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Birger Ruud

Born: 1911 Died: 1998

Birger Ruud had one of the most impressive series of ski victories ever seen in organized skiing. It seemed what Birger did not win, his brother Sigmund did.

Birger Ruud was the younger of the famous Ruud brothers, who won the fancy of the American ski public and press just prior to World War II. The *American Ski Annual* of 1938-39 in a burst of extreme enthusiasm, proclaimed of all the foreign skiers who participated in tournaments during the 1937 and 1938 seasons, Birger and Sigmund Ruud, no doubt, deserve credit for having done more toward developing, promoting, and stimulating the American people to be ski minded, than any other two skiers in the world. Perhaps exaggerated and over stated, it does not alter the fact that the Ruud brothers were top skiers, and deserving of at least part of the accolade.

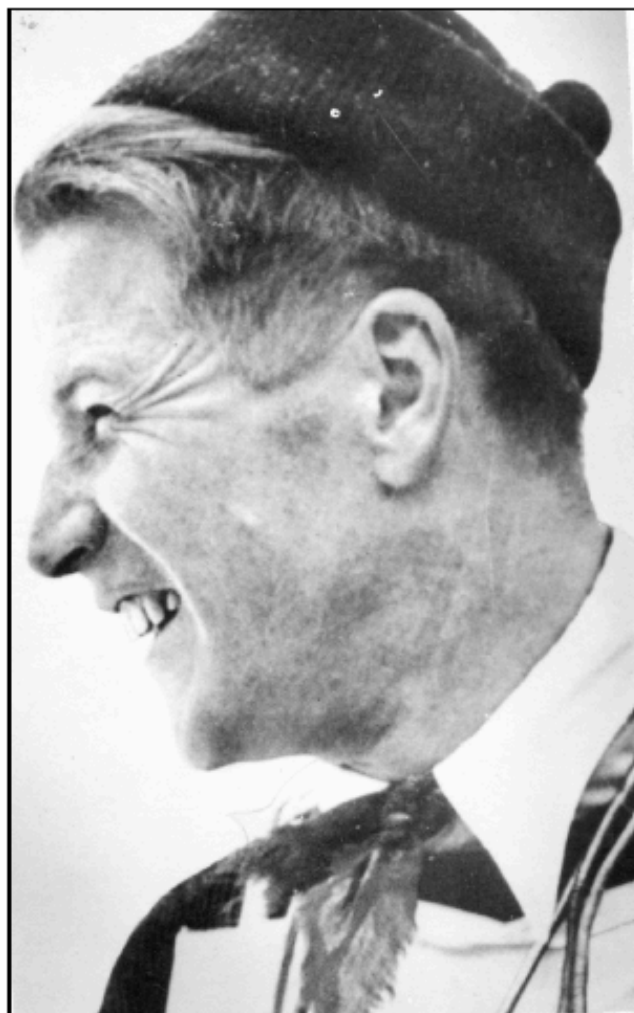


Photo by T.W. Bennett, Minneapolis, MN

Birger Ruud was born on August 23, 1911, the younger of the Ruud brothers. Birger Ruud's record is nothing short of amazing. He was the Olympic gold medal winner for his native Norway in 1932 at Lake Placid, New York, and in 1936 at Garmisch-Partenkirchen, Germany, and won the Silver Olympic medal in 1948 at St. Moritz, Switzerland. This 1936 Olympic win was quite a feat, because along with the gold medal in the Special Jump, Birger won the gold medal in the downhill. This is a feat not likely to be duplicated.

Birger was the World Jumping Champion in 1931, 1935, and 1937, and was second in 1939. He has the World Record Jump of 92 meters in 1943. Birger won the Holmenkollen Jumping in 1939.

Birger traveled with his brother Sigmund in the United States, and jumped in all major jumping meets while in the country. The Ruud brother really dominated ski jumping world wide in 1937 and 1938, winning or placing second in over eighty percent of the meets they participated in. Those not won by Birger were more than likely won by Sigmund.

Birger Ruud was elected to the U.S. National Ski Hall of Fame, along with his brother Sigmund, in 1970.

