



Brian "Stem" Stemmler

Inducted CSHF: 2002

Hometown: Aurora, ON

Date of Birth: October 12, 1966

Affiliated Discipline(s): Alpine, Downhill, Super G,

Active Career Date(s): 1985 - 1999

FIS Code: 100294

Club: Georgian Peaks Ski Club

Brian Stemmler joined the Canadian Alpine Ski Team in 1985, announcing his retirement 14-years later in July, 1999: "I put my heart into ski racing for 14 years and have made so many great friends. I have been able to experience the highs and some of the lows of competing on the edge". His rise to prominence on the Federation Internationale de Ski (FIS) World Cup circuit was more rapid than any Canadian skier preceding him. In just two seasons, his natural talent made him the 7th ranked downhill competitor in the world.

Four years after he joined the national team, in 1989, while racing on the famed and notoriously difficult Hahnenkamm course at Kitzbuhel, Austria, his skis caught in the netting on the treacherous Steilhang section resulting in a near-fatal crash considered among the worst in ski racing history. So extensive were his injuries - he suffered massive internal injuries - that he spent 3-months recovering in hospital followed by 18-months, seven to eight hours a day, of rehabilitation. It seemed most unlikely that he would ever return to competitive skiing, but he did. One French journalist observed that the only way it could have been more spectacular was if Stemmler had come back from the dead. Such was his courage that he eventually returned to the World Cup circuit, won a Gold medal at the Pan Am Winter Games, and closed the book on Kitzbuhel by racing on the Hahnenkamm again on January 15, 1994, five years after his accident. He finished in 14th place, a remarkable effort and a tribute to his mental toughness.

His appearance at four Olympic Winter Games remains unmatched by any other Canadian Alpine skier in history - in 1988 at Calgary Alberta; 1992, Albertville, France; 1994, Lillehammer, Norway and 1998 Nagano, Japan.

In his 15-years of competition at the international level, 1985 to 1999, he competed in Federation Internationale de Ski (FIS) races, on the FIS World Cup circuit and World Championships 93 times, placing in the top-10 on 15 occasions, and standing on the podium 7-times (2-Gold medals, 2-Silver and 3- Bronze). Although he was best known as a downhill specialist, he was also adept at Super G, his best placing being a World Cup 3rd at Furano, Japan, in 1985

Competitive record in major Canadian and North American competition (top ten finishes)

1995	3rd place, Downhill, Nor-Am Cup, Whitefish, USA
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	2nd place, Downhill, Canadian National Championships, Mont Ste Anne, Quebec
	1st place, Super G, Canadian National Championships, Mont Ste Anne, Quebec
	1st place, Super G, Nor-Am Cup, Whistler, British Columbia
1996	3rd place, Downhill, Canadian National Championships, Mont Ste Anne, Quebec
1999	3rd place, Downhill, Canadian National Championships, Sun Peaks, British Columbia
	1st place, Super G, Canadian National Championships, Sun Peaks, British Columbia

Competitive record in Federation Internationale de Ski (FIS) races, on the FIS World Cup circuit and World Championships (top ten finishes)

1985	3rd place, Super G, FIS World Cup, Furano, Japan
1986	7th place, Downhill, FIS World Cup, Val Gardena, Italy
1987	3rd place, Downhill, FIS World Cup, Val Gardena, Italy
	9th place, Downhill, FIS World Cup, Val d'Isere, France
1990	10th place, Downhill, FIS World Cup, Val d'Isere, France
1992	4th place, Downhill, FIS World Cup, Garmisch-Partenkirchen, Germany

- 1995 1st place, Downhill, FIS race, Mont Ste Anne, Quebec
8th place, Downhill, FIS World Cup, Val Gardena, Italy
- 1996 5th place, Downhill, FIS World Cup, Veysonnaz, Switzerland
7th place, Downhill, FIS World Cup, Veysonnaz, Switzerland
3rd place, Super G, FIS race, Bardonecchia, Italy
2nd place, Downhill, FIS World Cup, Garmisch-Partenkirchen, Germany
5th place, Downhill, FIS World Ski Championships, Sierra Nevada, Spain
- 1997 9th place, Downhill, FIS World Cup, Bormio, Italy
- 1998 10th place, Downhill, FIS World Cup, Val Gardena, Italy

Other Major international races (top ten finishes)

- 1990 1st place, Downhill, Pan-American Winter Games, Las Lenas, Argentina

Please Note: The ski information gathered here is compiled from a number of sources; it may not be inclusive of all accomplishments.

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