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#PassionBeyondLimits

MILANO CORTINA 2026

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WILES/MOLTZAN

WOMEN'S TEAM COMBINED



From The Forks to the Olympic Podium: Local Family's Connection to Bronze Medalist Paula Moltzan

The Forks Plantation — When Paula Moltzan stood on the Olympic podium in Milan Cortina this year, accepting her bronze medal in the women's alpine combined event, she had a cheering section with deep roots right here in The Forks Plantation.

Paula's journey to Olympic glory is intertwined with the story of longtime residents Chuck and Sharyn Peabody, owners of Crabapple Whitewater, and their family's remarkable athletic legacy.

A Family Built on Adventure

Chuck and Sharyn launched their whitewater rafting company at the same time they were starting their family, raising two children — Jennifer and Robert — surrounded by the rushing waters of the Kennebec River.

Jennifer became an exceptional whitewater kayaker and world-class racer in her own right. At just 15 years old, she was already competing in junior world championships and kayaking down to Magic Falls Rapid to photograph rafts as they came through. Her competitive spirit and dedication to the sport set the stage for the next generation.

A Chance Meeting in Chile

After marrying and having two sons, Ryan and Zachary, Jennifer and her husband Frank took over management of Crabapple Whitewater's Massachusetts branch in 1990. Both boys attended private schools where skiing was a team sport, and Ryan found his passion early.

Starting ski racing at age seven, Ryan set his sights on the Olympic team. That dream led him to a training camp in Chile, where he met Paula Moltzan, then already a member of the USA Ski Team. The two became fast friends, their relationship sustained across continents through Skype as they competed in separate races around the world.

From Setback to Support

When Ryan suffered a serious ski accident that ended his racing career at the elite level, and Paula simultaneously found herself off the USA Ski Team, the two made a pivotal decision. They both accepted scholarships to ski for the University of Vermont — Paula enrolling in a premed program while Ryan concentrated on environmental engineering.

Ryan recognized something extraordinary in Paula's skill, determination, and competitive nature. Rather than dwelling on his own setback, he encouraged her to pursue her World Cup racing goals with everything she had.

A Partnership On and Off the Slopes

During school breaks, the couple traveled together to World Cup races before returning to compete for UVM. Before sponsors came on board, their families and friends — including Chuck and Sharyn back home in The Forks — helped with the finances needed for travel and competition.

Ryan never left Paula's side, devoting himself to supporting her dreams. He became her coach, technician, and confidant — a partnership that extended beyond the slopes when they married in 2022.



Olympic Dreams Realized

Paula competed in the 2022 Olympics in Beijing, finishing as the highest-ranked member of the alpine tech team, though she didn't medal. But she kept pushing forward.

In January 2026, Paula learned she had qualified for the USA Olympic team once again. This time, a new event gave her an opportunity she'd been waiting for. The 2026 Olympics introduced the women's alpine combined team event for the first time, where downhill and slalom times are added together for an overall team score.

Teamed with Jackie Winders, Paula helped Team USA capture the bronze medal — finally achieving the Olympic glory she'd worked so hard for, with Ryan by her side every step of the way.

A Global Life with Maine Roots

Today, Ryan and Paula spend more than half the year training in Europe and New Zealand, but their connection to The Forks Plantation and the Peabody family remains strong.

From whitewater rapids to Olympic slopes, the Peabody family story is one of unwavering support — a reminder that champions aren't built alone, and that the greatest victories often belong to those who stand beside them. Whether it's Ryan coaching Paula through World Cup courses, or Chuck and Sharyn cheering from Maine while their family pursues dreams around the globe, the Peabodys have always had each other's backs.

Congratulations to Paula on her bronze medal, and to the entire Peabody family for showing us what it means to support one another — no matter what the dream, no matter where it leads.

The Forks Plantation is proud to celebrate the achievements of all our residents and their families, near and far.

Written by Susan Hathaway and Claude AI