

## Who Was Buddy Werner?

Buddy Werner was an internationally renowned alpine ski racer who died trying to out race an avalanche in the Swiss Alps on April 12, 1964.

A native of Steamboat Springs, Colorado, Buddy had a breakneck style which caused spectacular spills but also enabled him to win virtually every championship available during his career. He raced for the University of Colorado in the mid 1950s and was selected for the U.S. Olympic Team in his sophomore year in 1956. Although Werner was a member of three Olympic Teams and never won an Olympic medal, he is considered America's first truly world class ski racer, excelling in all three alpine disciplines.

Among his accomplishments were:

- Member, U.S. Olympic Alpine Team, 1956; 1960; 1964.
- Member, Federation International du Ski Alpine Team, 1954 (alternate); 1958, when he was the first American selected; 1962.
- Posthumously inducted into the National Ski Hall of Fame, 1964.
- Three time Holmenkollen Champion in Norway, with the best showing to date by an American Alpine skier in international competition, 1954; 1956; 1962.
- Three time National Alpine Champion in Giant Slalom, 1957; 1959; 1963.
- Two time winner of the Roche Cup, 1961; 1959.

