

Dave Battison (1966-2014)

Dave Battison was a long-time coach and contributor to cross country skiing in Canada. Dave worked as a professional coach for over 20 years. He started his career in 1991 with the Laurentian Nordic Ski Club in Ontario. He went on to coach the Laurentian University Nordic team for four years at time when that team was one of the powerhouses in the country, and Laurentian University won several OUAA championships under his leadership. He then took his coaching skills to western Canada where, as Head Coach of the Rocky Mountain Racers in Alberta (2001-2004), he garnered 18 national championship medals. From there Dave's career took him to Vancouver Island where he was Head Coach of the Strathcona Nordics Ski Club at Mount Washington from 2005 to 2014.

Dave had a long list of achievements as a coach and wax technician, both at the division and national levels. This included extensive service with the National Ski Team program as a member of the coaching support team at the World Junior Championships held in Germany, Sweden, Norway and France, and numerous National Junior Team training camps. In 2009 and again in 2011 he was Head Coach of Canada's cross country ski team at the World University Games (in China and Italy respectively).

In addition to this Dave was an NCCP Facilitator and Evaluator up to and including the Comp-Int Advanced level, and in 2013 he was awarded an **NCCP National Coaching - Coach Developer Award** (sponsored by Investors Group) by the Coaches Association of Canada for his work in developing coaches at the community level.

Dave wasn't a coach without being an athlete first! He competed as a professional Triathlete representing Canada three times at the World Ironman Championships in Hawaii. During those years he also competed in the Canadian Long Course Triathlon (swimming, biking and running) and was the "National Champion". In the same year he competed in the Penticton Ironman, where he won "Amateur Champion" in the 25 – 29 age group. Dave later became a professional Triathlete under various contracts