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**Sigurd Overbye**  
Born: ? Died: ?

*At the Olympic tryouts in Minneapolis in 1923, Sigurd Overbye ran the cross-country course in an unusually fast time, topping the second place winner by a full three minutes.*

While the entire 1924 United States Olympic Ski Team was entered in a mythical “Hall of Fame for America’s Ski Sport” many years ago, the name of Sigurd Overbye, a three time national cross-country champion as well as having been a standout member of America’s first Olympic ski team, was approved in 1967 when the Historical Committee and USSA Directors adopted the “Roster of Ski Greats.”

For Overbye to be honored posthumously, a nominating petition and biographical material was necessary. These were provided through the joint efforts of the St. Paul Ski Club, the Milwaukee Ski Club, the Parks Ski Club, the Metropolitan Milwaukee Ski Council, the Norge Ski Club of Chicago and last but not least, the hard work by Henry Pflieger of the Ski Hall of Fame and Historical Committee.

The nomination endorsers were fortunate in having access to what B.G. Leighton of the American Olympic Committee wrote regarding accomplishments of American skiers during the 1924 Olympic Winter games at Chamonix, France. In an article entitled “Who’s Who on the First United States Olympic Ski Team” and published in the 1925 Edition of *The Ski Sport*, official

publication of the National Ski Association of America, Leighton lauded each individual member of the team and then declared they...

“...are entered in the Hall of Fame of America’s Ski Sport as the members of the first team to represent the United States in the Olympic Games. What they did at this premier athletic event has become history. They represented the ski sport of America with distinction and much credit to themselves and the ‘King of Winter Sports’ in the United States.”

All of Overbye’s teammates have long since entered the Ski Hall of Fame as Honored Members. They are Col. George Leach (team manager), Anders Haugen, Harry Lien, John Carleton, and Ragnar Omtvedt.

It was, perhaps, the first mention of a hall of fame in America sports history. Baseball, hockey, basketball, swimming, football and other sports halls of fame did not become a fact until beginning in the mid-thirties. Baseball was first, soon followed by what has been established in Ishpeming. Others followed.

Leighton’s Who’s Who described Overbye as a “small, wiry fellow who used specially constructed skis and brings into play very effectively the ski poles on his cross-country races.” During the Winter Olympics, the St. Paul Ski Club representatives scored 11<sup>th</sup> in Nordic Combined. This was rated an outstanding accomplishment.

Norway-born Overbye came to America in 1915. Neither the date of his birth or death can be ascertained. However, the facts of his national cross-country championships are well documented. He won medals in 1916 at Glenwood, Minnesota; 1923 at Minneapolis, and 1926 at Duluth, Minnesota.

Sigurd Overbye was elected to the U.S. National Ski Hall of Fame in 1976, the seventh and final member of the first United States Olympic Team to be so honored.

