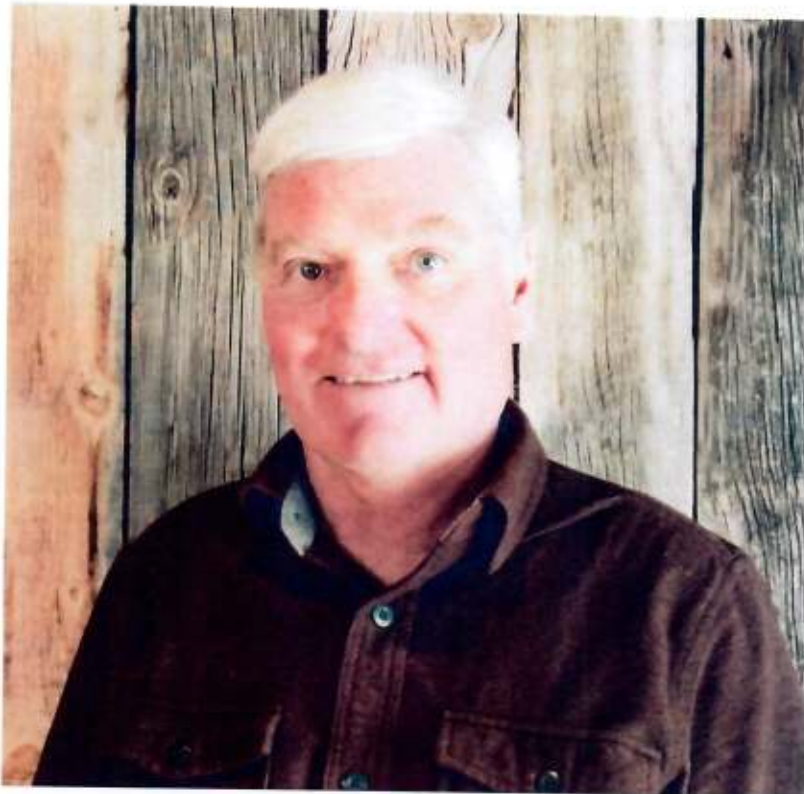




COLORADO SKI & SNOWBOARD HALL OF FAME NOMINATION
LONNIE VANATTA
SPONSORED BY ERIK STEINBERG
CATEGORY ATHLETE
ACHIEVEMENTS 1973 – 1999



Part 2

February 8, 2017

To: Colorado Ski Hall of Fame Board of Directors and Elected Members

Once in a generation there comes a home-grown natural talent so special that it takes another generation to appreciate that talent.

Such is the case with Lonny Vanatta of Steamboat Springs. Lonny was raised on the slopes of Mt. Werner and historic Howlesen Hill. Made famous by the Werner family and countless legions of Nordic skiers, Howlesen Hill molded young Lonny into a tough and fearless technical skier.

Along the way Lonny dominated his age classes and was a very young standout on the FIS circuit.

But on the way to the Big Leagues things got complicated. The mid-70's were an unsettled time in the politics of the sport. Looking back it seems impossible, but somehow the powers that be overlooked Lonny. His World Cup dreams were gone.

At this same time in Europe many great skiers were also being overlooked by the National Federations. At the time 30 years old was time for retirement. And the popularity of the sport was growing fast. There was enough talent world-wide for a new tour.

Thus emerged Bob Beattie's World Pro Skiing experiment. The talent came out of the woodwork. Dozens of established stars, over-30 tough guys, and unknown or forgotten Wunderkind made this new tour an instant success.

One special American fought it out with these hungry World Cup and Olympic refugees to eventually become World Pro Champion. Lonny Vanatta was able to adapt his home-grown style and Colorado grit and grab that Title.

World Pro Skiing was a special phenomenon in our history. Like the World Cup of the time WPS was tough and was mostly European dominated. But determined American skiers like Spyder Sabich and Tyler Palmer and Billy Kidd helped turn that tide.

