

USSA GOLD AWARDS

Julius Blegen Award – Bob Dart (Winter Park, CO)

Presented for outstanding service to the sport.

Bob Dart, who passed away in November 2015, was the quintessential USSA supporter, dedicating much of his life to serving athletes as a competition official, mountain manager, committee leader and technical delegate. He began his 37-year tenure at Winter Park in 1978, starting on race crew and quickly moving into a management role at the Winter Park Competition Center. In his role at Winter Park Resort, he oversaw over a dozen U.S. Championship events and played an important role in bringing the U.S. Alpine Championships together with the NASTAR National Championships. As a volunteer committee and board leader, he served 16 years as head of USSA Rocky Mountain Division Board and led the FIS NorAm Cup subcommittee for nearly two decades, alternating with Canadians. He was on the USSA Board of Directors from 1992-97 and again from 2005-14, when he also played a vital role in the McKinsey Study, which has helped change the face of USSA governance.

Beck International Award – Jessie Diggins (Afton, MN)

Presented to the top USSA athlete in international competition.

Jessie Diggins stepped up to lead the U.S. Cross Country Team in one of its strongest seasons ever. She was part of the U.S. women's relay that skied to a record second place finish in Nove Mesto. She also earned her first individual World Cup win in a 5k freestyle sprint and finished fifth overall in the Ski Tour Canada, matching the U.S. major tour mark held by Liz Stephen from the 2015 Tour de Ski.

USSA Club of the Year – Carrabassett Valley Academy

Carrabassett Valley Academy (CVA), which was also selected as USSA's Snowboard Club of the Year, runs strong programs across all USSA sports. Academy alumni include 12 Olympians and 39 national team members. CVA achieved gold status in USSA's certification program in 2015 and continues to build successful programming with strong leadership.

USSA International Coach of the Year – Brandon Dyksterhouse (Vail, CO)

Brandon "Dykster" Dyksterhouse has been a welcome addition to the U.S. Alpine Ski Team. He joined the team in 2015 from Ski and Snowboard Club Vail as interim women's head tech coach, coaching Mikaela Shiffrin as she successfully defended her World Championship title in 2015 on home soil. A former NCAA Champion from Vermont, Dyksterhouse's technical knowledge as well as his enthusiasm and pure love for the sport has made a big impact on the program. This season, Dyksterhouse took the reigns as women's head tech coach, overseeing a program that included Mikaela Shiffrin winning all five of the World Cup slaloms she participated in by a collective margin of 10.56 seconds – that's a 2.11 second average margin of victory. The women's World Cup tech team also featured Resi Stiegler fighting back into the top 14 in the world and two World Cup rookies – Lila Lapanja and Paula Moltzan – scoring their first World Cup points.

USSA Development Coach of the Year – Ben Wisner (Mammoth Lakes, CA)

As program director of the Mammoth Snowboard Team, Ben Wisner has helped put numerous riders on U.S. Snowboarding's pro and rookie teams. He worked with Chloe Kim until she made the national team last year. Kim's results have been stellar – in 2016 she won an X Games, U.S. Open and Grand Prix title all at the age of 16. He has also worked with riders who've gone on to have great success on the Rev Tour. He is consistently feeding the pipeline with a great team of young athletes ready to jump to the next level.

Westhaven Award – Paul Van Slyke (Lake Placid, NY)

Presented in recognition of service as a FIS Technical Delegate.

Paul Van Slyke has been a FIS Technical Delegate for over 18 years. He has spent over 10 years as a member and co-chairman of the USSA FIS Alpine Technical Delegate Committee and currently serves as the USSA FIS Alpine (TD) Commissioner and is an active member of the FIS International Alpine Technical Delegates sub-committee. He also serves as the director of annual North American FIS TV updates and educational clinics.

USSA SILVER AWARDS**Paul Bacon Award – Fenway Sports Group**

Presented in recognition of contribution to event organization.

The USSA partnered with Fenway Park and the Boston Red Sox to bring the U.S. Grand Prix to the heart of Boston with one of the most innovative winter stadium events ever at the Polartec Big Air at Fenway. In addition to having over 27,000 fans attend the event, Big Air at Fenway was the highest-rated winter action sports television broadcast of the season in America. The NBC broadcast averaged 1.357 million viewers with a .87 rating with digital and news media reaching over 200 million fans.

