



NOMINATION FORM

For

HONORED MEMBERSHIP

In The

U.S. SKI & SNOWBOARD HALL OF FAME

Candidate's Name: Vladimir Peter "Spider" Sabich, Jr.

Date & Place of Birth:

Born	January 10, 1945 Sacramento, California, U.S. ⁽¹⁾
Died	March 21, 1976 (aged 32) Aspen, Colorado, U.S.

Address of Candidate: Deceased

Is the candidate still living? If not, provide date and place of death:

Sabich was murdered by a gunshot at his home on March 21, 1976, while still an active competitor on the World Pro Skiing Tour.

Nominator information:

Name: Mike Hundert on behalf of the Board of Directors of the Bob Beattie Ski Foundation, including:

Otto Tschudi
Ken Read
Christin Cooper
Mark Tache
Richie Woodworth
Andre Arnold
Jim Lillstrom
Will Weinstein
Edie Thys Morgan
Terry Palmer
Kathy Carson

State why the candidate merits election to the U.S. National Ski & Snowboard Hall of Fame (limit this statement to 250 words):

Occasionally an American ski racer emerges who soars to success. Once in a generation that person possesses the special potion that transcends individual accomplishment and elevates the entire sport.

The late Vladimir Peter “Spider” Sabich was one such superstar and super-persona. Spider, who grew up near Lake Tahoe, caught the eye of University of Colorado ski coach Bob Beattie who offered Sabich a scholarship, starting a long relationship that would include Coach Beattie elevating Spider to the US Ski Team for the World Cup’s inaugural season (‘67).

Shortly after scoring fifth in slalom at the 1968 Olympics Spider notched his first World Cup win at Heavenly Valley. In all, Spider had 18 top ten finishes in Olympic and World Cup competition, covering all three ski racing disciplines of the time, and was said to be Robert Redford’s inspiration for his starring role in *Downhill Racer*.

He rejoined Beattie on the coach’s new World Pro Skiing Tour in 1970, his charisma and winning ways helped bring media attention to the head-to-head format. His dash-for-cash battles with countryman Billy Kidd, and French Olympic hero Jean Claude Killy are legend. Kidd beat out Spider for the title in 1970. Spider won the World Pro Skiing crown in 1971 and 1972., and Killy captured that flag in 1973. In addition to ski magazines, Spider’s superstar status earned face shots on such others as GQ that raised skiing’s profile.

Beyond his championship resume, Spider was at the peak of his influence as ski racing’s premier ambassador in America when he was victim of a scandalous murder (March, 1976) at age 31 while still an active pro racer. An American skiing hero, a humble version of Joe Namath, Spider drew media and fans to the sport. His charisma was radiating and inspiring, especially around youngsters at every venue. “There was no better spokesperson for the sport,” Bob Beattie would say.

In chronological order by year, list the candidate's achievements:

(eg: January 12, 1965: proposed the establishment of the Professional Ski Instructors Alliance)

World Cup Racer 1967-1970

US Downhill Champion, 1968.

World Cup Win, April, 1968, Heavenly Valley, CA

2nd Slalom, January 1969, Wengen, Switzerland.

3rd Slalom, January 1969, Megeve, France

3rd Slalom, December 1969, Lienz, Austria

World Championship Teams of 1968 and 1970.

US Olympic Team 1968, 5th in slalom.

World Pro Skiing Champion 1971

World Pro Skiing Champion 1972

On one page provide additional data, anecdotes, etc. that you feel are pertinent to this nomination:

“Spider was my hero,” says Hall of Famer Tyler Palmer who raced with Sabich as both an amateur and pro. “He was the most **generous** guy when it came to offering advice when we trained....A selfless teammate who **made us each better**...with a unique self-confidence that rubbed off on you.”

Tyler tells the tale of flying with Spider, who was a pilot. Once at cruising altitude Spider put the plane on auto-pilot, climbed in the back, said not to worry, and went to sleep for two hours, while Tyler and his brother Terry sweated out Spider's confidence.

During Spider's ski racing career, cut short by his 1976 murder, Sabich was embraced by American ski racing fans as **the sport's most popular star**. His winning ways, including his **two World Pro Skiing championship crowns** were illuminated by his contagious white-toothed smile that spread an almost magical effect over those around him.

College and USST Teammate Bill Marolt remembers Spider's “success in Pro Skiing along with his magnetic personality made him **an international sports figure that ignited interest and created growth in our sport.**”

Olympic silver medalist Billy Kidd was Spider's best friend and roommate in college and on the national team. Kidd describes Spider's impact saying, “**He was a kid magnet. Spider knew his effect on kids and he took that responsibility seriously.**” Kidd attributes Spider's success to his being “**a student of the sport and a tireless athlete who loved working at being better.** These are examples that he set for all of us.”

After moving to Aspen in 1970 and joining Bob Beattie's World Pro Skiing Tour, Spider became **a favorite son** of the town so rich in ski racing heritage, and respectful of skiing stars. He represented Snowmass as a pro, where its race center is today named for this legend. While Spider is no longer with us to fan the flames of his nomination, there is no doubt that **his legacy deserves its voice. It's time to grant Spider Sabich his rightful place alongside his equals, the sport's legends.**

Please list the names and addresses of those people who are supporting this nomination (Minimum of three - limit six):

Mike Hundert, on behalf of the Bob Beattie Ski Foundation, board members that include:

Otto Tschudi
Ken Read
Christin Cooper
Mark Tache
Richie Woodworth
Andre Arnold
Jim Lillstrom
Will Weinstein
Eddie Thys Morgan
Terry Palmer

PO Box 6444
Snowmass Village, CO 81615
Mhundert23@gmail.com

Bob Beattie, posthumously. (I began this application prior to Beattie's passing. Of course, Beats supported this nomination 100%. Spider was like a son to Beats. He was stunned to learn Spider was not among the Hall and was prepared to be a fierce advocate for this application.)

Billy Kidd
Bkidd@steamboat.com

Bill Marolt
bmarolt@ussa.org

Chuck Ferries
ferrski@aol.com

Tyler Palmer
Rtp72@hotmail.com

Please provide a list of sources for visual material that can be used at the candidate's induction presentation:

Spider was a genuine celebrity, leading to **articles** about him in sports, gossip and fashion magazines. He appeared often on **televised coverage** of ski racing, on ABC's Wide World of Sports in particular. A **film** by Dick Barrymore entitled "**Spider and the Frenchman**" chronicles Spider's battle to retain his pro title against the great Jean Claude Killy. Filmmakers Paul Ryan and Dick Barrymore have featured Spider. Additionally, **Spider was said to be Robert Redford's inspiration for the main character in the motion picture, *Downhill Racer*.**

Signature of nominator

Mail completed nomination form to: U.S. Ski & Snowboard Hall of Fame, P.O. Box 191, Ishpeming, MI 49849 or email to: administrator@skihall.com



Spider always had time for kids, especially when emblazoned with Spider's logo. Among other things, Spider was a savvy marketer, whose pro career was managed by Bob Beattie.



Spider battled his American best friend and former teammate Billy Kidd on the pro tour. Kidd won the title in 1970, while Spider captured the crown in 1971 and 1972.



Spider's personality was instrumental in attracting the attention of television coverage. His charisma made him the sport's greatest ambassador of the era.



Spider battled Frenchman Jean Claude Killy for the World Pro Title in 1972 and 1973. Spider was champ in 1972, but Killy came back to capture the crown at Aspen Highlands on the final day of the 1973 season.

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