



HALL OF FAME INDUCTEE

KLAUS WEBER

written by Ken Sickenger

Klaus Weber's accomplishments as a lifelong athlete can only be described as phenomenal. Well into his 60s, Klaus was competing in soccer and completing grueling races and quadrathlons that routinely scare off endurance athletes half his age.

But what Klaus accomplished for other New Mexico athletes is even more impressive. He coached players in numerous sports including soccer, tennis, and cross-country skiing from youth level to high school and college at the University of New Mexico – enjoying considerable success at every stop.

Klaus's legacy is certain to endure. The soccer complex at Albuquerque's Bosque School is named after him, as is "Klaus Trail," a cross-country ski path on the east side of the Sandia Mountains. He also helped create a layout the format for the popular Mt. Taylor Winter Quadrathlon, a rugged 43-mile endurance test that Klaus completed more than 20 times.

Taken together, Klaus's various endeavors make him a lock for the New Mexico Sports Hall of Fame. He was fittingly included in the Hall of Fame's 2024 induction class.

Born in Olten, Switzerland in 1943, Weber was an accomplished athlete well before he arrived in New Mexico in 1975. He competed for high-level soccer and cross-country skiing clubs while growing up in Switzerland, and later earned All-American status skiing for New York's Ulster County Community College. He went on to earn All-New England and All-Conference honors in skiing and tennis at New Hampshire's Keene State College.

Klaus was just getting started. When he showed up in New Mexico in his early 30s, he signed on as UNM's cross country skiing coach and joined the school's club soccer team as a player-coach. He coached skiing from 1976-88, mentoring more than 25 All-Americans and coaching two individual and two relay teams to national championships.

Before his tenure as a skiing coach ended, Klaus took over as head coach of UNM's men's soccer, which by that time was an official NCAA program. Klaus was named interim coach in 1986, hired full time in 1987 and stayed on through 2001. His Lobos enjoyed 10 winning seasons and captured a conference tournament title in 2001, but the team's biggest win may have been a 1-0 victory over No. 2 ranked UCLA in 1992 that earned UNM its first national ranking. It did not surprise Klaus.