If one looks back to that period to see 2 Tours so healthy, and so much unknown talent discovered, it could be argued that this was a Golden Age of talent in Ski Racing.

Please see fit to vote for Lonny Vanatta for 2017 HOF. A vote for Lonny is recognition of an era very dear to many, and recognition for a deserving World Champion.

Erik Steinberg

Part 4

Lonny Vanatta

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Biography

Lonny has lived in Steamboat Springs, Colorado his entire life, he was born on February 21, 1957. Lonny's ski racing career started at a very young age. Lonny's ascent in professional ski racing was phenomenal and well deserved as indicated by his many accomplishments.

Amateur Results and Awards

- Awarded the Ned Grant Memorial Trophy 1973,1974,1975 for the top competitor from Steamboat Springs.
- Third in the 1975 Elbert FIS Series, Elbert Series Champion in 1976.
- Named top Vail Junior in 1976, and the hardest working Vail racer in 1977.
- Placed on the U.S. Can-Am Team in 1977 and raced several World Cup races that season. coursework:

Professional Racing Results

1977-1978

- January 20, 1978 Lonny's first World Pro Race, Winter Park, Colorado, he qualified and reached the afternoon final rounds of racing on both Saturday and Sunday.
- Lonny qualified for every World Pro race the rest of the season.
- March 1978, Aspen Colorado, John Denver Celebrity Race, Nationally televised: 2nd Place Slalom.
- March 1978, Snoqualmie, Washington: 5th Place Slalom and Giant Slalom.
- March 1978, Paskapoo, Canada: 2nd Place Slalom.
- Overall 1978 World Pro Standing - 11th Place Two Second Place Finishes.

1978-1979 PROFESSIONAL SEASON

- December 1978, Aspen, Colorado, Budweiser World Pro Race: 4th Place Slalom
 - January 1979, Hunter Mountain, New York: Slalom First Place (defeated World Champion Andre Arnold).
 - February 1979, Winter Park, Colorado: Slalom First Place (defeated Hank Kashiwa).
 - March 1979, Snoqualmie, Washington: Slalom First Place (defeated Andre Arnold).
 - March 1979, Sun Valley, Idaho: Slalom First Place (defeated Walter Tresch).*
- *Lonny had fallen on the first run, but came on the second run to beat Tresch by over 1.5 seconds to take the win, a feat not accomplished in over three years on the World Pro Circuit!

1980-1981 PROFESSIONAL SEASON

- Won six Professional Races
- Won World Professional Skiing Slalom Title
- Finished third overall
- Finished as the Top American

Part 4 (cont.)

1981 - 1982 PROFESSIONAL SEASON

- Finished 11th on the Professional Tour

1982-1984 - Winner of the Peugeot Professional Tour

1985-1999 - Head Alpine Coach for the Steamboat Springs Winter Sports Club.

***Major accomplishments are as follows:**

Winner of 20 Professional Ski Races.

Finished as the top American for four years.

Member of the victorious Manufacturer's Teams in Boot, Ski and Binding categories.

Winningest American Skier in Professional Ski Racing.

Part 5

January 31, 2017

This letter is to nominate Lonny Vanatta to the Colorado Ski and Snowboard Hall of fame.

I have known Lonny for over 50 years, we grew up ski racing together. Lonny was born in Steamboat Springs in 1957. He was on skis by age two, and began to put in what would be thousands of hours training and free skiing. He was a member of the "Little Toots" Steamboat Springs Winter Sports Club at age 3—a program that his mother co-founded. He was almost immediately recognized for his speed on skis and his work ethic. Lonny was the first one on the hill and the last one off! He would often be training slalom alone on Howelson Hill long after the other skiers had gone home.

