Official Summaries - 1948 Winter Olympic Games - St. Moritz

18 Kilometer (11.18 Miles) Cross-Country

This event was the first on the Olympic ski program (Jan. 31) and the first test of U. S. skiers' skill. After the race someone remarked that the reason that American skiers didn't place better in the final results was that they had early starting numbers and were forced to spend too much time stepping off the trail to permit faster runners to pass them. Swedes and Finns dominated the first 10 places, taking nine, with Olav Hagen of Norway being the first of the Norskis, in ninth position.

Rank	Name	Country	Time (hours, mins. secs.)
1	Martin Lundstroem	Sweden	1:13.50
2	Nils Oestensson	Sweden	1:14.22
3	Gunnar Eriksson	Sweden	1:16.06
4	Heikki Hasu (K)	Finland	1:16.43
5	Nils Karlsson	Sweden	1:16.54
6	Sauli Rytky	Finland	1:18.10
7	August Kiuru	Finland	1:18.25
8	Teuvo Laukkanen	Finland	1:18.51
9	Olav Hagen	Norway	1:19.05
10	Martti Huhtala (K)	Finland	1:19.28
11	Benigno Carrara	France	1:20.03
12	Eero Rautiola	Finland	1:20.18
13	Olaf Oekern	Norway	1:20.37
14	Olav Odden (K)	Norway	1:21.35
15	Erling Evensen	Norway	1:21.40
16	Sven Israelsson (K)	Sweden	1:21.44
17	Reidar Nyborg	Norway	1:21.47
18	Olaf Dufseth (K)	Norway	1:21.50
19	Erik Elmsaeter (K)	Sweden	1:22.12
20	Edy Schild	Switzerland	1:22.15
20	Niklaus Stump (K)	Switzerland	1:22.15
22	Severino Compagnoni	Italy	1:22.21
23	Olavi Sihvonen (K)	Finland	1:22.26
24	Pauli Salonen (K)	Finland	1:22.28
25	Max Mueller	Switzerland	1:22.40
26	Robert Zurbriggen	Switzerland	1:22.51
27	Eilert Dahl (K)	Norway	1:22.52
28	Karl Rafreider	Austria	1:23.19
29	Alfredo Prucker (K)	Italy	1:23.26
30	Theo Allenbach (K)	Switzerland	1:23.54
31	Rizzieri Rodighiero (K)	Italy	1:24.12
32	Kare Oesterdaal (K)	Norway	1:24.20
33	Klas Haraldsson (K)	Sweden	1:24.21
34	Alfons Supersaxo (K)	Switzerland	1:24.29
35	Christano Rodighiero	Italy	1:24.34
36	Josl Gstrein (K)	Austria	1:25.04
37	Marius Mora (K)	France	1:25.06
38	Stefan Dziedzig (K)	Poland	1:25.33
39	Engelbert Hundertpfund	Austria	1:25.41
40	Jaroslav Cardal	Czechoslovakia	1:25.44
41	Karl Bricker	Switzerland	1:25.47
42	Rene Jeandel (K)	France	1:25.57
43	Gottlieb Perren (K)	Switzerland	1:26.27
44	Andre Buffard	France	1:27.18
45	Matthies Noichl	Austria	1:27.34
46	Josef Deutschmann	Austria	1:27.43
47	Tadeusz Kwapieu (K)	Poland	1:27.55
48	Paul Bouveret	France	1:28.07
49	Andreas Harangvoelgyi	Hungary	1:28.10
50	Alberto Tassotti (K)	Italy	1:28.16
51	Tone Razinger (K)	Yugoslavia	1:28.24
52	Arcangelo Chiocchetti	Italy	1:28.36
53	Matevz Kordez	Yugoslavia	1:28.37
54	Vincenzo Perruchon	Italy	1:28.50
55	Joze Knific	Yugoslavia	1:29.01
56	Anton Pogacnik	Yugoslavia	1:29.08
57	Emerich Betak	Hungary	1:29.24
58	Vit Fousek	Czechoslovakia	1:29.37
58	Bohumil Kosour (K)	Czechoslovakia	1:29.37
60	Jaroslav Zajicek	Czechoslovakia	1:29.44
61	Paul Haslwanter (K)	Austria	1:31.00
62	Josef Krzeptowski (K)	Poland	1:31.05
63	Stefan Kovalcik	Czechoslovakia	1:31.06
64	Karl Martitsch (K)	Austria	1:31.19
65	Wendell BROOMHALL	U.S.A.	1:31.40
66	Don JOHNSON (K)	U.S.A.	1:32.03
67	Jaroslav Kadavy (K)	Czechoslovakia	1:32.17
68	Hubert Hammerschmid (K)	Austria	1:32.47
69	Lojze Klancnik	Yugoslavia	1:33.02
70	Stanislav Bukowski	Poland	1:34.17
71	Walter Jeandel (K)	France	1:34.19
72	Frantisek Simunek (K)	Czechoslovakia	1:35.21
73	Tom Dennie	Canada	1:35.41
74	Ralph TOWNSEND (K)	U.S.A.	1:37.12
75	Corey ENGEN (K)	U.S.A.	1:37.24
76	Leopold Tajner (K)	Poland	1:38.45
77	Gordon WREN (K)	U.S.A.	1:40.12
78	Jaroslav Lukes (K)	Czechoslovakia	1:41.00
79	Christof Frommelt	Liechtenstein	1:42.35
80	Nikola Delev (K)	Bulgaria	1:43.29
81	Wilber Irwin (K)	Canada	1:44.43
82	Egon Matt	Liechtenstein	1:48.41
83	Erwin Jehle	Liechtenstein	1:49.26

