

## **Profile: Dave Wood**

Dave began skiing in his late teens. In 1980 he joined the Hickory Wing Ski Club of Prince George (now called the Caledonia Nordic Ski Club). Over the next few years he was active with the club as a domestic skier.

In 1985 Dave met Tom Linderud, a Norwegian coach who was hired by Cross Country BC as part of the Best Ever funding program that was available to BC winter sports in the lead-up to the 1988 Calgary Olympics. At this time he started to assist Tom with the BC Ski Team and at provincial camps as much as he could. In 1988 Tom returned to Norway.

In May of 1988 Dave was hired as the BC Ski Team head coach. He held this position for two seasons.

Following this he joined the National Ski Team program as the head wax technician. In this role he was in charge of skis and waxing for Cross Country Canada's International program. He was in this position for Val di Fiemme (1991), Albertville (1992), and Falun (1993).

In May 1993 he returned to Cross Country BC to lead the BC Ski Team and the Provincial Training Center program that was starting up in Prince George. While in this role he continued his relationship with the National Ski Team program on a contract basis, and as such he was part of the coaching/support staff at the 1994 Olympic Winter Games in Lillehammer and the 1995 FIS World Championships in Thunder Bay.

In the spring of 1995 Cross Country Canada restarted the National Junior Team program. This program operated as part of the National Team Development Centre program in Canmore, Alberta. Dave left Prince George and moved to Canmore to coach this program. There were four women on the team, Sara Renner, Jaime Fortier, Amanda Fortier, and Melissa Hayman. This was the beginning of a long (and very successful) coach/athlete relationship with Sara Renner.

In the spring of 1998 Steinar Mundal, National Ski Team Head Coach, resigned after six years with Cross Country Canada, and returned to Norway. Dave replaced him as Head Coach and held that role, with some title changes, for the next 12 years.

In the summer of 2010 Dave moved to Rossland, BC where he has been Head Coach of the successful Black Jack Cross Country Ski Club from that time to the present.

## **INTERNATIONAL COMPETITIONS**

**FIS World Junior Championships** - Head Coach and Team Leader

1996 Asiago; 1997 Canmore; 1998 St Moritz/Pontresina

**FIS World Championships** - Head Coach and Team leader

1999 Ramsau; 2001 Lahti; 2003 Val di Fiemme; 2005 Obertsdorf; 2007 Sapporo; 2009 Liberec

**FIS World Championships** - Head Technician or Support Team

1991 Val di Fiemme; 1993 Falun; 1995 Thunder Bay

**Olympic Winter Games** - Head Coach and/or Team Leader

2002 Salt Lake City; 2006 Turin; 2010 Vancouver/Whistler

**Olympic Winter Games** - Support Team Member

1988 Calgary; 1992 Albertville; 1994 Lillehammer; 1998 Nagano

**FIS Tour de Ski** – Head Coach

All Tours since inception of program to 2010

**Highlights**

The World Junior Championships in Asiago was Dave's first International event as the Head Coach of the Canadian team. Canada was 7<sup>th</sup> in the Women's Relay (photo finish) and Amanda Fortier was 8<sup>th</sup> in the 15 Km free. Davin MacIntosh was 20<sup>th</sup> in the 30 km free. This was the best the Canadian Junior team had done in many years.

**Olympic Winter Games** - Salt Lake City

Beckie Scott made history and put the Canadian team on the map. This was Canada's first-ever Olympic medal in cross country skiing. As well Sara Renner had a very successful Games, which showed she could compete at this level.

**FIS World Championships** - Obertsdorf

Sara Renner had the first-ever Canadian podium finish at an FIS World Championships.

### **Olympic Winter Games - Turin**

The Canadian team had two podiums finishes – Beckie Scott/Sara Renner (Team Sprint) and Chandra Crawford (Individual Sprint). This proved Canada had a legitimate International cross country ski team and that 2002 was not an accident. In addition there was some strong racing from Devon Kershaw.

### **Olympic Winter Games - Vancouver/Whistler**

Although there were no podiums, the Canadian team was close on several occasions. The team earned a total nine top 10 finishes. The Men's Pursuit race had three athletes in the top 10, and the entire team was in the top 15.

### **FIS World Cup**

Beckie Scott's fight for the overall World Cup title in 2006. This fight came down to the last event of the 2005-2006 World Cup Series.