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Henry Woods

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Henry S. "Bem" Woods was a member of the Dartmouth Outing Club and burst on the national scene in 1933, when he won the first National Ski Association Downhill Race at Mount Mooselauke, Warren, New Hampshire. Woods was a four-way skier as witnessed by two 1933 performances when skiing for Dartmouth; placing eighth in the 18-mile cross-country race, and eighth in the special jump at Lake Placid, and three weeks later at Lake Placid "College Week Games," placing third in the 14th mile cross-country race, second in the slalom, and third in the alpine combined.

Woods was the captain of the 1937 United States F.I.S. Team that competed at Chamonix, France, competing in the downhill, slalom, and special jumping. Woods stayed in Europe in 1937 and skied all the important events and an inspiration to his teammates. Woods was a true all-round competitive skier who knew no fear, but he had the "tools" to survive the most trying ski runs in Europe and North America.

After his retirement from active competitive skiing, Woods still competed as a "Veterans' Class" skier. He was a jumping judge of great distinction and judged in the United States and Canada.



Henry S. Woods, nicknamed "Bem," was a member of the Dartmouth Outing Club. He first burst forth on the national scene by winning the first National Ski Association Downhill Race at Mount Mooselauke in Warren, New Hampshire, in 1933.

Woods was a four-way competitor and a very good one at that. While skiing for Dartmouth, he amassed a number of very impressive wins or near wins. In 1934, Woods took eighth in the 18-mile cross-country race at Lake Placid, as well as eighth in the Class "A" Jump, giving him a fourth in the Class "A" Combined. In the 1934 College Week Ski Tournaments at Lake Placid, Woods took third in the 14 Kilometer.

Henry was the captain of the United States F.I.S. Ski Team that competed in the World Championships at Chamonix, France, in 1937. At this prestigious event, "Bem" entered the downhill, slalom, and special jumping. That same winter of 1937, he competed in the Garmisch-Partenkirchen Christmas Jumping Tournament, the Ski Club Partenkirchen New Year's Tournament, the Franz Reisch Gedenklauf at Kitzbhel, Austria, jumping, downhill, and slalom events, the Garmisch-Partenkirchen International Week Downhill Race, the Innsbrucker Skilaufer Vereinigung International Jumping Meet at Innsbruck, Austria, the Sestriere Six Downhill Ski Races in Sestriere, Italy, and the Oslo-Bergen Slalom Race in Mjolfjell, Norway. A thoroughly-seasoned racer, Henry was an inspiration to his teammates.

After Henry S. Woods competitive career was over, he turned to work as a national figure for the National Ski Association. He became a National Ski Association ski jumping judge of great distinction, and he was a member of the United States Eastern Amateur Ski Association Judges Association.

Even after his retirement from active skiing, Henry loved to compete in the alpine championships in the veteran's class whenever he had the opportunity.

Henry S. "Bem" Woods lived in retirement in Naples, Florida. He was elected to the U.S. National Ski Hall of Fame in 1966.