

## 1973-2023 Wostawea Time Capsule Story

# “The Legend of the Pink Cowboy Hat”

Story shared by Mary Murdoch and Wostawea Ski Team Members and Supporters

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What’s up with the pink cowboy hat showing up on our skiers these past few years? Young and young-at-heart have sported the distinguished chapeau on the trails and on the podium. Charming, for sure, but does the hat confer some sort of magical powers such as ninja speed or glory to the wearer?

“When I put the hat on, I’m ready for fun,” says ski team member Liam Mooers, and his sister Bryn adds, “Makes me feel great to be part of the team – it’s rad!!!” For Mikaya Hoyt-Hogan, “The pink hat is a staple on our team and we all love passing it around the podium from race to race. It has been all across the east with us and we’re known for it across this country. We love our pink Stetson.” But how did this unlikely item become a must-wear accessory at races, Fun Days, and other club events?

Danielle Hogan, parent of ski team members Mikaya and Tate, remarks, “For me, the Wostawea Pink Hat emerged as a symbol of club pride slowly. My first memory of the hat was on Katie Luiker on Wostawea Fun Day, circa 2019. After that, it felt like the hat started to pop up, here and there, on a member of the senior ski team when they were headed to the podium to accept a medal with fellow teammates cheering loudly. To me, the hat conveys a boldness in the athlete and a playfulness that is genuine, even though we aren’t exactly located in an area known for ranchers and horseback riding, not to mention that it has NOTHING to do with cross-country skiing! When a younger member of the team reached for the hat on their way to the podium, the pink hat became for me also symbol of connection and community.”

Danielle adds that at the recent Canada Winter Games in Brookvale, PEI, “where the pink hat was seen in the stadium on heads in the cheering crowd and on stickers, it became a symbol of encouragement for our athletes on Team NB. I am so proud to be a member of Wostawea and proud of the sense of fun, inclusion and community that makes our ski community so special, one where there’s room (and a hat) for everyone!”

Pink hat stickers are now showing up on ski bags, jackets, and even car bumpers, so the hat has truly become a “thing.” As to its origin, let’s leave that a mystery, because what really matters is the spirit of fun and friendship that the pink hat now represents.