John J. Clair Jr. Award – Dr. Terry Orr (South Lake Tahoe, CA)

Presented in recognition of service to the U.S. Ski Team and U.S. Snowboarding.

One of the greatest assets of the U.S. Ski Team is its volunteer physicians' pool, which provides service and support to athletes in every corner of the globe. For nearly 30 seasons, Dr. Terry Orr has volunteered his time to stand on the hill as a team physician and moral supporter of hundreds of U.S. Ski Team athletes. Dr. Orr also played a major role in the formation, growth and development of the USSA Medical Program as a primary advisor to various medical directors over the years and a mentor to the entire USSA Medical Pool and Medical Committee. After serving athletes since 1988 as a member of the USSA Medical Volunteer Physician Pool, Dr. Orr is retiring from active duty.

Bud and Mary Little Award – Tom Winters (Tucson, AZ)

Presented in recognition of service to the International Ski Federation or U.S. Olympic Committee.

Over the past several decades, Tom Winters has remained dedicated to skiing and snowboarding. He has been an integral part in all levels of officiating and has worked tirelessly to improve officials' education and provide safe and progressive events. From the Olympics to the regional level, Tom has been helping young athletes achieve success at fair and fun events.

J. Leland Sosman Award – Dr. Randy Viola (Vail, CO)

Presented in recognition of service to the USSA's Physicians' Pool.

Randy Viola has been an integral part of the USSA volunteer physicians pool since 2004. He was selected as co-head team physician for the men's alpine ski team in 2014. Viola consistently makes several trips with the men's alpine team and regularly provides on-hill coverage for the November camp in Colorado. He supervises the Steadman clinic MD fellows for USSA medical coverage and coordinates coverage for the U.S. Ski Team at the Birds of Prey World Cup. He has also been involved in creating fundraising events for B team alpine athletes.

Buddy Werner Award – Gus Kenworthy (Telluride, CO)

Presented to an outstanding USSA athlete who demonstrated leadership and good sportsmanship.

Gus Kenworthy is a role model both on and off snow. After being sidelined by an injury in 2015, Gus came back in the 2016 season to win his first two X Games medals in both halfpipe and slopestyle. In 2016, Gus was the first action-sports athlete to come out as gay. He is the first gay man to come out within the sport and one of the very few men in sports to come out in general. His announcement has had a positive impact for many kids, many who have reached out to him for advice or to say he has inspired them. Gus is an inspiration to the sport because of outstanding results, sportsmanship and courage to be his true self to fans of sport around the world.

Russell Wilder Award – NANA Nordic

Presented in recognition of contributes to youth.

NANA Nordic is all about healthy lifestyles, which includes staying active year-round. In September, volunteer coaches work with students in the communities by offering running camps. In April, some of the world's best nordic skiers join NANA Nordic to teach rural Alaskan students from Kindergarten through 12th grade how to cross country ski. A team of coaches spend a week in selected villages, bringing skis, boots, poles and other gear for the children to use. After the week, NANA Nordic donates the equipment to the schools. In its inaugural year, 650 students in four villages in the NANA region were introduced to nordic skiing.

West Family Award – Laurie Stevens (Campton, NH)

Presented in recognition of service as a USSA official.

Laurie Stevens has been involved with snowsports her entire life. She is a dedicated timing and results guru and is a key backbone in the domestic snowboarding and freeskiing communities. She is extremely involved with making sure each athlete gets the correct results. From World Cup to local series Laurie gives 100% at every event.

Team Athletes Giving Back Award – Bryan Fletcher (Steamboat Springs, CO)

After beating cancer as a child, nordic combined Olympian Bryan Fletcher co-founded the charity ccThrive, which helps children thrive after childhood cancer. Fletcher solely raised \$13,500 to create and form the organization. Since the charity's inception, Fletcher has been instrumental in putting together one of the top advisory boards in relation to the psychological and sociological aspects associated with cancer. He has also hosted several fundraising events, most notably a tubing event at Solider Hollow in Midway, UT just one week after returning from the 2016 competition season. To learn more about ccThrive, visit <http://www.ccthrive.org/>.

USSA ATHLETES OF THE YEAR

Adaptive Athlete of the Year – Oksana Masters (Louisville, KY)

Oksana Masters went undefeated in sprint, middle and long distances this season to claim her second consecutive overall cross country globe for the women's sitting class at the IPC Cross-Country Skiing World Cup Finals in Vuokatti, Finland. With wins ranging from 1-kilometer to the debut of the marathon event at 20km, Masters dominated her field, finishing nearly eight seconds from her closest competitor in the sprint and more than 28 seconds separating her from the field in the middle distance 5km. She also amassed the most cross country points throughout the 2015-2016 season than any other female on the world cup circuit.

