



Tamara McKinney is the youngest of eight McKinney children. Four siblings, Laura, Steve, McLane and Sheila were members of the US Ski Team in the 1970's. Following in their footsteps, Tamar ascended to pinnacle of the sport in alpine skiing.

Tamara McKinney is the first American woman to win the overall World Cup in alpine skiing. Tamara, along with twins Phil & Steve Mahre dominated American and World Cup ski racing in the 1980's, established themselves as regular champions for over a decade on the world cup circuit, winning individual world cup race discipline titles, several overall world cup titles, World Championship and Olympic Medals.

Living and training in Tahoe during the 1980's, Tamara and her brother, Steve McKinney, former USST member, seven time world champion speed skier, Himalayan climbing guide and the first man to hang glide off Mt Everest (who was recently inducted into the US Ski and Snowboard Hall of Fame) built their house and made their home base on the mountainside in Squaw Valley when Tamara was seventeen and Steve twenty six.

Competing in her first world cup at the age of fourteen, Tamara went on to be a member of the US Ski Team for 14 years. During that time, Tamara reigned as the best American female on the world cup circuit from 1981-1989, competing in three world championships, (Bormio 1985, Crans Montana 1987, Vail 1989) and three Olympic Games for the United States: 1980 Lake Placid, NY, 1984 Sarajevo, (former Yugoslavia) and 1988 Calgary, Canada. Tamara's ski racing highlights include: eighteen individual world cup wins and forty five top three finishes. (Including podiums in all events; slalom, GS, Super G, downhill & combined) Racking up a whopping 99 top 10 world cup finishes, Tamara also won ten US National Championship titles, two New Zealand National Championship titles and an Argentine National Championship title in slalom and giant slalom.

In addition to these accomplishments, Tamara won two individual giant slalom discipline (season - long) titles. Winning the ladies world cup giant slalom held in Aspen in 1981, Tamara went on to win her first Giant Slalom world cup title that season when she was just eighteen years old. Tamara won her second giant slalom world cup title and the overall world cup title in 1983 when she was 20. In 1984 Tamara became the first American to win the slalom world cup discipline title and rounded out her career with 3 bronze medals and a gold medal in the combined events of slalom and downhill.

After a serious training accident in Saas Fee, Switzerland in October of 1989, that compressed and shattered McKinney's left tibial plateau in ten places, Dr Richard Steadman was able to miraculously repair the knee.

Choosing to step back from international competition after the catastrophic injury, along with the three year recovery and additional surgery necessary, Tamara had one last ski racing comeback competing in an international team event, "Tournament of Champions" circuit, a US televised series in which she was world champion. Beating out the men's overall champion in an unprecedented male - female final dual format, Tamara aced out the mens' season champion, Franz Weber to drive off with the grand prize, a Jeep Grand Cherokee.

Inducted into the US Ski Hall and Snowboard of Fame in 1984 at twenty one, Tamara McKinney has also been inducted into the Kentucky Sports Hall of Fame, the Reno/Tahoe Athletic Hall of Fame, and the International Ski Hall of Fame.

After retiring in 1990 from ski racing Tamara worked with Olympic bronze medalist, Jimmie Heuga as ambassador for the Jimmie Heuga Ski Express, a nationwide series that raised money for the Jimmie Heuga Center in Vail, Colorado which helped people with Multiple Sclerosis and their families.

Since that time, Tamara has excelled in the Tahoe / Truckee / Incline Village and Reno luxury real estate sales. In 2010 Sotheby's International Realty approached her as one of a core group of five top sales agents in the North Lake Tahoe area to help launch their new company: "Sierra Sotheby's International Realty". Sierra Sotheby's first office was established in Squaw Valley in October of 2011. The company has now expanded to ten Sierra Sotheby's offices surrounding Lake Tahoe, in both California and Nevada; including Tahoe City, Truckee, Incline Village, Zephyr Cove, South Lake Tahoe and Reno areas.

Work ethic is a big part of Tamara's real estate business. This, along with her ski racing background and vast Lake Tahoe and ski world network, along with Sotheby's International Realty brand's unparalleled online marketing, cutting-edge technology and global network have all helped her to become one of the top sales agents in North Lake Tahoe/Squaw Valley/Truckee and Reno areas.

