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CLASS FIRST

Tina Maze tops the 2013
Ski Racing Athletes of the Year





Athletes of the Year

MEN

Masters Skier of the Year

BROC THOMPSON

“That’s cool,” was the understated response from Broc Thompson upon learning that he had been named Ski Racing’s Masters Skier of the Year. He went on to elaborate, “This has been a goal of mine ever since coming back from hip replacement surgery, and it feels pretty good.”

Two years ago, Thompson would have been an unlikely candidate to win any athletic award. He could barely put on his ski boots, much less ski. But his two overall wins at the 2013 Phillips 66 Masters National Championships and sweep of his Class 5 made him the runaway candidate. The new hip contributed to a new attitude, which opened the doors to an entirely new set of accomplishments for the resident of Arvada, Colo.

Thompson has long taken the “all or nothing” approach to athletics. He was a nationally ranked track-racing cyclist; played lacrosse and ran track in high school and college; and, after leaving ski racing for 13 years, picked it up again with a vengeance in 2005.

“I raced in high school in Duluth, but I bought my first USSA and FIS license when I started racing masters,” said Thompson. Since then he has been coaching the masters programs at Eldora and the Front Range Ski Club, and racing with the Rocky Mountain Masters and in scored USSA races. He keeps his skills sharp by training with the University of Colorado ski teams. “It’s good competition, plus it’s always fun to beat the kids when I can,” said Thompson with a laugh.

An engineer by profession, Thompson is currently seeking opportunities, but he’s not stressing over it. “If I don’t have to go to work, I might as well go skiing,” he said. “I just love it.”



Athletes of the Year

WOMEN

Masters Skier of the Year

DEB LEWIS

It's hard to believe that there's only one Deb Lewis. Racers will see her hunched over her laptop in the masters race headquarters, speaking in strange tongues to her computer, and the very next moment she will be on the race hill, dressed in her superhero speed suit, blazing through the race course. Moreover, she's an ace at both phases of her double life.

Lewis, who runs her own design and development computer company, won all three events in her Class 7 at the 2013 Phillips Masters National Championships at Big Sky, Mont. Despite having won the honor at Big Sky in 2005, this performance came as a surprise. "I didn't see this one coming," said Lewis of her Montana results from her home in San Clemente, Calif. "I had a solid season, but Big Sky has been good to me. I've always had fun there, and with that comes good results."

High school racing in Michigan served as Lewis's introduction to competitive skiing, but she didn't begin to discover her potential until she joined the masters team at Mammoth Mountain. "My work allows me to stay at the mountain for a week at a time," said Lewis. "It's cool to be able to do this. There's always something to work on to keep on improving."

The ever-humble Lewis, who has designed many of the software scoring systems used in masters racing, and manages the Far West masters website, was flabbergasted to get the news that she was named Masters Skier of the Year. "No way! That's amazing!" exclaimed Lewis. "This is quite an honor." All who know her would add that it's well deserved.

