

The Tommy Kelly Award

The Tommy Kelly Award is awarded each year to the Male and Female Skier with the highest Overall NOPS score in that years Regional Championships.

Tommy Kelly was born December 2, 1963 into a skiing family, His father Tom Kelly Sr. was a three-event competitor as was his sister Kathy. The family resided in New Jersey and skied with the Jersey Skeeters Water Ski Club. Tommy was an avid skier in all three events, with Jumping his true passion.

In his first year in the Men's I division at the Duquoin, Illinois Nationals Tommy soared to 148" just 1-foot shy of his best performance of 149' at Owego, New York. Prior to his first Men's I Nationals Tommy won the Eastern Regional Overall title two years in a row, and in 1980 at the Tyler Texas Nationals Tommy placed 2nd Overall and 2nd in Jumping.

Tommy had a passion for water ski competition, but was nonetheless, a friend and supporter of every skier he competed against; his sense of competition was never overshadowed by his care and concern for all in our sport. In a word Tommy loved life.

Tommy's goal was to one day ski for the U.S. National Team in world competition, with his drive, family support, and love of competitive water skiing, one can only imagine the success he would have at this dream had he survived to ski into adulthood.

In 1981 sickness befell Tommy, he endured eleven Operations and finally was called home to God on December 14, 1981. Tommy never complained, and throughout maintained his spirit and love of family and friends.

The recipient each year of the Tommy Kelly Jr. Award should be proud to be honored by their accomplishments, but moreover by the knowledge that the award represents the best of the best in our competitive community, the spirit and dedication of a young man named Tommy Kelly Jr.