Alpine Athlete of the Year – Lindsey Vonn (Vail, CO)

After a strong comeback season in 2014-15, Lindsey Vonn continued to dominate the women's World Cup circuit in 2015-16. With five downhill wins, she secured the overall title and her 20th globe. She continued to break records with a total of 76 World Cup wins, just 10 shy of the record of 86 World Cup victories held by Sweden's Ingemar Stenmark.

Cross Country Athlete of the Year – Jessie Diggins (Afton, MN)

Jessie Diggins stepped up to lead the U.S. Cross Country Team in one of its strongest seasons ever. She was part of the U.S. women's relay that skied to a record second place finish in Nove Mesto. She also earned her first individual World Cup win in a 5k freestyle sprint and finished fifth overall in the Ski Tour Canada, matching the U.S. major tour mark held by Stephen from the 2015 Tour de Ski.

Freestyle Athlete of the Year – Ashley Caldwell (Ashburn, VA)

As one of the only female aerial skiers to compete triples, Ashley Caldwell continues to progress her sport and push herself to the top of the podium. The 2015-16 season was one of Caldwell's best. With four World Cup podiums, including two wins, Caldwell earned her first career World Cup title and helped the U.S. aerials team bring home the Nation's Cup for the second year in a row.

Freeskiing Athlete of the Year – Gus Kenworthy (Telluride, CO)

After being sidelined by an injury in 2015, Gus came back in the 2016 season, to win his first two X Games medals in both halfpipe and slopestyle. In 2016, Gus was the first action-sports athlete to come out as gay. He is the first gay man to come out within the sport and one of the very few men in sports to come out in general. His announcement has had a positive impact for many kids, many who have reached out to him for advice or to say he has inspired them.

Nordic Combined Athlete of the Year – Ben Loomis (Eau Claire, WI)

Ben Loomis is emerging as one of the best junior nordic combined athletes in the world. During the 2015-16 season, he posted a fourth place finish at the continental cup in Park City, UT before going on to win a silver medal at the 2016 Youth Olympic Games in Lillehammer, Norway. He also won the Youth Cup in Trondheim, Norway.

Ski Jumping Athlete of the Year – Kevin Bickner (Park City, UT)

The Norge Ski Club's Kevin Bickner had a strong season, including a 214.5 meters in Vikersund where he scored his first World Cup points. It was one of the longest jumps ever recorded by an American. He maintained a great attitude and work ethic in a break out season.

Snowboarding Athlete of the Year – Chloe Kim (Torrence, CA)

At just 15 years old, Chloe Kim has notched her name in the halfpipe snowboarding history books and continues to progress the sport. Kim's accolades include being the youngest female to stomp back to back 1080's in a contest, earning three consecutive X Games golds and being the youngest competitor in X Games history to win a gold medal (2015). Kim won every major event in 2016, include winning the Youth Olympic Winter Games in both halfpipe and slopestyle. She took the U.S. Grand Prix season title, closing with a perfect score at Park City.

USSA COACHES OF THE YEAR

Adaptive Domestic Coach of the Year Award – Ray Watkins (Heber City, UT)

Ray Watkins served as the U.S. Paralympics National Team's development coach this season. He represented the team at six different camps which led to 17 new athletes who attended the U.S. National Championships in Loon, NH this March. Watkins also worked with NASTAR, High 5's, Team Semper Fi and Disabled Sports USA.

Adaptive International Coach of the Year Award – Ben Black (Aspen, CO)

Ben Black was a great addition to the U.S. Paralympic alpine team this season. His experience

with the Canadian men's World Cup speed team and the U.S. men's World Cup tech team brought a refreshing new outlook to the program. Black's leadership and coaching approach lifted the expectations of the athletes to win the IPC Nation's Cup for women and place a close second for men. In total the U.S. Paralympics Alpine Team had 53 podiums this season in IPC Alpine World Cup competition and was the only nation to podium in all 3 categories (Visually Impaired, Sitting and Standing) for both men and women.

