

UNITED STATES BIATHLON ASSOCIATION

Hall of Fame

RICHARD “DICK” MIZE

Dick Mize began his long athletic career racing in the Eagle County, CO Grade School track and field championships in 1948. He began skiing on a small hill behind his home and often accompanied his dad to Cooper Hill near Camp Hale for a weekend of skiing. After high school graduation he attended Western State College and was a member of the ski team from 1953 to 1957 where he began one of many firsts.

In 1954 Dick had the unique distinction of participating in the first ever NCAA Ski Championships helping his team to win the title. After finishing twice as the runner-up in the NCAA Championships, Dick along with his teammates from Western State College participated in the very first biathlon race held in the USA at Camp Hale, CO achieving a 2nd place finish. After entering the U.S. Army in 1958 he was among the first soldiers assigned to the U.S. Army's Modern Winter Biathlon Training Center at Ft. Richardson, AK where he qualified to participate in the 1st World Biathlon Championships at Saalfelden, Austria. In 1958 he participated in the 2nd World Biathlon Championships at Courmayeur, Italy and finished 2nd, ahead of the future Olympic Gold medalist at the pre-Olympic and 1st North American Biathlon Championships at Squaw Valley, CA.



After team trial at over 10,000 feet elevation Tennessee Pass near Camp Hale, Dick qualified for the 1960 Winter Olympic team for biathlon and finished 21st in the first Olympic biathlon race. In the years after Dick did not give up his competitive nature and continued to ski race in World Masters Championships, both ski and running marathon races winning 6 World Masters titles and 24 U.S. Championships in several age groups.

Making his home in Alaska following military service Dick retired as a school administrator but remained closely involved with the ski community. He was an important contributor to Kincaid Project Group that made upgrades to the Kincaid Park area that included snow making system and a state of art biathlon range.