K—Indicates those entered in cross-country and jumping event.

Jumping Event of the Combined 18Km. Cross-Country and Jump

Gordy Wren lived up to pre-Olympic predictions by hitting the longest jump of the competition, 68.5 meters (224.7 feet) Feb. 1. In this event each contestant had three jumps with the best two counting for score. On Gordy's first flight, which carried 66.5 meters, the Denver maestro missed his footing and spilled, which had his supporters plenty worried. His next two tries were made with confidence, however, and he received a tremendous ovation on both jumps. His style was not quite up to that of Sven Israelson of Sweden, according to the judges, and Gordy finished second, closely followed by Corey Engen, brother of "The Fox" Alf Engen who coached the U. S. jumpers.

Rank	Name	Country	Distance in Meters			Final Point Score
1	Sven Israelsson	Sweden	67.5	66	67	221.9
2	Gordon WREN	U.S.A.	*66.5	68.5	66	220.2
3	Corey ENGEN	U.S.A.	65.5	59	64	214.8
4	Klas Haraldsson	Sweden	63.5	66	66	213.4
5	Niklaus Stump	Switzerland	65.5	*63.5	60	213
6	Martti Huhtala	Finland	62	61	61.5	209.5
7	Olavi Sihvonen	Finland	60	65	60	209.2
8	Eilert Dahl	Norway	62	62.5	63	208.8
9	Heikki Hasu	Finland	57	61.5	64	208.8
10	Pauli Salonen	Finland	63	*62	60.5	206.3
11	Kare Oesterdaal	Norway	55	62	61	206.2
12	Jaroslav Lukes	Czechoslovakia	63.5	62	65	205.4
13	Alfons Supersaxo	Switzerland	63	57	61.5	203.9
14	Hubert Hammerschmid	Austria	58.5	62	62.5	202.4
15	Erik Elmsaeter	Sweden	56	61.5	58	202
16	Olaf Dufseth	Norway	61	59	61	201.1
17	Karl Martisch	Austria	59	60	61	198.2
18	Josef Krzeptowski	Poland	58	57	60.5	197.8
19	Olav Odden	Norway	59	53.5	55.5	196.9
19	Leopold Tajner	Poland	61.5	58	55	195.5
21	Walter Jeandel	France	60.5	59	59.5	192.6
22	Alfredo Prucker	Italy	51	59.5	56	191.5
23	Rizzieri Rodighier	Italy	57	58	56	190.8
24	Ralph TOWNSEND	U.S.A.	54.5	61	58	188.7
25	Josl Gstrein	Austria	63.5	61	59.5	188.2
26	Gottlieb Perren	Switzerland	56	57.5	56.5	187.8
27	Don JOHNSON	U.S.A.	57	56.5	59	187.6
28	Rene Jeandel	France	52	54	56.5	182.1
29	Jaroslav Kadavy	Czechoslovakia	51.5	55	55.5	181.1
30	Wilber Irwin	Canada	51	51	51.5	181
31	Stefan Dziedzic	Poland	52	54.5	52	177.1
32	Theo Allenbach	Switzerland	52.5	52	50	176.6
33	Tone Razinger	Yugoslavia	53.5	51.5	55.5	176.2
34	Tadeusz Kwapieu	Poland	47	52.5	51	173.7
35	Frantisek Simunek	Czechoslovakia	51	50	52	169.8
36	Alberto Tassotti	Italy	46.5	52	42	165.1
37	Bohumil Kosour	Czechoslovakia	44.5	47.5	*48.5	159
38	Nikola Delev	Bulgaria	*42	45	48	157.1

