

AJ Muss at a qualifying event at Rogla, Slovenia in February, 2017.

**PHOTO CREDIT:**  
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**STORY:**  
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## RUMSON SNOWBOARDER FINISHES SEVENTH IN WORLD CUP OLYMPIC TEST EVENT

Aaron "AJ" Muss has been snowboarding since he was three. The now-22-year-old professional snowboard racer follows a rigorous schedule in order to maintain his personal best. "I eat, sleep, and breathe snowboarding. I still love it and consider myself lucky," he shared.

In February, 2017, AJ participated in the World Cup Olympic Test Event at Pyeong Chang, Korea and came in seventh. He was the only American to rank in the top 16. He finished eleventh last year in Cortina, Italy. "AJ's seventh place finish is a great result. We congratulate AJ on his performance at the Olympic test event and look forward to him building on this performance leading in to the Olympic season," commented Snowboarding Program Director Jeremy Forster.

"Being a second year rookie on the World Tour has its challenges. Most of these athletes have ridden these race venues numerous times, so I am definitely at a huge disadvantage, but I never let that stop me and it just makes me focus harder, work harder and strive to do what I know I am capable of. This is my best career finish to date and I am excited. It's a great stepping stone to build off and I pulled it off on the hill that the 2018 Olympics will be held," said AJ.

When asked how he felt having this seventh place win for the nation, AJ responded, "It was an honor to represent my country and compete in the World Cup Olympic Test Event in Pyeong Chang, South Korea. I was very pleased at being able to perform so well on the Olympic Hill, and really look forward to coming back next year given the chance." He added, "I have a ton of confidence going in to the 2018 Olympic Winter Games and firmly believe I can bring home the medal!" Knowing he is representing the United States, AJ said, "I am truly grateful for the opportunities I have and will always strive to do my best and achieve my personal goals. This in turn allows me to bring home medals for my country, something which is amazing and that I get to do on such a grand scale. It's very surreal when all the hard work pays off."

Only two years ago, AJ had to deal with a life-threatening event pertaining to a shoulder injury. Bringing his physical energy, stamina and strength up to what he needs in order to compete is something he diligently works on. "My rehabilitation has been a process and I take that seriously. I work out every day, and eat right. My body is the equipment I need to succeed in order to achieve my goals so I take care of it

like the perfect race car engine."

Attending college at this time is on hold said AJ. "Right now, with the Olympics being so close, I am focusing on snowboarding. I will go to a university and complete my degree in Business or Engineering once I am done, as I have other goals in life outside of snowboarding. Right now, I am blessed to be able to call this my job. Finding a passion is important and I am lucky to have a few."

AJ has already begun to prepare for the 2018 Winter Olympics. "My regime is the same as any other season. I strive for success, I set a goal and I accomplish that goal...but how I do it, is my trade secret!" AJ will find out if he is definitely in the 2018 Winter Olympics in January of 2018. "It's a long hard journey but a worthwhile one," he noted.

Aside from snowboarding, AJ does enjoy other interests. "I unwind by racing cars. My innate need for speed is always with me and driving race cars allows me to unwind in a such a way that I still can work on things that are ingredients for my success with snowboarding as well, such as focus, and taking the right line. I love racing cars and it's definitely another passion I will do my whole life."