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Sigrid Stromstad Laming

Born: 1897 Died: 1971

Sigrid Stromstad Laming was born in Baerum, Norway, in 1897. She was one of the famous skiing Stromstad family, which included her twin sisters and two brothers. They were all great skiers in Norway, and oddly enough, all five of them, male and female, were great ski jumpers as well as cross-country and alpine skiers.

Sigrid became the *First Woman Champion* of the National Ski Association when in 1932 women for the initial time were permitted to enter the National Ski Championships held at Lake Tahoe, California. These events were under the sponsorship of the California Ski Association, now known as the Far West Ski Association. In addition to a championship performance in cross-country, for the first time the only event for competition by women, Sigrid was an excellent ski jumper with a known leap of 32-meters. She had won numerous events in Europe before

coming to America during the mid-twenties, and had downhill racing been an event for women, it is probable Sigrid would have been a formidable competitor.

In any event, to California belongs the honor of having staged the first national skiing championship that women could enter; to California belongs the honor of having had the first woman to win it, and the credit goes to the Auburn Ski Club which Sigrid represented. She then was 35 years old.

Not only was Sigrid a great all-around skier, but in 1931 she was an official during Olympic Ski Team tryouts sponsored regionally by the California Ski Association under direction of President Wendell Robie. It remained for Robie, president of the Auburn Ski Club, to call attention to the committee's oversight of 1966 when the slate of "first champions" was proposed by the Sugar Bowl Ski Club and unanimously endorsed resolution of FWSA Directors. The latter acted similarly in behalf of Sigrid's posthumous nomination.

Sigrid was a member of Norway's famous Stromstad Nordic and alpine competition family. Like her well known brothers and sisters in Europe, she sparkled on the American scene, especially in California, as recreational skiing boomed. Her skis cracked the cross-country runs, the ski jumps and the early-day downhill trails of the Sierra and other mountain ranges of north to south in the Golden State. The Stromstad family records speak for her:

Thoralf Stromstad – Silver medals in the 18-km. and 50-km. races of the 1924 Winter Olympics; more than 200 ski prizes, including Homenkollen Medal, in Norwegian, Swedish and Finnish competitions.

Knut Stromstad – Well-known ski maker in Norway and winner of more than 250 prizes in jumping and cross-country, including Norwegian championship and King's Cup of 1923.

Nora Stromstad – Winner of 120 ski prizes and an alpine competitor in the 1936 Winter Olympics, 14th in slalom and 11th in combined.

Torborg Stromstad (twin sister of Nora) - Winner of 50 ski prizes in alpine racing, cross-country and ski jumping. She and her sister opened many jumping competitions in the 1930s on the big hills.

All the Stromstad brothers and sisters, including Sigrid, were members of the Fossum Sport Club in Baerum, the country near Oslo which also provided many famous Norwegians to America, including Carl Howelsen, the Ski Hall of Famer who fathered skisport in Colorado.

As the sponsoring Auburn Ski Club pointed out, "Sigrid Laming was always a great skisportswoman and a loyal and devoted member."

Sigrid Stromstad Laming was elected to the U.S. National Ski Hall of Fame in Ishpeming, Michigan, in 1972.