*Fell

Combined Jumping and 18Km. Cross-Country

Corey Engen's third in the combined jump, together with a 75th in cross-country gave him top honors among the U. S. skiers in the combined. He finished in 26th position, followed by Don Johnson. The two Finns, Hasu and Huhtala, were able to finish no better than ninth and sixth respectively in the jump, but their performances in cross-country gave them first and second in the combined.

Rank	Name	Country	Cross-Country	Jumping	Final Point Score
1	Heikki Hasu	Finland	240	208.8	448.8
2	Martti Huhtala	Finland	224.15	209.5	433.65
3	Sven Israelsson	Sweden	211.5	221.9	433.4
4	Niklaus Stump	Switzerland	208.5	213	421.5
5	Olavi Sihvonen	Finland	207	209.2	416.2
6	Eilert Dahl	Norway	205.5	208.8	414.3
7	Pauli Salonen	Finland	207	206.3	413.3
8	Olav Dufseth	Norway	211.5	201.1	412.6
9	Erik Elmsaeter	Sweden	208.95	202	410.95
10	Klas Haraldsson	Sweden	197.35	213.4	410.75
11	Olaf Odden	Norway	212.25	196.9	409.15
12	Kare Oesterdal	Norway	198	206.2	404.2
13	Alfons Supersaxo	Switzerland	196.5	203.9	400.4
14	Alfredo Prucker	Italy	202.5	191.5	394
15	Rizzieri Rodighiero	Italy	198	190.8	388.8
16	Josl Gstrein	Austria	193.5	188.2	381.7
17	Theo Allenbach	Switzerland	199.5	176.6	376.1
18	Gottlieb Perren	Switzerland	186	187.8	373.8
19	Rene Jeandel	France	189	182.1	371.1
20	Stefan Dziedzig	Poland	190.5	177.1	367.6
21	Karl Martitsch	Austria	162	198.2	360.2
22	Josef Kreptowski	Poland	162	187.8	359.8
23	Hubert Hammerschmied	Austria	154.5	202.4	356.9
24	Tone Razinger	Yugoslavia	176.25	176.2	352.45
25	Tadeusz Kwapieu	Poland	178.5	173.7	352.2
26	Corey ENGEN	U.S.A.	132	214.8	346.8
27	Don JOHNSON	U.S.A.	157.5	187.6	345.1
28	Alberto Tassotti	Italy	177	165.1	342.1
29	Gordon WREN	U.S.A.	120	220.2	340.2
30	Walter Jeandel	France	147	192.6	339.6
31	Jaroslav Kadavy	Czechoslovakia	157.5	181.1	338.6
32	Bohumil Kosour	Czechoslovakia	169.5	159	328.5
33	Ralph TOWNSEND	U.S.A.	138	188.7	326.7
34	Leopold Tajner	Poland	126	195.5	321.5
35	Jaroslav Lukes	Czechoslovakia	115.5	205.4	320.9
36	Frantisek Simunek	Czechoslovakia	142.5	169.8	312.3
37	Wilber Irwin	Canada	99	181	280
38	Nikola Delev	Bulgaria	105	157.1	262.1

Special Jumping Results

Falling snow and poor visibility, which forced officials to spread a lane of pine needles down the landing hill to aid contestants, marred the perfect record for bright sunny days throughout the Olympics, but did not prevent three of Norway's stalwarts from taking gold, silver and bronze medals. Gordy Wren and two Finns did, however, break Olympic precedent by preventing four Norwegians from finishing in just that order. Gordy, who has been jumping for little more than a year and who declined a berth on the U. S. downhill-slalom team after winning it at Sun Valley last year, did the seemingly impossible by outscoring Asbjorn Ruud, young brother of maestro Birger. Birger, incidentally, had not originally planned to jump in the competition, feeling that he was too old after having won two previous Olympic jumping titles. He coached the Norwegians prior to the meet and at the last minute decided to compete himself. His decision was well-founded as shown in the results.

