

Harry Griffith Jr.

Harry Griffith Jr. started skiing at age 5, and soon became interested in alpine ski racing, after his father formed a junior program for the Eastern Pennsylvania Ski Council in 1968.

He started as a JR-4 racer at 10 years of age, representing Norristown Ski Club, and after placing 2nd in his very 1st race, he was hooked on the sport! He trained at Elk Mountain, under the guidance of Coaches Irwin Muhlbauer, Dave Scott, Tom Acker, then later Bob Bortree and Cliff Long, Jr. As a JR-3 racer, he led the early Pennsylvania State team traveling squad, competing in series races in southern New York and later all of New England.

As a JR-1/2 racer, he was competitive with the best in the Middle Atlantic Region and became Pennsylvania State champion in both Slalom and Giant Slalom in 1974 and 1975. Dartmouth recruited Harry in 1975 to become a member of their ski team. He participated in several carnivals, culminating in Dartmouth's 1976 NCAA Championship. The same year, he also raced in the US Junior Nationals, making his mark in the downhill event for the 1st time. In between races and classes, he regularly returned to Pennsylvania, bringing seeding points and providing inspiration for the younger racers. As the winner of the Pennsylvania State Championship for a 3rd time in 1976, he became the 1st racer to achieve this feat, which retired the Governor's Cup trophy.

Skiing for Dartmouth in 1977 and 1978, he finished in the top 10 in many of the intercollegiate carnivals, and in his junior year he was selected as the team's alpine captain. During this period, he also was a member of the Eastern Cup and New Hampshire State Ski teams, and in 1978 was picked as a member of the US Downhill Development team. Electing to focus on speed events as a member of the US "C" Team in 1979 and 1980, he participated in both North American and Canadian Cup competitions, and achieved his personal best, winning the 1979 NorAm Eastern Downhill series. In 1980, racing as a 'rabbit' at a JR-1/2 downhill at Whiteface, he fell at high speed and suffered serious injuries, which ended his racing career.

Harry worked as a geologist for several years and then continued his interest in skiing, as a coach for the Lathrop Ski Camps in 1981 and 1982. In 1983, he returned to graduate school at the Tuck School, where for two years he coached the Dartmouth Development team.

Graduating with an MBA from Tuck in 1984, Harry worked for British Petroleum and continued to coach junior racers in

Cleveland, Ohio and at Snowbird, Utah.

Still with BP after 22 years, Harry is currently serving in Moscow, Russia, which has provided the opportunity to ski many of the areas in South America, Europe, Russia, China and Korea. He and his family have a home in Sun Valley, Idaho, where skiing is still an important part of life.

