

## **Doug Pringle Receives Far West Ski Association's 2013 Snowsports Builder Award**



Doug Pringle racing, about 1990

Doug Pringle is a ground breaker and tireless innovator of rehabilitation techniques for the disabled using snowsports. His service to the expanding disabled community extends over more than 45 years. His organizational skills were called into use in the development and evolution of what is now known as Disabled Sports USA (DSUSA). DSUSA is recognized for its pioneering role in developing physical fitness programs for people with disabilities, advocacy for and provision of adaptive programs, development of specialized equipment and its advocacy for people with disabilities in sports and recreation. It all began on snow in 1969 with 13 amputee skiers who refused to be discouraged. Doug Pringle was there at the beginning.

Doug Pringle, USMA Class of 67, arrived that year in Vietnam. Three months later, he lost most of his right leg in combat. His rehabilitation reinforced his

determination to not allow injury to exclude him from recreational activities. He found that there were but three amputee ski clubs in the USA and in 1969 he and 13 other amputees organized and raced in an Amputee Championship at Donner Summit. This was the initial point for what is now Disabled Sports USA and Doug Pringle has been central in its evolution. Doug Pringle was the President of the founding chapter, DSUSA Far West, founded 25 more chapters in the 1970s and is the current President of DSUSA Far West Division. In the 1990s Doug Pringle was a member of the United States Olympic Committee, bringing focus and equality to the United States Paralympic Team and has traveled to many countries establishing Disabled Sports Programs on an International level.

Today DSUSA serves over 60,000 youth, wounded warriors and adults annually in over 30 different sports, through a nationwide network of over 100 community-based chapters in 37 states. Disabilities include those with visual impairments, amputations, spinal cord injury, multiple sclerosis, head injury, cerebral palsy, other neuromuscular/orthopedic conditions, dwarfism, autism and related intellectual disabilities. DSUSA offers over 40 different sports including alpine and Nordic skiing, snowboarding, biathlon, kayaking, water skiing, sailing, scuba, surfing, rafting, outrigger canoeing, fishing, hiking, golf, athletics, archery, cycling, running/wheeling, rock climbing, equestrian and others. These sports opportunities transform participants, highlighting the potential in each, embodied in the DSUSA motto “If I can do this, I can do anything!”

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