Lonny was well known as a fierce competitor, and quickly climbed the ladder in the Rocky Mountain Division, winning the overall Elbert Cup in 1975. He was named to the United State Ski Team in 1976. His time on the U.S. Ski Team was limited—he sprained his ankle at a summer camp—and got a letter a little while later that he was no longer on the team! Bill Marolt would later tell me this was a huge mistake by the U.S. Ski Team.

Lonny didn't waste any time—he joined Bob Beattie's World Pro Skiing Tour in 1978. The dual format was new to Lonny, but he quickly adapted to it, and by his third race was in the finals!

Lonny raced on the World Pro Skiing Circuit for 7 years, winning the overall World Pro Skiing Slalom Title in 1981. His best overall finish on the tour was third, and won an incredible 20 races! One of the most amazing things I have ever seen in skiing was the Slalom finals in Sun Valley Idaho, in 1979. Lonny was racing Walter Tresch in the finals. Tresch had finished in the top ten on the World Cup over 50 times—he was a rock. On the first run Lonny went out of the starting gate quickly, but fell. The time differential he had to make up on the second run was 1.5 seconds—nearly impossible. If a racer made up that time differential they won a beautiful Omega watch—so this was called the Omega Challenge. On the second start both Lonny and Tresch came out together—and then an amazing thing began to happen—slowly but surely, at every gate, Lonny began to pull ahead. His lead grew—the crowd roared—and at the finish he had won by 1.52 seconds—he won the Omega Challenge and the race! The crowd went wild.

After retirement in 1984, Lonny came back to Steamboat and coached the Winter Sports Club. He always coached the young racers—the ones he enjoyed the most and the ones he could have the biggest impact with. The kids from Steamboat wanted Lonny to be their coach—and many he coached went on to be great skiers and great people. He coached for 17 years.

My three biggest reasons for the nomination are Lonny's dominating racing in the Rocky Mountain Division and making the U.S. Ski Team, his fantastic record and World Slalom Title on the World Pro Skiing Tour, and his giving back to skiing by coaching for 17 years at the Winter Sports Club!

Thanks for your consideration! Jeff Temple (970-389-0567)

Part 5

February 5, 2017

To whom it may concern,

I am writing this letter of recommendation for Lonny Vanatta to be considered for induction into the Colorado Ski Hall of Fame.

I have known Lonny since our early childhood and was a ski racer with him for much of our lives.

Lonny began skiing at age 3, a little late for a Steamboat kid, but not too late for him to make it in the sport.

He was a consistent winner in ski races right away. He progressed from being a competitor in the Jaycee Junior Nationals in 1965 to winning many races on the Coors Pro Ski Tour and eventually winning the World Pro Skiing Slalom title in 1981. Very few racers could compete with Lonny in Slalom. Lonny won many Giant Slalom pro ski races as well.

Lonny Vanatta is a name that comes up in any discussion of the many great ski racers to come from Steamboat Springs....Ski Town USA.

