

#138
Corey Engen
Born: 1916

Corey Engen was a four-event skier, winning the National Ski Association National Nordic Champion in 1942 and the N.S.A. National Veterans' Alpine Combined Champion in 1959, 1962, and 1969.

Born in Norway on March 30, 1916, Corey Engen reached America in 1933 at the age of 17. In 1930, he began a skisport career in Salt Lake City, Utah, which has brought him fame as a top-ranked competitor and sports builder throughout the United States.

During his skisport career, Corey has compiled an impressive record as an athlete and builder of the sport in many ways. As a competitor, he has won over 200 trophies in alpine and nordic events. These included national championships in both alpine and nordic competitions. Corey was also twice an Olympian.

Corey, like his Ski Hall of Fame brothers, Alf and Sverre, began his American competitive career as a ski jumper representing the Utah Ski Club. He moved to McCall, Idaho, in 1937, to become a local ski leader and active competitor in both nordic and alpine events. Corey then went to Ogden, Utah, where he was ski school director at Snow Basin from 1945 to 1951 and also served as coach of the Intermountain Ski Association Junior Team.

Corey was named an alternate to the United States Ski Jumping Team for the 1940 Olympics, cancelled because of World War II. He captained the U.S. Olympic Nordic Team for the 1948 competitions at St. Moritz, Switzerland. He was the top-placing American – 3rd in combined jumping and 26th in cross-country.

Returning to McCall in 1951, Corey directed junior ski programs and produced 11 national champions. These champions included his own son, David, and some youngsters who went on to U.S. Olympic teams and intercollegiate championship teams.

Corey, during his competitive years, accomplished what few skiers have – a record of 200 trophies and awards in all events of alpine and nordic competitions. He won the famous Alta Snow Cup Race in 1945, 1946, and the Veterans' Class in 1958; the Nordic National Championships in 1952; and the National Veterans' Alpine Combined Championships in 1959, 1962, and in 1969.

During a 20-year coaching career, Corey handled Junior National Teams for the Pacific Northwest Ski Association. He was also active on competition committees and as an official in races within the PNSA for many years. His work in 1963 was recognized by an award of the Russell Wilder Memorial by the United States Ski Association for his contributions to junior skiing.

Corey has set courses for national races tournaments, both alpine and nordic. He also officiated during national and international events which included the 1960 Winter Olympics in Squaw Valley, California; the Senior Alpine Nationals of 1965 at Crystal Mount, Washington; and was a national delegate at Bogus Basin, Idaho, in 1969.

In the ski-area development field, Corey planned, built, and developed Brundage Mountain near McCall and managed it for nine years. He then directed the areas ski school, continued to devote much time to developing junior skiers, and remained active as a coach and race official within the PNSA. Also as a member of the Pacific Coast Northwest Ski Area Operators' Association for nine years, he served on various committees. Other activities included a 11-year membership on the McCall Hospital Board, Director of the McCall Chamber of Commerce, and a presidency of the McCall Rotary Club.

While Corey Engen's service to skiing has covered the entire spectrum of the sport for many years, it can be said he has earned his most coveted and distinguished rewards as an outstanding athlete and builder of the sport, especially among junior groups of the past two generations, within the disciplines of the Intermountain Ski Association and the PNSA of the United States Ski Association. He is truly a credit to skisport as an aggressive competitor with a modest and unassuming personality and with a high sense of sportsmanship and fair play – qualities which have endeared him to the youth of Northwestern America.

Corey Engen was elected to the U.S. National Ski Hall of Fame in 1973, joining his brothers, Alf and Sverre, as honored members of the hall.

