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## Willy Schaeffler

Born: 1915    Died: 1988

*Willy Schaeffler was conscripted into Hitler's Army at the beginning of World War II, and when he objected, was put into a penal battalion on the Russian Front. He escaped from the Nazi Army, and joined the Underground, where he served as a resistance fighter until the end of the war.*

Born in Kaufbeuren, Germany, 1915, Willy Schaeffler, was a junior champion as a youth and later became a world leader in skisport. Schaffler was a part of the German Underground during World War II. After the war, Schaffler became a ski instructor at Garmisch-Partenkirchen and coached the U.S. Army Team. A four-way Austrian Junior Champion, Willy helped build Arapahoe Basin, and directed the ski school there.

Coming to the United States in 1948, he earned a BA degree from University of Denver, becoming an assistant professor in physical

education. As ski coach at the University of Denver from 1948-1970, he led his teams to 14 of 16 NCAA championships from 1954 to 1969. Willy was coach of the 1966, 1968 and 1970 F.I.S. teams. Director of ski events for the 1960 Winter Olympics at Squaw Valley, he was a long-standing member of the F.I.S. Course Approval Committee.

He is responsible for gaining skiing recognition as NCAA sport, 1954.

Willy was the president of the 8<sup>th</sup> Interski (International Congress of Ski Instructors) Aspen, 1968; officiated as F.I.S. Technical Delegate at Olympics, World Championships, and World Cup Events;

was Team leader of the 1972 U.S. Olympic Alpine Team, at Sapporo, Japan; was U.S. Alpine program director 1971-1973; and a referee of Men's Downhill, 1974 F.I.S. Championships, St. Moritz. He was also one of the organizers of the Professional Ski Instructors Association.

Schaffler later became the Director of U.S. Ski Team National Training Center.

Willy Schaeffler was elected to the U.S. National Ski Hall of Fame in 1974.

