

1962 FIS Results

No. of Competitors	Placement			
	Giant Slalom	Slalom	Downhill	Combined
Name				
Barbara Ferries (Arroyo)	5	18	3	8
Joan Hannah	3	19	DNF	-
Linda Meyers (Tikalsky)	15	7	17	5
Jean Saubert	6	17	9	9

In 1962 the National Ski Association of America, the governing body for the sport in the United States, changed its name to the United States Ski Association. The change stressed the national pride and the desire of so many workers to represent their nation.

The United States Olympic Committee selected the 1964 Olympic Ski Games Committee in December, 1961. The Ski Games Committee was composed of ten representatives of the United States Ski Association, five appointees of the National Collegiate Athletic Association, and one member of the United States Armed Forces; except for the military representative, all those named were members of the United States Ski Association International Ski Competitions Committee. This committee met at the 1962 United States Ski Association Convention in Colorado Springs and made a "radical departure from previous policy" by naming Bob Beattie the Olympic Alpine event coach. Allison Merrill of Dartmouth College was assigned the similar role as head Nordic event coach in October of 1962. At this time, the assistant coaches were assigned for both events; Marvin Melville and Don Henderson, a former Olympian and a teacher, were to assist with the Alpine competitors.

Early preparations resulted in availability of funds, the first national Alpine training camp at Vail, and coordinated efforts. One such cooperative program was the continuation of the special assignment status program of the military. Again, this did not involve any of the women but this program which allowed training time under full compensation was applicable.

The Olympic Alpine training camp at Vail was of particular interest. The racers received much needed practice on a rugged downhill course and the young skiers had an opportunity to work right along with the veterans. Conducting the camp over the 1962 Christmas holidays fitted in with the college holiday schedule and this was conscientiously attempted. The college oriented coach was fully aware of high academic standards and the eventual decline of the college ski program if the talented skiers were not available for National Collegiate Athletic Association and winter carnival competition.

Malcolm McLane, Chairman of the United States Olympic Ski Games Committee, was elated at having American International Ski Competitions Funds for intensive training and expenses of coaches to attend training camps and tryout races. The United States Olympic Committee also assisted by making an advance loan of \$5,000. In 1962-1963 a total of \$33,000 had been spent on the total Alpine-Nordic competitive program. At the final accounting, in addition to the training program funds, \$144,000 was raised to send the 1964 Olympic ski teams to Innsbruck, January 29 to February 9, 1964. The fund drive had been so successful that the goal of \$100,000 had been exceeded. The United States Olympic Committee gave \$90,000 to send the team to the Olympics; transportation was listed as a development expense.

Four of the six women selected in June for the women's squad of the 1964 United States Olympic Alpine Ski Team had competed under Bob Beattie's direction in 1962. They had been under his tutelage for the extensive pre-season conditioning and the race schedule which led up to the FIS championship races at Chamonix. Margo Walters and Starr Walton joined the "amazing Americans" Barbara Ferries (Arroyo), Joan Hannah, Linda Meyers (Tikalsky) and Jean Saubert to complete the roster. The six ladies came from five different states and all were college students. Barbara Ferries (Arroyo) and Starr Walton attended the University of Colorado; Jean Saubert was at Oregon State University; Linda Meyers (Tikalsky) and Margo Walters were enrolled at the University of Utah, and Joan Hannah at Mills College. The men and women of 1964 were also spoken of as the "ambitious Americans." Assisting Beattie with coaching duties were Don Henderson and Marvin Melville, who had been named at the end of the 1962 season; Fred Casotti was manager and handled press relations.

Collegiate ski competition was not a factor in the training of these students. "More than half of the 1964 Women's Olympic Team were members of, and had received much of their recent training from the Mammoth Mountain (California) Ski Club", under Coach Dave McCoy. To a great extent Junior training programs and ski clubs supported the women racers of international calibre.

During the summer of 1963, the squad members trained by themselves and sent weekly forms to Beattie outlining their day by day progress. First came the regular Summer Training Camp where twenty-five women, including Linda and Margo, practiced. The group ranged in age from 12 to 27. Assisting Beattie with the coaching duties were Dave McCoy of Mammoth Mountain and Chuck Ferries. Members of the Olympic men's team also worked with the girls: Jim Heuga, Gordon Eaton, Ni Orsi, Bill Marolt, Bill Kidd, and Rip McManus.

Overlapping two days of the girls' camp and during the boys' camp, organized practice for the men and women on the team began August 25, at Bend, Oregon. The group trained on the snow fields of the Bachelor Butte Ski Area and had afternoon conditioning workouts. An important aspect of the training was the filming and analyzing of the basic racing turn so that each person could work on the technical aspects. After a ten day rest, their next training site was Boulder, Colorado, where at Beattie's exhaustion centre" the dry-land phase of training was carried out. This was a three week, five day per week period. Then after a week off the groups returned to train for two more weeks before breaking for another week. November 10 they moved to Mammoth Mountain for a full two week skiing camp.

Not to be surpassed by Billy Kidd or Jim Heuga, who garnered second and third in the men's Slalom, Jean Saubert kept the focus also on the women. She placed third in the Giant Slalom and Slalom; in total points, she earned fourth place in the unofficial combined scoring. United States' skiers had often finished in the top ten, but America's efforts in 1964 were brilliant.

For the first time, the entire team returned home in total to compete in races at home. This gave the public an opportunity to see the team they had supported and gave the racers who had not made the team a chance to ski in meets with the team.