KRIS LaPOINT

Kris LaPoint set his first world water ski record when Lyndon Johnson was President and a half century later he’s still competitive.

LaPoint set a world record in the men’s slalom when he was a 13-year-old student at A.B. Morris Middle School in Castro Valley. The following year (1967) he won the world title in water skiing in his age group and became the youngest person ever to win the coveted United States Masters Slalom championship.

At 63, he’s now the oldest competitor on the Nautique Big Dawg World Tour for skiers 35 and older. Competing against men almost three decades younger, LaPoint took fourth place in a Big Dawg tournament last year and finished sixth in the yearly standings.

If Kris just cared about winning, he could compete in age-group water ski events, but he knows he would dominate his age group. He’s not interested in that. He prefers the stiffer competition of the Big Dawg circuit.

Between his first world record and now, Kris won nine National Slalom championships, seven Masters Slalom titles and two U.S. Opens. During his remarkable career, he won a total of 43 professional tournaments, including 13 major championships. He was inducted into the U.S. Water Ski Hall of Fame in 2008.

For LaPoint, water skiing has always been a family sport. His wife of 16 years, Jennifer Leachman LaPoint, is also a member of the U.S. Water Ski Hall of Fame and a former world champion. And his 21-year-old stepdaughter, Taylor May Woolsey, currently skis on the professional women’s tour.

While Kris and Jennifer are both in real estate sales in Orlando, Florida, full-time now, they also operate LaPoint Ski Park, a man-made lake where people can come to water ski and take lessons from two of the sport’s greatest.