BOB LaPOINT

During his prime, Bob LaPoint was arguably the best water skier in the world, winning five U.S. Open championships and five Masters titles in the slalom.

Born in Castro Valley in 1955, LaPoint played flag football and basketball at AB Morris Middle School, then football and basketball as a freshman and varsity basketball as a sophomore at Castro Valley High. Following his parents’ divorce, Bob went to live with his father in Novato and played as a running back for San Marin High his junior year before turning professional as a water skier.

During a career that spanned 35 years, LaPoint won 43 professional water ski tournaments, including 37 on the International Water Ski Federation tour. He was the World Slalom Champion in 1977, 1979, 1983, 1985 and 1987 and along the way set numerous world records.

Bob showed promise early. He was the Junior Boys Division Overall National Champion, as well as the Slalom National Champion, in 1967 at the age of 12 and continued winning tournaments all through middle school and high school. He established the national slalom record for Junior Boys in 1970.

Although water skiing was his priority, LaPoint was a pretty good snow skier as well. In a made-for-TV competition in 1993, LaPoint bested three worthy adversaries at the inaugural “Water vs. Snow” event. His competition consisted of Olympic snow ski medal winners, Steve and Phil Mahre, and his older brother Kris LaPoint.

A member of both the American Water Ski Hall of Fame and the World Ski Federation Hall of Fame, LaPoint now works as a water ski designer for H.O. Sports, a position he has held since 2007. He has designed skis for world champion Chris Parish, among others.

Bob and his wife, Erika, live in Truckee with their 14-year-old son Kristian and 10-year-old daughter Simone. He also has two adult daughters, Kaci and Kara, from a previous marriage.