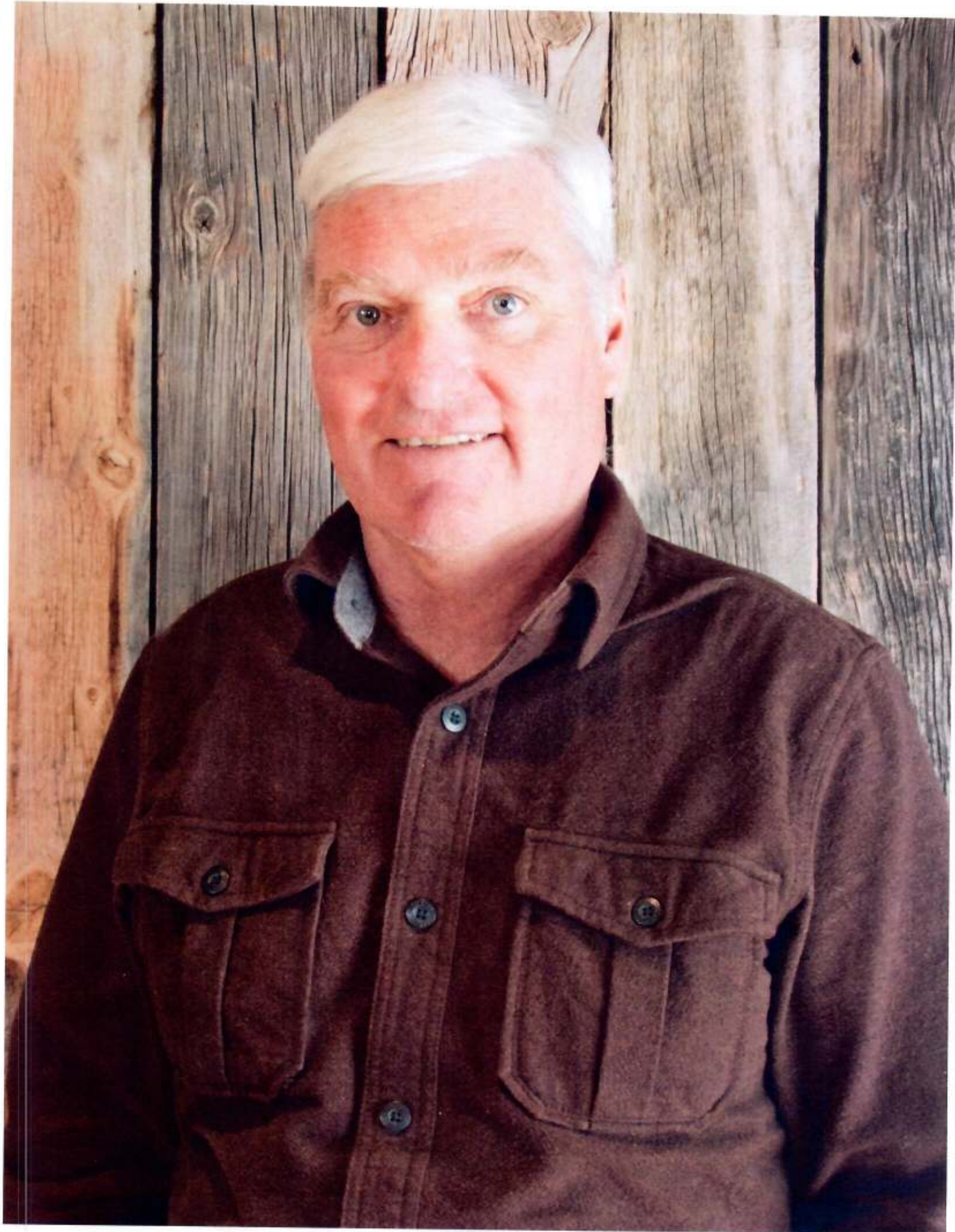
Lonny is just as notable for how he gave back to the ski racing community in Steamboat Springs after he retired from racing himself. He was a coach for the Steamboat Springs Winter Sports Club for 17 years. Lonny helped hundreds of young ski racers to be their best in the sport.

I believe Lonny is more than qualified to be a member of the Colorado Ski Hall of Fame.

Thanks for considering him.

Sincerely,

Jamie Temple



Part 4

Lonny Vanatta – Part 6 (Summary Statement)

I feel the Hall of Fame should consider me for many reasons; Like so many ski racers skiing became a love of mine at a very early age. My passion and commitment to ski racing was a way of life. I was always the first one on the ski hill and the last one off. Skiing on the U.S. Ski Team was a goal of mine, it was short-lived but led me to a successful career on the Pro Tour which led to immediate success. Being the top American on the Pro Tour 4 out of 7 years and winning 20 Professional Ski Races made me the winningest American in history.

Giving back was very important to me, after retiring from Skiing I coached the Steamboat Springs Winter Sports Club for 17 years. I was successful in leading the charge for many young athletes and watch their dreams of becoming Olympians or NCAA champs come true.