Rank	Name	Country	Distance (in meters)		Final Point Score
1	Petter Hugsted	Norway	65	70	228.1
2	Birger Ruud	Norway	64	67	226.6
3	Thorleif Schielderup	Norway	64	67	225.1
4	Matti Pietikainen	Finland	69.5	69	224.6
5	Gordon WREN	U.S.A.	68	68.5	222.8
6	Leo Laakso	Finland	66	69.5	221.7
7	Asbjorn Ruud	Norway	58	67.5	220.2
8	Aatto Pietikainen	Finland	69	68	215.4
9	Fritz Tschannen	Switzerland	64.5	66	214.8
10	Hans Zurbriggen	Switzerland	61	67	214.0
11	Evert Karlsson	Sweden	65.5	68	212.2
12	Sverre FREDHEIM	U.S.A.	66	65	210.1
13	Willi Klopfenstein	Switzerland	60	62.5	209.3
14	Willhelm Hellman	Sweden	57.5	65	208.1
15	Paul PERRAULT	U.S.A.	61	67	207.0
16	Miloslav Belonoznik	Czechoslovakia	61	60	203.9
17	Andreas Daescher	Switzerland	61	61	203.8
18	Bruno Da Col	Italy	65.5	66	201.2
19	Hubert Hammerschmied	Austria	61	63	199.8
20	Zdenek Renza	Czechoslovakia	59	61.5	198.6
21	Jaroslav Lukes	Czechoslovakia	58	60.5	198.5
22	Arsene Lucchini	France	62.5	65.5	198.0
23	Karel Klancnik	Yugoslavia	58	65.5	197.2
24	Gregor Hoell	Austria	60	62.5	195.8
25	James Couttet	France	55.5	58	194.3
26	Regis Charlet	France	58	59.5	193.7
27	Stanislav Marusarz	Poland	59	59	192.8
28	Anton Wieser	Austria	59	61.5	192.1
29	Josef Cisar	Czechoslovakia	59	62	189.4
30	Josef Krzeptowski	Poland	54.5	55	188.9
31	Jean Monnier	France	65	60	188.5
32	Franc Pribovsek	Yugoslavia	54.5	57	187.4
33	Jan Kula	Poland	49	59	184.5
34	Franz Hemrik	Hungary	53	61	183.3
35	Helmut Hadwiger	Austria	51	56.5	181.4
36	Jan Gasienica-Ciaptak	Poland	53	61	180.8
37	Jonas Asgeirsson	Iceland	57	59.5	179.8
38	Aldo Trivella	Italy	41.5	59	176.6
39	Bill Irwin	Canada	45	54	175.1
40	Nils Lund	Sweden	*61.5	66	152.7
41	Janey Polda	Yugoslavia	63.5	*71	145.2
42	Walter BIETILA	U.S.A.	61	*64	142.9
43	Janko Mezik	Yugoslavia	*61	62	136.9
44	Tom Mobraaten	Canada	*59	58	135.9
45	Igino Rizzi	Italy	*57	57	131.7
46	Laurent Bernier	Canada	58	*54.5	129.3

*—Fell.

Relay and 50 Kilometer Races

The United States was not entered in either of these events. In the four-man team relay each runner covered 10 kilometers and the event was won by Sweden with a total time of two hours' 32 seconds, followed by Finland (2:41.06); Norway, third, (2:44.33), and Austria, fourth, (2:47.10). The 50 kilometer (31.06 miles) race was won by Nils Karlsson of Sweden with a time of three hours, 47 minutes and 48 seconds. Harald Eriksson, also of Sweden, was second, and Benjamin Vanninen of Finland, third. Twenty-eight entered the race with all but eight finishing.