Alpine Domestic Coach of the Year Award – Rob Worrell (Vail, CO)

Rob Worrell is a former USSA competitor and long time professional coach who began his career in Estes Park, Colorado. He's held positions at Summit County Ski Team, Crested Butte Academy and Steamboat Springs Winter Sports Club. He is currently the head U16 coach at Ski & Snowboard Club Vail. The U16 program that Rob is responsible for has had an unprecedented level of success. Of the 22 U16 athletes from the Rock/Central region that qualified for the 2016 U16 National Championships, 16 are from the U16 program that Rob is responsible for. The improvements of the athletes and depth of the program are a testament to Worrell's philosophy of high expectations of all of his kids and providing each of the athletes the appropriate challenges to maximize their personal potential.

Alpine International Coach of the Year Award – Brandon Dyksterhouse (Vail, CO)

Brandon "Dykster" Dyksterhouse has been a welcome addition to the U.S. Alpine Ski Team. He joined the team in 2015 from Ski and Snowboard Club Vail as interim women's head tech coach, coaching Mikaela Shiffrin as she successfully defended her World Championship title in 2015 on home soil. This season, Dyksterhouse took the reigns as women's head tech coach, overseeing a program that included Mikaela Shiffrin winning all five of the World Cup slaloms she participated in by a collective margin of 10.56 seconds – that's a 2.11 second average margin of victory. The women's World Cup tech team also featured Resi Stiegler fighting back into the top 14 in the world and two World Cup rookies – Lila Lapanja and Paula Moltzan – scoring their first World Cup points.

Cross Country Domestic Coach of the Year Award – Sten Fjeldheim (Marquette, MI)

Sten Fjeldheim began coaching at Northern Michigan University in 1986. He is a three-time recipient of the Central Collegiate Ski Association Women's Coach of the Year, two-time Central Regional Men's and Women's Coach of the Year, three-time USSA Domestic Coach of the Year and two-time USSA Development Coach of the Year. This season, eight of Fjeldheim's athletes represented the U.S. on the FIS Junior World Championship and U23 Cross Country Championship teams.

Cross Country International Coach of the Year Award – Jason Cork (North Pole, AK)

As a coach for the U.S. Cross Country Ski Team, Jason Cork worked with both Jessie Diggins and Simi Hamilton this season, resulting in 11 top-10 World Cup finishes between both athletes. Hamilton earned his first World Cup podiums since 2013 with a second and third place finish. Diggins had a break out season with a total of seven World Cup podiums, including her first individual win.

Freeskiing Domestic Coach of the Year Award – Dave Euler (Park City, UT)

David Euler is the head travel coach for Team Park City United. He has worked his way up the ranks over the past five years, first with Axis Freeride and now with PC United. Euler is working with top tier athletes on a regular basis and has been invited to coach at Project Gold Camps over the past four years. He has also worked very hard this season to make sure that athletes had the footage they needed to submit edits to The North Face Park and Pipe Open event, which the team won.

Freeskiing International Coach of the Year Award – Ben Verge (Ketchum, ID)

Ben Verge led U.S. Freeskiing's halfpipe team to another dominating season at the U.S. Grand Prix, Dew Tour and X Games. Athletes were on the podium 13 times, including a men's podium sweep at X Games Oslo.

Freestyle Domestic Coach of the Year Award – Nori Pepe (Killington, VT)

In her first year as the Freestyle Development Director/Events Coordinator for the Killington Ski Club and Killington Mountain School, Nori Pepe has taken that program to a new level. She has created a very positive, fostering program for young athletes to develop in the sport of freestyle. Pepe has also been instrumental in the development of continuing educational program for coaches and parents.

Freestyle International Coach of the Year Award – Todd Ossian (Park City, UT)

Since Todd Ossian was hired by the USSA to bring the U.S. Freestyle Ski team's aerial program back to Best in the World, he has done a phenomenal job. He has brought participation and results in the sport of aerials in the U.S. to the highest level in over 20 years. This past season, Ashley Caldwell brought home the women's overall title and the U.S. team captured the Nation's cup for the second season in a row.

Jumping/Nordic Combined Domestic Coach of the Year Award – Scott Smith (Cary, IL)

A former U.S. Ski Team jumper, Scott Smith has been a driving force behind the Norge Ski Club outside Chicago. A veteran Olympic and club coach, Smith is presently the club coach for three Norge athletes on the USA Ski Jumping national team. All the members of the 2016 FIS Junior World Championship team were members of the Central Division ski jumping team coached by Smith.

