for another four seasons and led the Canadian team to 20 podiums in addition to Eric Guay's gold medal at the 2011 World Championships in Garmisch and a bronze medal performance by Jan Hudec in the Super G in last season's Sochi Olympics.

John is now the Head Alpine Coach for the AVSC after an impressive career with the US and Canadian National Alpine Teams:

1989 – 1995 Coach at Aspen Ski Club

1995 – 2002 Coach for US Ski Team and conditioning coach

2002 – 2006 Head DH/SG Coach and Conditioning coach for Group

2006/2007 US Ski Team Head Combined Coach

2007/2008 Head Coach Bode Miller and Team America

2008/2009 Coach for Challenge Aspen Comp Team


2009-2010 Assistant WC Coach Canada DH/SG

2010-2014 Men's Head DH/SG Coach Alpine Canada

I

have known Johnno McBride since the 70's when he was a young racer with the Aspen Ski Club and I was a coach and then director of the alpine racing program. Over the years we have remained good friends, in part because of Johnno's love of coaching and his commitment to ski racing. I followed his long and stellar career as a coach, starting at the club level and continuing through the many years he spent on the World Cup, first with our national team, then just with Bode Miller when he won the overall title, and finally with the Canadian speed team. Johnno has great respect for the sport and the racers, whatever their level. He has always inspired his racers, demanding much but giving way more. His values are rock solid, his compassion enormous, his sense of humor terrific. His strong work ethic and positive outlook set an example for everyone he touches, and when the ski day is over, Johnno is often on the ice coaching hockey, whether on the World Cup circuit or at home in Aspen.

Best,
Peter Loram



'NOBLE GOALS & JUST CAUSES'

COACH "JOHNO"/ JOHN McBRIDE JR.
5463 EAST SOPRIS CREEK ROAD
OLD SNOWMASS, COLORADO 81654

HONORABLE SECOND...Hands Down!

Side Bar: TEAM AMERICA Coach "Johnno" McBride also "GIFTED" to us almost on a Daily Blog's The Who Why's and How's About That! As well as photo images he took himself. We had the 'ability' to See, Feel & Understand Life on Bode Miller's Team America Team. He spoke to us in an informal way so even I could "understand" and feel Team America's: * GAME*PLAN*
Heart*Felt*Thanks*Partner& Fellow "Cosmic*Cowboy"

Side Bar: Coach "Johnno" McBride had a web-site:

*****ASK THE COACH*****

This is where you could 'present' Coach "Johnno" McBride with a 'situation'. This site had a Beautiful Video Start: Here is Beloved Daughter Ruby on *ICE* in full hockey gear...I Loved the Audio Ruby! ****ASKED THE COACH**** a Question. I could not contain my Melt*Down Myself. Today it is just a fond memory, as the web-site is down. Thanks Agin Partner.