Women's Special Slalom

Feb. 5 might well have been called Gretchen Fraser Day at St. Moritz. There was no one among the thousands of people there who wasn't impressed by the history-making performance of this Sun Valley representative who later told us that this seemed like the logical time to stop racing and start raising a family. Gretchen was as steady and calm during her two runs down the slalom as she might be trying to win a Bronze Medal at Sun Valley. Leaning on her poles at the start, her eyes were closed as she fixed in her mind an indelible impression of the pattern of the 37 pairs of blue and red flags down the course. She was out to do her best and in her first run she had the fastest time in the field of 26 of the best women racers of the world. Talking to her after this first run, as she checked her time against those of others and found she was leading by one-tenth of a second over second-place Erika Mahringer, we observed she didn't seem a bit nervous, and only remarked that the next run would tell the story, and it did. As she slowly walked up the course for her second run she again plotted each gate to seek every chance of making this run even a little faster. A teammate carried her skis to the starting line so that Gretchen might conserve every bit of energy for her crucial run. Having a starting number of one, she had no opportunity to know how some of the others might do, but when officials announced she had cut down her time on this second run by more than two seconds, it was certain that Gretchen would be the one to beat. No one could. As Arnold Lunn led her to the officials' stand to say a few words to the crowd giving her a tremendous ovation, she simply said, "I guess you're as surprised as I am."

Rank	Name	Country	1st Run Time (In seconds)	2nd Run Time (In seconds)	Total Time (Seconds)
1	Gretchen FRASER	U.S.A.	59.7	57.5	117.2
2	Antoinette Meyer	Switzerland	60.7	57.0	117.7
3	Erika Mahringer	Austria	59.8	58.2	118.0
4	Georgette Thiolliere-Miller	France	60.8	58.0	118.8
5	Renee Clerc	Switzerland	63.8	62.0	125.8
6	Anneliese Schuh-Proxauf	Austria	66.9	59.8	126.7
7	Rese Hammerer	Austria	64.4	64.2	128.6
8	Andrea MEAD	U.S.A.	65.1	63.7	128.8
9	Brynhild GRASMOEN	U.S.A.	65.6	64.0	129.6
10	May Nilsson	Sweden	72.2	57.5	129.7
11	Paula KANN	U.S.A.	67.8	62.0	129.8
12	Francoise Gignoux	France	65.0	65.3	130.3
13	Rosmarie Bleuer	Switzerland	66.2	64.4	130.6
14	Laila Schou-Nielsen	Norway	66.8	64.7	131.5
14	Celina Seghi	Italy	73.2	58.3	131.5
16	Alexandra Nekvapilova	Czechoslovakia	63.2	68.8	132.0
17	Olivia Ausoni	Switzerland	78.7	59.9	138.6
18	Renata Carraretto	Italy	69.2	70.7	139.9
19	Bozena Moserova	Czechoslovakia	72.5	67.6	140.1
20	Lucienne Schmidt-Couttet	France	60.1	75.5	140.6
21	Sheena Mackintosh	England	70.5	75.4	150.9
22	Anika Igloi	Hungary	90.2	87.7	168.9
23	Isobel Roe	England	84.5	85.1	169.6
24	Bridget Duke Wooley	England	94.7	79.0	173.7

Suzanne Thiolliere (France) and Barbara Greenland (England) did not finish.

Men's Special Slalom

Edi Reinalter, the heavy-set, blond-haired Swiss, upset France's hopes for a clean sweep of the men's downhill, combined and special slalom, nosing out James Couttet by a margin of one-half second for the two runs down the zig-zag snow strip. At the end of the first run Reinalter, the two Frenchmen Couttet and Oreiller, and Italian Silvio Alvera were bunched up within seven-tenths of a second of each other and it was obvious that the pressure was really on. Reinalter left no doubts as to his superiority when, on his second run, he bettered his time over the first by more than five seconds. This feat resulted in pandemonium as the affair developed into a real French-Swiss battle for top honors. Both Couttet and Oreiller likewise bettered their times, but couldn't equal the hard-driving Swiss.

