

# LAST RUN

## Roy Royston

*He first dropped into a halfpipe at age 49. Now this 55-year-old retired postman from Mazomanie, Wisc., is America's top-ranked 50-plus snowboarder, having won all four events in his age division at the national championships. When not exercising his passion, he's sharing it, and has taught nearly 1,000 people how to snowboard at his local areas, Tyrol Basin and Devil's Head.*

**Born** January 18, 1942

**The first time** "I started skiing when I was 20. In my forties, I became a ski instructor."

**The first time, part II** "I started riding six years ago, at age 49, because my son got into snowboarding and I felt left out. Two years ago, I sold my ski boots."

**On the hill, not over it** "I rode 101 days last season. I've snowboarded all over the United States—Vermont, Colorado, California—and in France."

**Only plumbers enjoy pipes more** "I spend a lot of time riding the halfpipe. Tyrol Basin has only 300 vertical feet,

but it has a killer halfpipe. I love just dropping in, saying my prayers and hanging on."

**One for the ages** "I compete in slalom, GS, halfpipe and slopestyle in the Methuselah division. Methuselah was a biblical prophet who lived to be more than 900 years old."

**Hair apparent** "Wherever I go, I'm always the oldest person in the halfpipe. One kid asked me if I dyed my hair, because all the kids dye their hair. I said, 'I don't think you can buy gray dye.'"

**Ride on** "I love sharing my passion for snowboarding with people and teaching them how to ride. The first few hours are the initiation fee to the sport—the rite of passage. But I do a lot of hand-holding and make sure my students are padded up with knee pads, butt pads and wristguards."

**Child's play** "When you sit on the snow and put your snowboard on, it's like you're a little kid playing in the snow again."

—Reade Bailey

