



WILBERT CHARLES RASMUSSEN

- 1930** Born in Negaunee, MI; began skiing at age three; attended early (4-5 a.m.) practice sessions before school; loved the most difficult of challenges.
- 1946** At the age of 15, he won national acclaim by smashing the record at Ishpeming, MI “Suicide Hill” with a jump of 250 feet, breaking the previous record of 236 feet made in 1941.
- 1948** Bested his own record on Suicide Hill with a jump of 253 feet while still in Class C; placed second in the Nationals. Unable to compete on the largest meter hill in Steamboat Springs, CO because he was only 17, officials finally consented to let him jump as an exhibitionist – he broke the trail and had the longest jump of the meet, outclassing the entire Class A field.
- 1950** His first Class A competition (at 19) in the Nationals in Duluth, MN, had the longest jump of the day (279 feet) and placed second. Participated in the World Championship in Lake Placid, NY.
- 1951** Joined the Army; granted leave for the Olympic tryouts and the 1952 Olympics in Oslo, Norway. Discharged in 1953.
- 1954** Captured the Central Ski Assoc. Class A title; at National’s, had the longest official ski jump of the season at 254 feet.
- 1957** Won Class A title at Suicide Hill; selected for the World Championship team.

At the peak of his career, he was forced to withdraw from competition due to financial and family obligations. Promoted the sport and coached junior skiers from 1964-1973.