Rank	Name	Country	1st Run Time (In seconds)	2nd Run Time (In seconds)	Total Time (Seconds)
1	Edi Reinalter	Switzerland	67.7	62.6	130.3
2	James Couttet	France	67.5	63.3	130.8
3	Henri Oreiller	France	68.0	64.8	132.8
4	Silvio Alvera	Italy	67.4	65.8	133.2
5	Olle Dalman	Sweden	70.4	63.2	133.6
6	Egon Schoepf	Austria	71.1	63.1	134.2
7	Jack REDDISH	U.S.A.	71.0	64.5	135.5
8	Karl Molitor	Switzerland	70.2	66.0	136.2
9	Lubos Brohl	Czechoslovakia	70.8	65.8	136.6
10	Sixten Isberg	Sweden	70.7	66.5	137.2
11	Hans Hansson	Sweden	71.1	67.2	138.3
12	Edi Mall	Austria	72.2	66.1	138.3
13	Georges Schneider	Switzerland	71.9	66.5	138.4
14	Zeno Colo	Italy	73.3	65.7	139.0
15	Desire Lacroix	France	69.9	70.0	139.9
16	Steve KNOWLTON	U.S.A.	72.9	67.6	140.5
17	Engelbert Halder	Austria	73.3	69.5	142.8
18	Sasa Molnar	Yugoslavia	71.4	72.0	143.4
19	Harvey Clifford	Canada	73.5	70.2	143.7
20	Colin STEWART	U.S.A.	75.3	68.8	144.1
21	Aimo Vartiainen	Finland	74.0	71.0	145.0
22	Antonin Sponar	Czechoslovakia	75.2	66.5	146.7
23	Bjarne Arentz	Norway	76.2	71.5	147.7
24	Barney MCLEAN	U.S.A.	80.5	67.6	148.1
25	Peter Szikla	Hungary	75.1	74.1	149.2
26	Jack Nielsen	Norway	82.0	67.8	149.8
27	Matevz Lukanc	Yugoslavia	77.2	73.7	150.9
28	Hector Sutherland	Canada	79.2	72.0	151.2
29	Stein Eriksen	Norway	84.4	68.0	152.4
30	Vittorio Chierroni	Italy	87.0	65.5	152.5
31	Josef Mau	Poland	79.2	74.0	153.2
32	Pentti Alonen	Finland	78.1	72.7	155.8
33	Daniel S'Lachta	Czechoslovakia	81.0	77.7	158.7
34	Claude Penz	France	84.2	70.9	160.1
35	Thomas Szekely	Hungary	81.9	75.8	162.7
36	Franci Cop	Yugoslavia	84.8	78.9	163.6
37	Albert Irwin	Canada	99.4	76.6	166.0
38	Dimitru Sulica	Rumania	87.2	80.7	167.9
39	Ion Coliban	Rumania	90.1	78.8	168.9
40	Tincek Mulej	Yugoslavia	75.0	96.0	171.0
41	Alf Opheim	Norway	96.4	75.0	171.4
42	Luis De Ridder	Argentina	92.2	80.2	172.4
43	Gino De Pellegrin	Argentina	89.8	83.5	173.3
44	Dimiter Drajev	Bulgaria	93.1	80.9	174.0
45	Jose Arias	Spain	91.4	84.5	175.9
45	Juan Poll	Spain	90.9	85.0	175.9
47	David Madjar	Bulgaria	89.7	79.6	178.3
48	Louis Mate	Hungary	100.1	80.5	180.6
49	Donald Garrow	Great Britain	97.0	84.3	181.3
50	Bill Irwin	Canada	100.4	81.2	181.6
51	Thomas Moravitz	Spain	97.0	90.8	187.8
52	Hernan Oelkers	Chile	104.2	84.8	189.0
53	Otto Jung	Argentina	114.1	81.6	195.7
54	Arturo Hammersley	Chile	109.2	86.9	196.1
55	Jan Appleyard	Great Britain	107.0	93.1	200.1
56	Pablo Rosenkjer	Argentina	108.7	94.2	207.9
57	Bella Imre	Rumania	117.4	100.3	217.7
58	Tolun Rasit	Turkey	124.8	97.2	222.0
59	Gudmundur Gudmundsson	Iceland	124.4	105.2	234.6
60	Osman Juece	Turkey	136.2	107.4	248.6
61	Harry Taylor	Great Britain	125.5	119.4	249.9
62	Dursun Bozkurt	Turkey	128.2	113.0	251.2
63	John Boyagis	Great Britain	150.0	99.1	254.1
64	Muzaffer Demirkan	Turkey	145.5	120.2	265.7
65	Ramon Blanco	Spain	138.5	129.0	267.5
66	Ibrahim Jaja	Lebanon	164.3	104.8	274.1