

## Mary RIDDELL - United States of America (USA)

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Four-time medalist at the 1998 Paralympic Winter Games in Nagano, Japan, winning one gold (giant slalom), one silver (downhill), two bronze (slalom, super-G)...Gold medalist in super-G at the 2000 World Championships...2000 and 2001 overall champion of the Disabled World Cup tour...Trains in Winter Park, Colorado, USA...Medaled in every race in the 2000-01 season...Had seven Disabled World Cup top-three finishes in 2000-01 in downhill and super-G despite torn ligaments in both thumbs during the preseason.

**Born:** Fort Collins, Colorado, USA

**Residence:** Dove Creek, Colorado

**Education:** Vail Valley Academy...She expects to start college, possibly majoring in advertising and marketing, after the 2001-02 season

**Occupation:** Ski racer

**Sporting Relatives:** Brother Kyle was a 2001 Colorado state wrestling champion...Brother Andrew ranked No. 2. in Colorado for junior golfers

**Languages:** English

**Started Competing:** 1990 in USA

**Start In Sport:** Began skiing at age 4 with the Durango/Purgatory Adaptive Sports Association, where ex-USDST racer Lana Jo CHAPIN coached her...She races with a prosthesis and ski poles

**Club:** Purgatory Race Team, Durango, Colorado, USA/Purgatory Adaptive Sports Association

**Personal Coach:** Lana Jo CHAPIN from 1990-94

**Years On National Team:** Eight

**Most Memorable Sporting Achievements:** Paralympic gold in 1998 and Disabled World Cup overall titles in 1999 and 2000

**Favorite Competition Venue:** Snowbasin "because the people were awesome and very friendly."

**Hobbies:** Water sports, barbecuing with friends

**Most Influential Person:** Lana Jo CHAPIN, former coach and good friend

**Most Admired Person:** "Anyone who has a dream and doesn't stop until they make it a reality."

**Nature/Cause Of Disability:** Circulatory problems before birth that led to right leg being amputated at birth

**Injuries:** Recurring right knee injury from 1994-96...Surgery to repair entire knee in 1996...Torn ligaments in thumbs during the 2000-01 preseason

**Honors/Awards:** 2000 Colorado Sportswoman of the Year for achievements in skiing...12 March 2001 was Mary Riddell Day in Dove Creek, Colorado, USA

### **Additional Information**

She spent three weeks in New Zealand during the summer of 2001...After the Paralympics, she is planning a Caribbean cruise with friend Rachel BATTERSBY, a first-rate disabled (stand-up) skier from New Zealand.