



2000 Induction Weekend
Bill Beck is escorted down red carpet at
Induction Banquet by Heather Nardi

#315

Bill Beck

Born: 1927

An outstanding alpine ski racer, Bill Beck was an U.S. Olympian.

Bill Beck was one of our outstanding alpine ski racers of the 1950s. He was a member of the National "A" Team from 1951 to 1957.

In 1952, he was named to the U.S. Olympic Team with, among others, Jack Reddish, Brooks Dodge and Jimmy Griffith. The 1952 Winter Olympics in Oslo saw Bill Beck finish 5th in the downhill, at that time the best Olympic downhill finish ever by an American male. It was tied by Pete Patterson in 1980 and finally exceeded by Bill Johnson's gold in 1984. Beck's record stood for 28 years.

That same year, 1952, he was 5th in the prestigious A-K Downhill in Chamonix, France, again the best American showing against the cream of European champions. He tied Chick Igaya for 1st place in downhill in the National Championships on Cannon Mountain in 1955. His race results during the 1950s were such that he was named to the World Championship team in 1954 and the Winter Olympic team again in 1956 along with Tom Corcoran and Buddy Werner.

Bill Beck joined these teammates, named above, as an Honored Member of the U.S. National Ski Hall of Fame. He was elected to the U.S. National Ski Hall of Fame in 2000.

