



National Disabled Veterans

Winter Sports Clinic

Skier Profile

Dianna Lopez – Never Say “Can’t”

Dianna Lopez won’t devote a lot of sympathy to people who say they can’t do something.

A double amputee, Lopez lost both legs above the knee in an automobile accident in Germany in the 1970s, when she was in the Army. At last year’s National Disabled Veterans Winter Sports Clinic, she got on skis for the first time in 22 years, using a bi-ski, an adaptive ski for people with disabilities.

“I was so overwhelmed,” she says. “I had skied before in Germany. I told everybody, who needs legs? For a moment, it was like having them. Then I thought, who needs them? It made me feel so good, and able, to do it.”

Lopez, 50, was paired up with another disabled veteran for her first run. The other veteran had lost both of his legs at the waist, yet here he was getting ready to ski with her. “When I saw him, I thought, this is going to be a piece of cake,” she remembers.

In addition to skiing, Lopez tried fencing and rode a snowmobile at last year’s event. This year, she is adding scuba diving and rock climbing to her list of activities to try.

Born in San Antonio, Texas, Lopez now lives in Von Ormy, Texas. In addition to skiing, Lopez has also competed in several sports at the National Veterans Wheelchair Games the past three years. Back home in Von Ormy, she volunteers to visit local schools and demonstrate various sports. “I want to show them there is nothing they can’t do,” she says.

Lopez has some advice for other disabled vets. “I encourage all disabled veterans, young and old, to get challenged and ski. It’s the best feeling you can feel to finally let loose.”

Based on her own life experiences, she also has some advice for her nine-year-old son, telling him, “I don’t ever want to hear you say you can’t!”



[Above information provided by veteran.]

Miracles on a Mountainside!

