



#137

Howard Chivers

Born: 1919 Died: 1984

By Frank Elkins

A formidable four-way skier, Howard A. Chivers was one of the truly great skiers on Dartmouth College's "Big Green" ski team.

The second oldest member of Hanover's famous Royal Family of Skiing a generation ago, whose life was dedicated to the skisport from childhood; a formidable high and prep school, then intercollegiate champion, who was to go on to national recognition, then wind up as coach, leader and manager of his Alma Mater – Dartmouth Skiway in Lyme, NH. He gave notice of his prowess as a skier while starring for Hanover (NH) High from 1930 to 1934, then topped the prep school field while at Deerfield (MA) Academy in 1935, sweeping downhill, slalom, and cross-country at the famous Cushing (MA) Academy Carnival. Next, followed one of the foremost records established in nordic or classic combined in college circles while representing the "Big Green" powerful units at Dartmouth in 1937 to 1939. Even in his freshman year, the lithe-limbed "Amos" turned back the top collegians and club devotees as he captured the abbreviated Inferno downhill chase from the lip of the famous Tuckerman Ravine down to the Appalachian Mt. Club camp of renowned Joe Dodge at Pinkham Notch... a straight down descent from near the summit of Mount Washington to the base.

Now for his imposing record in three years of competition as a "Big Green" star, as Dartmouth Captain with Dick Durrance in 1938-39 season; intercollegiate cross-country kingpin and second in the combined to his brother, Warren... what competition between the two, one never knowing when the other would be superior... Canadian Dominion cross-country champion at Banff, tops in the langlauf and combined in Dartmouth's famous carnival, second in the USEASA slalom and a member of the USA team to Chile for the Pan American championships in 1937.

In 1938, he led the field in the first heralded National college championship between Dartmouth and the University of Washington at Sun Valley; best in cross-country and the combined at Dartmouth Carnival, combined champion and runner-up in the Intercollegiate Ski Union title meet, Eastern Class B jump ruler, tops in the Olympic combined tryouts at Berlin, NH, and first in cross-country, second in the jump, fourth in slalom and first in the Nordic Combined at Lac Beauport, P.Q.

The following year, 1939, he again topped the Dartmouth Carnival cross-country and combined field, placed runner-up in the cross-country and combined at the F.I.S. meet at Lake Placid, captured the Intercollegiate crown in cross-country and was second in the combined at St. Margaret's, P.Q., first in the cross-country and Nordic combined, the USEASA title games and set a winning pace at the Cannon Mountain cross-country event. He was a member of Uncle Sam's Olympic team in his forte, cross-country and combined in 1940, at which time he coached the ski team and organized the first Outing Club at New Hampton (NH) School and was fourth in the Class A big jump at Rumford, ME, one of his few competitive appearances that year.

Howard's competitive career peaked in 1942 when he won the National Nordic Combined Championship at Brattleboro, VT, also the Eastern divisional title. He was numbered among the few Americans and Canadians to capture ski titles on both sides of the border, having parlayed a Canadian cross-country championship in 1939 at Banff, Alberta, into a top honor of the National Ski Association of America.

Howard switched to Gould Academy in Bethel, Maine, as a teacher-coach, and his acumen as a coach came to the fore quickly as his charges won the Maine State and New England interscholastic crowns. His Gould teams later were to be tops in the Eastern schoolboy circles, his students being especially outstanding in the classic events. Then followed a year of serving as teacher and coach for the U. S. Military Academy at West Point in 1947... this following three years in the Navy... and then marriage; a return to his home in Hanover, NH, managing the famous Hanover Inn Ski School, headed the Ford Sayre Memorial Junior Ski Council, one of the largest junior programs in the world with more than 800 youngsters in five local towns.

In 1956, he began managing the Dartmouth Skiway, planning the trail layout, lift line installation and designing its expansion in trail and lift facilities as the years have gone by. His style remained impeccable in cross-country, graceful, lithe-limbed and ever so stylish. A rare gem at all times.. personable Howard Chivers.

Howard A. Chivers was elected to the U.S. National Ski Hall of Fame in 1973.