Still passionate about skiing, Tamara has long been a proponent of giving back to the sport.

Tamara started coaching young ski racers in camps when home at Lake Tahoe starting when she was eighteen and in world level competition. Coaching all age group levels over the years since the late 1990's; from international summer camps, guest coaching with the US Ski and Snowboard Team U16 technical project post Squaw Valley world cup in 2017, to US Team / B-Team technical camp in Zermatt, Switzerland, and coaching FIS and world cup level athletes such as Picabo Street, Julia Mancuso, Marco Sullivan and Travis Ganong down through U16, U14, U12, U10 and the younger, Mighty-Mites when her daughter, Francesca asked how old she had to be for mom to be the coach.



Francesca, (English) now a four time NCAA Division 1 All American skier attends graduate school at University of Vermont (UVM) and shares a love of the sport with her mom. Francesca has two more years of NCAA competition eligibility, Francesca will continue to compete for the UVM Ski Team while in graduate school, studying physical therapy with extended education in the neurophysiology field.

Ski Team while in graduate school, studying physical therapy with extended education in the neurophysiology field.



**Tamara McKinney** (born October 16, 1962) is a former [World Cup alpine ski racer](#) from the [United States](#). She won four World Cup season titles, most notably the [1983](#) overall, the last American woman title holder for a quarter century, until [Lindsey Vonn](#) in [2008](#). McKinney's other three season titles were in giant slalom ([1981](#), 1983) and slalom ([1984](#)). She was a [world champion](#) in the [combined](#) event in [1989](#), her final year of competition. Her half-brother [Steve McKinney](#) was a record holding [speed skier](#).

## Life and career

Born in [Lexington, Kentucky](#), the diminutive McKinney (5 ft 4 in (1.63 m), 115 lb (52 kg)) grew up in [Squaw Valley, California](#), the youngest of seven children.<sup>[2][3]</sup>

She made her World Cup debut in December [1978](#) at age 16 with a podium finish in a slalom in Italy. Her first World Cup victory came at age 18 in January [1981](#), the first of four wins in giant slalom that breakthrough season. McKinney raced on the World Cup circuit for eleven seasons, and competed in three [Olympics](#) and five [world championships](#). She won four medals in the world championships; bronze medals in the [combined](#) ([1985](#), [1987](#)) and [slalom](#) ([1989](#)), and a gold medal in the [combined](#) at [Vail](#) in 1989.

While winning the overall World Cup in [1983](#) at age 20, she also won the [giant slalom](#) title, which she had first won in 1981. In [1984](#) McKinney won the slalom title, and took fourth place in the [giant slalom](#) at the [Winter Olympics](#) in [Sarajevo](#), behind teammates [Debbie Armstrong](#) and [Christin Cooper](#).<sup>[4][5][6][7]</sup> McKinney participated in [Prince Edward of the United Kingdom](#)'s charity television special *[The Grand Knockout Tournament](#)* in 1987.

While training for the upcoming [1990](#) season, McKinney broke her left leg (for the third time) in [Saas Fee, Switzerland](#), in mid-October 1989.<sup>[8]</sup> Slow to recover, she announced her retirement in November 1990 at age 28<sup>[1]</sup> and completed her career with 18 World Cup victories, 45 podiums, and 99 top ten finishes.<sup>[9]</sup> Eight of her victories were in the U.S., with six at [Waterville Valley, New Hampshire](#), which included double victories in 1983 and 1984. Along with [Gretchen Fraser](#), [Andrea Mead Lawrence](#), [Lindsey Vonn](#), and [Mikaela Shiffrin](#), McKinney is regarded as one of the top female alpine ski racers in U.S. history.

She was inducted in the Kentucky Athletic Hall of Fame in 2004, and is a realtor in the [Lake Tahoe](#) area.

