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## Sigmund Ruud

Born: 1907    Died: 1994

*Sigmund Ruud was the elder of the famous Ruud brothers. His skiing record is, perhaps, not as impressive as his younger brother Birger, but it is none-the-less a formidable one. The world has not often seen a pair of athletes to match the Ruud brothers, true trail-blazers in the era when skiing was becoming so very popular. The announcement of the Ruud brothers at a tournament virtually guaranteed a great crowd and a spectacular event.*

Sigmund Ruud, was the elder 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.

Sigmund was born on December 30, 1907, in Norway, and although his record is not as spectacular as his brother's, it is, to say the least, a formidable one. He won the 1926 junior ski jump at the Holmenkollen, and in three World Championship tournaments, he placed first in 1929, third in 1930, and eighth in 1931. He was the runner up in the 1928 Olympics at St. Moritz, Switzerland, winning the silver medal. Sigmund also set World Distance records in 1931 with a jump of 81.5 meters, twice in 1933, with a leap of 87.5 meters. Sigmund was also the National Ski Association, National Jumping Champion in 1937, winning the title at Ecker Hill.

While touring North America, Sigmund entered nearly every tournament he could possibly make, placing first or second in nearly eighty percent of them.

Sigmund chaired the F.I.S. Jumping Committee for more than fifteen years, and for his spectacular record and service to skiing he was elected, along with his brother Birger, to the U.S. National Ski Hall of Fame in 1970.