Jumping/Nordic Combined International Coach of the Year Award – Bine Norcic (Slovenia)

In his 3rd year with the USA Nordic Ski Jumping Team, Bine Norcic really stepped up as a coach and a leader. Norcic embraced the opportunity to take on the responsibility of leading the national team. He has become a vital part of the organization and helped to more clearly outline the organization's future. Norcic has had a great impact on many of the young, up-and-coming athletes that will no doubt lead to success for the team in years to come.

Snowboarding Domestic Coach of the Year Award – Ben Wisner (Mammoth Lakes, CA)

As program director of the Mammoth Snowboard Team, Ben Wisner has helped put numerous rider's on U.S. Snowboarding pro and rookie teams. He worked with Chloe Kim until she made the national team last year. Kim's results have been stellar – in 2016 she won an X Games, U.S. Open and Grand Prix title all at the age of 16. He has also worked with riders who've gone on to have great success on the Rev Tour. He is consistently feeding the pipeline with a great team of young athletes ready to jump to the next level.

Snowboarding International Coach of the Year Award – Dave Reynolds (Bend, OR)

As the U.S. Snowboarding slopestyle rookie team coach, Dave Reynolds has created a cohesive and dominate team. This group of young athletes have all had success at the highest levels. Reynolds stepped up this year to assist the pro team as the staff transitioned. He took on a huge schedule and made sure athletes were supported the entire season. He coached both halfpipe and slopestyle at the Youth Olympic Winter Games, bringing home four gold medals.

USSA CLUBS OF THE YEAR

Adaptive Club of the Year – Aspen Valley Ski and Snowboard Club

Aspen Valley Ski and Snowboard Club (AVSC) did an incredible job organizing and hosting the U.S. Adaptive Alpine Speed National Championships and the IPC Alpine World Cup Finals this season. Additionally, the club placed three athletes for their program on the U.S. Paralympics Alpine National Team this season. One of them, Thomas Walsh, went on to win two IPC World Cup races. Nine of the 16 athletes on the National Team train with AVSC.

Alpine Club of the Year – Ski & Snowboard Club Vail

Cross Country Club of the Year – Stratton T2

The Stratton T2 club has been a long-time feeder for the U.S. Cross Country Ski Team. This past season, three Stratton T2 alumni athletes, Jessie Diggins, Sophie Caldwell and Simi Hamilton, earned World Cup podiums. All four development team athletes on the U.S. Cross Country Team are also from Stratton T2.

Freeskiing Club of the Year – Mammoth Mountain Ski and Snowboard Club

Under Ben Wisner and Ryan Carey's leadership, the Mammoth Mountain Freeskiing Team has achieved tremendous success. The Elite Team has put five athletes on the U.S. Freeskiing North Face Rookie Team in the past year. Mammoth not only produces high level athletes but also develops great people and promotes education, courage, discipline, accountability, integrity and teamwork. They are also supporters of the Mammoth Race Department which runs the U.S. Grand Prix and Revolution Tour events each season.

Freestyle Club of the Year – Killington Mountain School

Under the direction of Kris Pepe, KMS Program Director, and Nori Pepe, Freestyle Development Director/Events Coordinator, the freestyle program at Killington Mountain School has flourished with excitement and results. The KMS program has won 16 regional competitions with seven different athletes and has had numerous podium results at the B Level, the Eastern B Champs and the Young Guns Championships. With 80 + athletes in the freestyle program, KMS has one of the largest programs in the East if not the North America.

Jumping/Nordic Combined Club of the Year – Flying Eagles Ski Club

The Flying Eagles Ski Club has made considerable efforts in the past few years to provide a great ski jumping facility. Their jump was completely redone to be FIS compliant. The Flying Eagles are a stop on the U.S. Cup Tour every year. In 2016 they hosted an international FIS Cup with great success.

Snowboarding Club of the Year – Carrabassett Valley Academy

Under Mike Mallon's leadership, the Carrabassett Valley Academy snowboarding program has achieved tremendous success on the local, regional, national and international stages. CVA has exceeded its enrollment goals, with its snowboardcross program doubling in size. They acquired the Settelee Olympic Start System to secure a training venue all year at Sugarloaf. CVA successfully hosted a snowboardcross Nor-Am and Rev Tour stop resulting in multiple podiums for CVA athletes and a qualification to USASA Nationals for the CVA team.