## World Cup results

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### Season standings

Season	Age	Overall	Slalom	Giant Slalom	Super G	Downhill	Combined
<a href="#">1979</a>	16	25	21	13	not run	—	—
<a href="#">1980</a>	17	14	10	24		—	—
<a href="#">1981</a>	18	6	7	1		—	12
<a href="#">1982</a>	19	9	12	4		—	—

<a href="#">1983</a>	20	1	2	1	not awarded (w/ GS)	—	6
<a href="#">1984</a>	21	3	1	3		—	9
<a href="#">1985</a>	22	8	2	11		—	17
<a href="#">1986</a>	23	24	14	20	31	—	28
<a href="#">1987</a>	24	6	2	10	32	—	—
<a href="#">1988</a>	25	54	—	19	—	—	—
<a href="#">1989</a>	26	11	3	13	—	—	8
<a href="#">1990</a>	27	<i>injured in October, missed entire season</i>					

## Season titles

Season	Discipline
<a href="#">1981</a>	<a href="#">Giant Slalom</a>
<a href="#">1983</a>	<b>Overall</b>
	Giant Slalom
<a href="#">1984</a>	<a href="#">Slalom</a>

## Race victories

- 18 wins - (9 [GS](#), 9 [SL](#))
- 45 podiums

Season	Date	Location	Discipline
<a href="#">1981</a>	20 Jan 1981	 <a href="#">Haute-Nendaz, Switzerland</a>	<a href="#">Giant slalom</a>
	24 Jan 1981	 <a href="#">Les Gets, France</a>	Giant slalom
	8 Mar 1981	 <a href="#">Aspen, CO, USA</a>	Giant slalom
<a href="#">1983</a>	5 Dec 1982	 <a href="#">Limone Piemonte, Italy</a>	<a href="#">Slalom</a>
	9 Jan 1983	 <a href="#">Davos, Switzerland</a>	Slalom
	23 Jan 1983	 <a href="#">St. Gervais, France</a>	Giant slalom
	8 Mar 1983	 <a href="#">Waterville Valley, NH, USA</a>	Giant slalom
	9 Mar 1983		Giant slalom
	13 Mar 1983	 <a href="#">Vail, CO, USA</a>	Giant slalom
	20 Mar 1983	 <a href="#">Furano, Japan</a>	Slalom
<a href="#">1984</a>	10 Mar 1984	 Waterville Valley, NH, USA	Giant slalom

	11 Mar 1984		Slalom
	21 Mar 1984	 <a href="#">Zwiesel, West Germany</a>	Giant slalom
	24 Mar 1984	 <a href="#">Oslo, Norway</a>	Slalom
<a href="#">1985</a>	5 Jan 1985	 <a href="#">Maribor, Yugoslavia</a>	Slalom
	16 Mar 1985	 Waterville Valley, NH, USA	Slalom
<a href="#">1987</a>	18 Dec 1986	 <a href="#">Courmayeur, Italy</a>	Slalom
	11 Jan 1987	 <a href="#">Mellau, Austria</a>	Slalom

## World championship results

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Year	Age	Slalom	Giant Slalom	Super-G	Downhill	Combined
<a href="#">1980</a>	17	<a href="#">DNF1</a>	<a href="#">DNF1</a>		=	=
<a href="#">1982</a>	19	<a href="#">DNF1</a>	<a href="#">6</a>	<i>not run</i>	—	=
<a href="#">1985</a>	22	DNF	DNF		—	3

<a href="#">1987</a>	24	DNF1	18	—	—	3
<a href="#">1989</a>	26	3	DNF	—	—	1

From [1948](#) through [1980](#), the [Winter Olympics](#) were also the [World Championships](#) for alpine skiing.

## Olympic results

Year	Age	Slalom	Giant Slalom	Super-G	Downhill	Combined
<a href="#">1980</a>	17	<a href="#">DNF1</a>	<a href="#">DNF1</a>	<i>not run</i>	=	<i>not run</i>
<a href="#">1984</a>	21	<a href="#">DNF1</a>	4		=	
<a href="#">1988</a>	25	<a href="#">DNF1</a>	<a href="#">DNF1</a>	—	=	—

## Video

- [You Tube.com](#) – 1989 World Championships – gold medal in combined